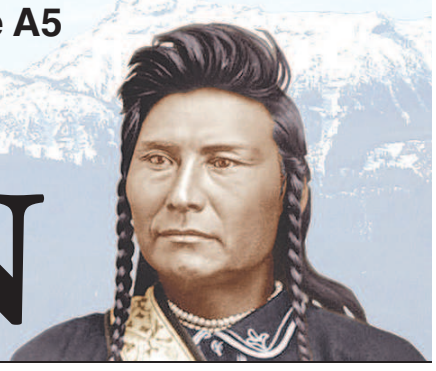
BANDITS HIT EAGLE CAP TRAIN!

More marauding expected on 'Excursion' out of Elgin Depot | **Page A5**

WALLOWA COUNTY
CHIEFTAIN



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Autopsies on half-eaten calves is

Gruesome Work

Depredation investigations precise, thorough

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Sometime around 6 a.m. Sept. 29, a range rider making his rounds through Marr Flat, a remote area 20-odd miles northeast as the crow flies from Joseph, made a gruesome discovery. Riding a four-wheel ATV, he noted an unmoving object just southeast of the corrals.

Upon closer examination, he sees a calf, perhaps two-thirds eaten from back to front. Several calls later, calf owner Todd Nash is apprised as is the Oregon Department of Wildlife.

District wildlife biologist Pat Matthew is contacted to perform an examination of the calf to determine the exact cause of death.

Two of Nash's cowboys, cousins Wyatt and Clancy Warnock, gather and work cattle that day. They do not disturb the calf, leaving the area as clean as possible for Matthews.

Investigation begins

The biologist, a medical examiner of sorts for animals, arrives around 5 p.m. The sun is on the verge of setting and a cold wind is blowing. After some small talk, Matthews drives and the cowboys walk to the calf. Matthews makes a cursory inspection before examining the area for wolf prints and taking pictures when he finds them.

The cowboys do the same with their cell phones, which remarkably, have cell reception in this remote area of Wallowa County.

Everyone meets back at the calf after having found numerous wolf tracks around the carcass. Little remains of the interior of the calf and even the ribs on the right side are eaten nearly to the backbone.

A left rear leg remains intact, and only the portion of the calf from the front legs to the nose

See WOLVES, Page A8

ODFW authorizes harvest of more Harl Butte wolves

By Stephen Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife irritated environmentalists and relieved Marr Flat ranchers after it authorized the lethal take of four additional Harl Butte Pack wolves last week.

The action is in response to confirmed wolf depredations that included the killing of a calf on Sept. 29 and severe injury to a calf investigated on Oct 1. Both depredations took place on private land.

According to the ODFW website, the Harl Butte pack is responsible for 10 depredations since July of last year.

See ODFW, Page A8

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Pat Matthews (left) uses shears on the carcass of a Sept. 29 wolf depredation on private land at Marr Flat, southeast of Joseph. The calf and land belong to Wallowa County commissioner and rancher Todd Nash. Cowboys Wyatt Warnock (center) and Clancy Warnock, (right), who work for Nash, look on.

Photo by Steve Tool/Chieftain

$85,458
For Joseph Schools

$149,853
For Enterprise Schools

$88,868
For Wallowa Schools

Measure 98 benefits local districts; schools receive dollars for CTE

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County schools will receive $324,179 in Measure 98 (dropout prevention) money for the 2017-19 biennium. That breaks down to $85,458 for Joseph, $149, 853 for Enterprise and $88,868 for Wallowa.

The money will be used to support career tech (CTE) and college readiness programs as part of dropout prevention measures.

Although Wallowa County Schools have robust graduation rates (near 100 percent county-wide) and most students go on to college, the schools still qualify for Measure 98 money and will be able to use the income to improve their course offerings.

Measure 98 appeared on the 2016 election ballot and was approved overwhelmingly by voters as a potential fix for the abysmal graduation rate of the state — the third lowest in the nation in 2016 according to U.S. Department of Education.

The Oregon Legislature approved a budget of $8.14 million to be administered by the Oregon Department of Education for this first biennium.

Schools only needed to apply for the first year of funding and funding was awarded. That money is now available to districts.

See SCHOOLS, Page A8

ODOT plans to work on Hwy. 82 curve next summer

The worst of the curves on Highway 82 between Wallowa and La Grande is to be straightened next summer.

Oregon Department of Transportation has announced bids are expected to be received on the $6 million project in January.

Construction will result in intermittent delays for an undetermined period during normally heavy traffic levels.

The project will alter the 25 mph. curve on the descent into Minam Canyon. Crews are expected too haul away around 400,000 tons of rock as the roadway is pushed back into the mountain.

A previous project removed 100,000 tons.

In addition to work on the curve, the project includes fixing areas where the shoulder on the cliff side has been washed out,

ODOT was required to obtain environmental clearances because of the amount of rock removed at the curve.

The permitting process through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Division of State Lands took nearly a year.

INTERNET SAFETY:

Eye-opening presentation offers advice, counsel

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

How do you talk to a five-year-old about porn?

That and other hair-raising questions were examined in a presentation about the dangers of unrestricted youth access to the Internet made at Joseph, Enterprise, Wallowa and Alternative schools Thursday, Oct. 5.

Doug Crawford

Amy Stangel and Mandy Decker, both employees of the Wallowa County Juvenile Department, arranged the presentation, offered by Michigan-based Protect Young Eyes, after Stangel attended a presentation at a training and saw the value for area schools.

Children are beginning their mastery of iPads and other technology as early as kindergarten and are being exposed to material and situations they are not equipped to handle, said presenter Doug Crawford of Protect Young Eyes.

"Technology is creating changes in development and interaction. Concepts and themes are introduced at earlier and earlier ages," Crawford said.

Some of those are especially damaging to young women, who quickly learn that posting pictures of themselves in summer attire, bathing suits and simply provocative poses gets more "likes" than an ordinary "day in the life" snap.

The posting may have started innocently, with young women showing off to their girl friends. However, young men have easy access to these pictures — and what constitutes "normality" in interaction, behavior and expectation changes for both sexes.

See INTERNET, Page A8