

Wallowa rancher shoots wolf legally

Animal that was chasing cattle was not found

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A Wallowa County cattle rancher shot and presumably seriously wounded or killed a wolf in the act of chasing livestock June 25. It is the first incident of its kind in Wallowa County and the second in the state.

The rancher and his wife, who had suffered numerous instances of wolves harassing their cattle, saw a wolf chasing a herd of cows.

The rancher called county commissioner Todd Nash, who is chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Wolf Committee, for advice. Nash told the rancher he could legally shoot the wolf. The man did and the animal limped away.

Nash and Wallowa County chief deputy Fred Steen, who later contacted Oregon State Police, responded

to the scene. The team did not find the wolf and further investigation indicated the rancher acted within his legal rights.

The rancher's identity was not released.

"This is just to show you can do this and have anonymity," Steen said. "It's absolutely legal to do such and we've always believed it's the rancher's right to protect his livestock as private property. People need to know this is an option."

In a separate incident the ODFW investigated a June 21 reported suspected wolf depredation in the Chesnimus Creek Drainage. A citizen found a dead bull on an active U.S. Forest Service grazing allotment and notified authorities. The department contacted the rancher who leased the allotment and investigated. The ODFW found the bull died of causes other than wolf depredation, noting the lack of wolves in the area and no evidence of premortem injuries, although some postmortem scavenging had occurred.

First fires of season were small ones

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Thanks to the quick responses of U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry firefighters, Wallowa County's first fires of the season burned only about 1.5 acres. The two fires, outside Lostine and Flora respectively, started with lightning strikes from a June 26 thunderstorm.

Blue Mountain Inter-agency Fire Center responded to a report of a fire six miles up the Lostine Canyon Road on the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness at 2 p.m.

Because of the steep terrain on the upper third of the

slope and its location in a wilderness area, the center dispatched the Blue Mountain Rappeler Team by helicopter. Treacherous winds allowed only two rappellers, one an incident commander, to reach the scene before the helicopter was forced to return to Enterprise.

Jerry Garrett, assistant center manager of fire center, said that the two crew members battled the blaze, which burned in heavy dead and down brush and timber until two other crew members arrived at 7 p.m. The crew managed to halt the fire, burning little more than an acre. The four members of the crew were still on the scene as

of the morning of June 27.

At 4:30 p.m. June 26, the Oregon Department of Forestry office in Wallowa fielded calls from landowners regarding a fire about three miles southwest of Flora.

Joseph Goebel, wildland fire supervisor for the Wallowa ODF office, said response time to the fire was a half-hour as he already had two Type-6 fire engines on the North Highway looking for lightning strikes.

Landowners met the trucks on the highway and guided them to the scene where the fire burned in pine needles and grass. Firefighters held the blaze to one-quarter acre.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page A1

inated but not yet secured — immediately sat down for their first official meeting to discuss the scope of the project and establish a timeline.

Busy days are ahead of the group hopes to approach county voters on the May 2018 ballot.

Citizens must petition to have a ballot measure for a local option tax put to a vote. A petition has already begun circulating.

Cities and outlying areas must agree to go to vote.

A bond must be raised by Nov. 9 in the vicinity of \$1,200 to file the petition. The board must define goals.

They must, as Commissioner Roberts advised in the earlier meeting, "have someone on the board or advising the board that understands the financing of a permanent tax rate that funds employees, services, facilities and cost increases over time."

Then comes a campaign to educate the voters on the need for a tax.

Monday, it took 30 minutes, and a group of 40 citizens to determine they wanted to move forward. Seven volunteers agreed to take on the Each local library board must approve members for the foundation board, a step that is not expected to be an obstacle.

A dozen people in the room added their names to a sign-up sheet of people inter-



Kathleen Elynn/Chieftain

Mike Crawford of Troy was tapped to head the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation board.

ested in serving on committees to assist the board.

The new board members are Chairman Mike Crawford of Troy, Kay Sawin and Kirsten Rohla of Joseph, Maggie Holcomb of Wallowa, Kim Witherrite of Imnaha and Autumn Wilburn and Tamara da Silva of Enterprise. Wendy Stauffer of Wallowa has also been asked to serve.

Two hours of discussion during the June 13 meeting revealed the commissioners were set on cutting \$105,000 from the library budget, ending more than a dozen community services it provides in addition to supporting library services in Troy and Imnaha.

Those programs are funded via approximately \$40,000 in grant money, but without the operating costs provided by the county, there would be no way to continue them.

Citizens spoke to the value of the library in their lives,

the lives of their children and the lives of others served by the programs. Commissioners did not dispute the value of the library, repeatedly stating their support. But the commissioners said they were over a financial barrel and were down to cutting public safety budgets to balance the budget.

The library, like the city garbage transfer stations that had been discontinued for the same funding reasons, had the possibility of finding other funding, they reckoned.

To buy the community time to come up with other financing, the commissioners offered county librarian Susan Polumsky a 16-hour weekly contract with no benefits. Polumsky has been the county librarian for 13 years, and according to Enterprise city Librarian Denine Rautenstrauch "no organization in the county could do as good a job on early literacy as Susan Polumsky."

County commissioners never expected Polumsky to take the offer, according to commissioner Todd Nash, but she did. As a result Nash stated the commissioner's intent to "build a bridge" to keep the county library open those 16 hours per week and allow the continuation of programs already funded by grants until the community could come up with a new source of funding.

