



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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The Brad Parsons Band throwing out some heat to compete with the sun at Saturday's Juniper Jam at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds. Steve Tool/Chieftain

Scientist: Wolves 'habituated' to eating cattle never change diet

By Eric Mortenson
Special to
Wallowa County Chieftain

Some wolves may have become "habituated" to eating cattle. Northeast Oregon cattle ranchers have called for two entire packs to be killed, saying the state's "incremental" approach won't deter voracious wolves.

Tracks indicated a 500-pound calf churned 150 feet up a slope, leaving blood splattered on four logs, before going down in a pile of Meacham Pack wolves. There wasn't much left when a ranch hand found the carcass Aug. 19, perhaps two or three days after the attack.

Most of the calf had been devoured, except the vertebrae with ribs, pelvis and tail still attached. The calf's lower jaw and contents of its rumen were nearby.

It was the pack's fourth confirmed attack within a week, all on livestock grazing on a 4,000-acre private forested pasture in the Sheep

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Chieftain File Photo

A wolf researcher says that an incremental approach to culling wolves from Oregon's Harl Butte Pack will likely fail if the wolves have become habituated to eating cattle.

Hot music, hot temps

Juniper Jam concert held at Wallowa County Fairgrounds

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Blistering hot music met a blistering hot sun in Enterprise for Juniper Jam 2017 on Sept. 2. The jam, which features groups and performers from a number of genres, is a major fundraiser for the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance.

Billed as "The sweetest little music festival in eastern Oregon," the event features all-original music. This year saw eight performers and groups lighting up the two stages of the festival.

The second annual T.R. Richie Memorial songwriting contest welcomed 10 singer-songwriters, including one from Massachusetts opening the show, competing for

two \$200 prizes and a performance spot on the main stage. The festival's first songwriting workshop, led by singer-songwriter Beth Wood, also took place at Fishtrap House.

Brad Parsons of the Brad Parsons Band spent his set wowing the crowd with what he called a mix of Creedence Clearwater Revival along with a healthy portion of psychedelia. Playing a huge hollowbody Harmony ax, Parsons let loose a barrage of rocket-fueled guitar riffs with nary a sign of uncontrolled feedback.

Hailing from Portland, Parsons has played the valley a number of times, but it was his first jam appearance.

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Steve Tool/Chieftain

Greg Rawlins of Caskills gets down on his Fender Jaguar at the Sept. 2 Juniper Jam. Several hundred people attended the event.

Partners make the difference in tackling housing issues

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

A housing symposium held at the Pendleton Convention Center Aug. 30 was a lesson in contrasts for Wallowa County, highlighting the obstacles faced in a county with a population of nearly 7,000 compared to issues faced by significantly larger communities.

While the situations in the two communities are radically different, the path to addressing the housing issues is similar.

It begins with an action com-

mittee, which commissions good research and identifies a goal and then moves on to partnerships.

Pendleton is preparing for an influx of hundreds of workers drawn by a dozen new companies, some high tech who are either already building in Pendleton or are making serious inquiries about moving there.

Wallowa County, in contrast, is unprepared for an influx of dozens of workers drawn to the county by a few companies. The county

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Small city takes on housing shortage ... and succeeds

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Addressing housing issues in a small county like Wallowa can seem daunting. However, there is at least one success story in a community much smaller than Wallowa County and even smaller than the City of Wallowa.

In 2010 an action group called the Pine Valley Economic Development Group decided to address the housing situation for aging citizens on fixed incomes the city of Richland in Baker County (population 156).

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Safety, preservation guide courthouse renovation

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa County Courthouse stands tall among Enterprise buildings, even if others attain greater height. The courthouse, completed in 1909, is a symbol of the beginning of progress coming to the county, the structure that marks Enterprise as a town.

Like everything else, the courthouse is not immune to age and that means renovation. The courthouse, which still houses the circuit court, received a \$1.25 million fire, life and safety grant from the state's legal arm. The grant covers safety and electrical upgrades as well as the price of a new ADA elevator as the



Photos by Steve Tool/Chieftain

The Wallowa County Courthouse, built in 1909, stands proud at its 101 S. River St. location in Enterprise. The courthouse is undergoing safety upgrades, including the installation of an ADA compatible elevator and restrooms while retaining as much of the building's historical essence as possible.

court itself is on the building's second floor, currently only accessible by stairs.

When the county first received the grant, it was faced with a dilemma: The county's



A replacement set of the French windows.

insurers said it would cease insuring the building if much-needed repairs were not done. The grant didn't cover roof repair, and it wasn't enough to repair the roof and do the inside repairs mandated by the state's court system. A \$700,000 loan procurement helped speed the roof project along so the county could start work on the inside renovations.

The project began in June with Ausland Group, the construction company that spearheaded the roof replacement, back in the saddle. According to county commissioner Susan Roberts and the group's construction manager for the project, Tim McDonald, progress is steady.

The courthouse has a new look with many key members of the county's departments residing in different places. Only the court clerk's office and the district attorney's office remain intact.

The commissioners reside on the first floor with Todd Nash in the back space of the county clerk's office, whose

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