

Wolf plan to receive first airing

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The subject of wolves is front and center for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The agency released the working draft of its wolf management plan to stakeholders Nov. 17. The draft highlights changed wording from the draft released last April.

ODFW media representative Michelle Dennehy said that the plan will be discussed at a Dec. 8 ODFW’s wild-life commission meeting that will include a panel of stakeholders but no public comment. The results of that meeting will be worked into a draft to be presented at the commission’s Jan. 19 meeting, which will include public comment.

Dennehy said that the present revised version reflects the concerns of the plan’s stakeholders, including the public and commission mem-



bers. She named a number of the plan’s significant changes, including the addition of several sections. For example, the role of wolves in ecosystems and how it might apply to Oregon wolves. Additional sections include wolves as special status game mammals. The agency is following the lead of the legislature, which changed the status of wolves from protected nongame wildlife to game mammals in 2009.

“It recognizes the wolves’ distinct history in extirpation and conflict,” she said. “It’s based on Oregon’s management success with respect to other large carnivores ... but also recognizes the factors that make the wolf different from other large carnivores.”

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Paul Wahl/Chieftain
Santa and Mrs. Claus were a hit riding in the Jingle Through Joseph Parade on Nov. 25 and waving to children of all ages. Local sources report the two closely resemble Joseph residents Dennis and Mary Welch, but sources at the North Pole say it is only a coincidence.

Christmas celebration underway



Paul Wahl/Chieftain
Raider Heck of Joseph was one of almost a dozen men who volunteered to erect the Joseph Christmas Tree on Main Street on Nov. 24. The crew worked much of Friday morning getting the tree in place along with lights and decorations in time for Saturday evening Jingle Through Joseph Parade. The tree was cut from the Joseph park.

More images on Page 5 and at wallowa.com

Math, motivation challenges for area schools

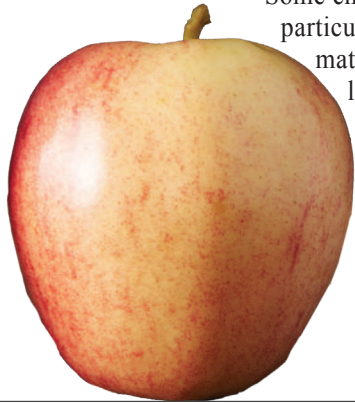
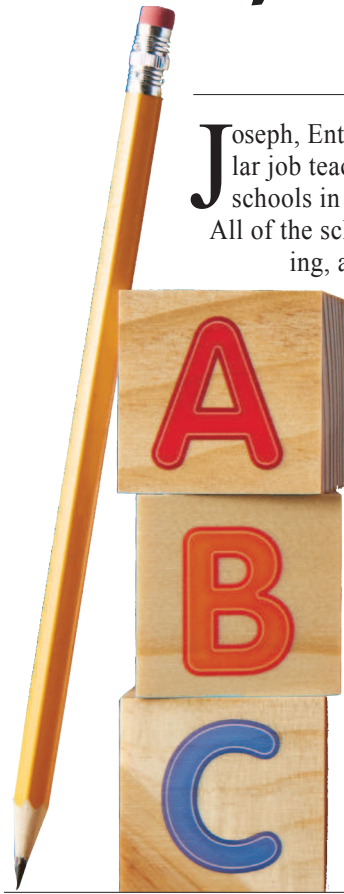
By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph, Enterprise and Wallowa school districts are doing a stellar job teaching science and remain in the top 10 percent of schools in the state for graduation rates.

All of the schools also rated an “above average achievement” rating, a measure that takes into account student improvement over time, when the Oregon Department of Education recently issued its “report cards.”

The reports provide educators with an opportunity to communicate directly with parents and community members about how local schools are performing.

Some challenges remain, particular in teaching math. All three Wallowa County districts have been addressing the issue with new math programs and teaching tools.



Enterprise School District

Enterprise, with a K-12 enrollment of approximately 419, posted a 92.6 percent graduation rate.

Science: 88.2 percent of students in grades 5, 8 and 11 are meeting standards in comparison to a 66 percent state average.

English Language Arts: The district scored above state averages in all grades except fourth.

Math: Enterprise students scored well in math, with only grades three and four scoring below the state average. Grades six through eight showed steady gains in the last three years and grade 11 scored more than 20 percent above state averages.

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Wallowa School District

Wallowa School District, with 190 students K-12, can still boast a 100 percent graduation rate.

English Language Arts: The district suffered nearly across-the-board with only grades five and six showing a higher than state average of students meeting or exceeding standards.

Science: Wallowa boasts excellence in science in grades five and eight, but student scores slipped by grade 11 with only 50 percent meeting or exceeding standards compared to a state average of 57.8.

Math: math results were equally in flux with third, fourth and 11th graders far below state averages.

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Joseph School District

Joseph School District, with 235 students K-12, graduates 86 percent of its students on time.

English Language Arts: Joseph students scored well in early grades, but numbers declined in grade 7 before rebounding in grades 8 and 11, ending in grade 11 with 69 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards — the same as the state average.

Science: Science scores for grades five, eight and 11 are 6 to 10 percent higher than state average.

Math: Scores are strong in the early grades but decline precipitously in grades six to eight before rebounding up to above state averages by grade 11.

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Plans for new city hall in Enterprise emerge

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise City has received approval from City County Insurance Services to replace the fire station and city hall structure destroyed by fire July 10.

This means the 1957 concrete block building can be torn down and a new structure built on the same 1,000-square-foot area.

The city has a replacement limit of \$1.3 million on the old building at 108 NE First.

“It’s very early to be discussing what we might do,” said City Administrator Michele Young. “Right now, we’re leaning toward a steel building.”

Senior engineer Bret Moore of Anderson Perry & Associates of La Grande is investigating designs that



will suit the city’s needs. He will meet with city planning and other city officials in mid December to brainstorm ideas.

One plan is to have the new structure dedicated almost entirely to the fire department with a combined fire hall meeting room and city council

chamber. New city hall offices would then be constructed across the street from the fire hall on the empty lot at the corner of North River Street and NW North Street, which the city owns.

A new city hall building would have to be paid for through grants

Enterprise Fire Department will be receiving a new home replacing this building, constructed in 1957. A fire on July 10 left considerable damage to the fire hall and city hall.

Kathleen Ellyn/
Chieftain

or loans, but Young has made some calls and said she likes the city’s chances of qualifying, given that Enterprise lost its building due to disaster.

In the meantime, city offices will remain at 117 E. Main Street on the main floor of the EM&M building in downtown Enterprise across from the Wallowa County Courthouse. The offices were formerly those of Dr. Rusty Woods.

City council and other city meetings are held at the Abundant Life Assembly of God building, at 207 E Main Street in Enterprise.

After an investigation by the Fire Marshall, it was determined the fire was caused by a fluorescent light in the city administrator’s office. The hot ballast fell on a seat and the nearby air conditioner fanned the fire quickly.