That bridge would remain extended as long as the community was showing action toward that goal, commissioners said.

FOR THE RECORD

June 12

- 8:47 a.m. — Found money in Enterprise.
- 9:35 a.m. — 911 call for Joseph FD to respond to local business for the smell of gas.
- 10:35 a.m. — Hit-and-run reported in Enterprise.
- 2:11 p.m. — Report of a perp negotiating a bad check in Enterprise
- 3:22 p.m. — Search and rescue activated to locate overdue rafter.

June 13

- 10:10 a.m. — Report of pickup pulling trailer with one sway bar dragging on the pavement.
- 10:17 a.m. — Arrest warrant issued for Connor James Patrick Sticka, 23. Charges are unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- 10:27 a.m. — Conner James Patrick Sticka, 23, was arrested on a warrant unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- 10:29 p.m. — 911 report of a motor vehicle crash in rural Joseph.

June 14

- 8:33 a.m. — Single-vehicle accident called in from rural Lostine.
- 9:56 a.m. — Log truck hit a calf on Promise Road.
- 2:37 p.m. — Complaint of criminal mischief and theft in Joseph.
- 10:35 p.m. — Darrell Wayne May of Lostine, 49, was arrested by Central Point, Ore., police on warrant for PCS Meth.

June 15

- 7:22 a.m. — Complaint of livestock getting into the golf course in Enterprise.
- 9:22 p.m. — Cows on the road near Hurricane Creek Grange. Owner notified.

June 18

- 3:08 p.m. — Criminal mischief and harassment reported in Enterprise.
- 9:08 p.m. — Cody James Adams of Enterprise, 35, was arrested for violation of conditional release agreement and criminal trespass by the EPD. He was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

June 19

- 10:33 a.m. — Complaint of hazardous fluid leaking from vehicle in Enterprise.
- 12:05 p.m. — Report of neglect of a dog in Joseph.
- 4:41 p.m. — Custody dispute in Wallowa.
- 5:42 p.m. — Connor James Patrick Sticka of Enterprise, 23, and Noah Levon Delury of Joseph, 19, were both arrested for probation violation.

June 20

- 7:42 a.m. — Possible wolf depredation, rural Joseph.
- 12:11 p.m. — Report of a flipped raft at Minam State Park. Search and rescue swift water rescue team called, but were advised everyone was out of the river before they responded.
- 3:19 p.m. — Max McLeod Greenway of Enterprise, 21, was arrested for violation of release agreement. He was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
- 5:40 p.m. — Kristopher Branden Nye of Enterprise, 18, was arrested on a Lincoln County warrant. Charges are probation violation, original charge PCS meth. Transported to Umatilla County Jail.

June 21

- 5:28 p.m. — Doni Innes Merrifield of North Bend, Ore., 56, was arrested in Wallowa on a Deschutes County Warrant. Charges are failure to appear, original charge reckless driving.

June 22

- 7:12 p.m. — Warrant entered for Christopher Lane Kiesecker of Enterprise, 37, for failure to comply with terms of probation. Original charge was disorderly conduct.
- 8:12 p.m. — Christopher Lane Kiesecker of Enterprise, 37, was arrested on a WC Circuit Court warrant for failure to abide by the terms of probation, original charge disorderly conduct. Kiesecker was cited and released.

June 23

- 3:31 p.m. — Noninjury traffic crash in Enterprise.
- 3:54 p.m. — Report of a noninjury hit and run in Enterprise.

June 24

- 11:09 a.m. — Phillip Milton Evans of Joseph, 39, was arrested by EPD on a probation detainer for probation violation, original charge was felon in possession of a restricted weapon. Evans was transported to the Umatilla County Jail.
- 6:44 p.m. — Thomas James Collins of Enterprise, 46, was arrested by EPD for possession of meth. He was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
- 8:45 p.m. — Trespass in Enterprise. William Louis Moore of Enterprise, 34, was arrested by the EPD for criminal trespass. Moore was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

This week's athlete of the week is Talluah April of Lostine who played softball for Little Bear Drive-in and competed for the Wallowa Valley All-stars in her age group.

April is 10 and entering the fourth grade at Wallowa in the coming year. She loves to ride motorcycles and water ski on Wallowa Lake.

April is the daughter of Hub and Terah April of Lostine.

Talluah April

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Births

A daughter,
Noelle Annalee Boyd

was born June 16, 2017 in Enterprise to Benjamin and Sheryl Boyd of Enterprise. Grandparents are Patrice and Brent Murphy and Janice and R. Deveen Boyd.

A son,
Karter Lynn

was born June 6, 2017 to Derrick Horton and Tiffany Snedeker of Enterprise. Grandparents are Curtis Davidson, Melissa Matthew, Angie and Craig Horton.

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The Chieftain office will be
CLOSED Tuesday, July 4
for Independence Day.

EARLY DEADLINE

To reserve space in our
July 5th edition,
the deadline is
5pm Thursday, June 29

**ATTENTION:
MUTTON BUSTERS**

Chief Joseph Days will be taking entries until 3pm June 30. The only way to enter is by coming into the CJD office & filling out a form. Age 4 - 8 and under 60 lbs. must not have been a contestant last year.

Office is located at 401 N. Main in Joseph.