

Joseph library edges toward new addition

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph City Library moved one step closer toward its goal of an addition to the city's library after a soup and bingo fundraiser on Nov. 18. The library is attached to Joseph's city hall, 201 N. Main St.

Librarian Eric Shoudel said that the fundraiser, held at "The Place," raised more than \$900 for the addition. The library was about \$600 short on a \$10,000 matching grant from the Wildhorse Foundation, and the fundraiser put them over the top.

"It's not bad for three hours," Shoudel said.

The original goal was to build a large structure that would house a new library and city hall. A local grant writer took on the project but found some stumbling blocks. For example, the Ford Founda-



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Sheila Hocker of Richland, Wash., left, and Betty Williams of Wallowa joined the fun Nov. 19 playing bingo during a fundraiser for the Joseph Public Library at The Place adjacent to the Joseph United Methodist Church. A variety of soups were offered along with raffles, in addition to bingo.

tion, which often funds such endeavors, recently started requiring a higher match amounts from applicants.

"Two hundred grand is

a lot of bake sales," Shoudel said. He added that the fund currently contains about \$50,000.

Dropping the new structure

idea means using the funds to fix the current building and perhaps add an addition.

"We have to have a lot of challenges," Shoudel said. "If we're going to do this, we need one more bathroom, and we're 99.9 percent sure the flooring is asbestos."

Sally Brandt, one of the few remaining members of the Joseph Friends of the Library, said that the decision to downscale the library project came about a year ago.

"We had a meeting, and when it came down to costs of raising that building versus the cost of renovation, it just seemed out of sight for our little community," she said.

She also mentioned the Wildhorse grant that the library had problems raising the matching funds for because of last winter's severity.

"We matched it with the super bingo night, and we were really happy about that,"

Brandt said. "We realized we hadn't done much fundraising, and we needed to get on the stick."

The next step for the library is applying for more grants. Brandt said that the previous grantwriter ended up taking work elsewhere.

"At this point, our little committee has to look at contacting the Ford Foundation or the Meyer Memorial trust and ask how much we reasonably need to begin applying for grants," she said.

Brandt said that the new library will offer two ADA bathrooms and a conference room that can be used for reading programs while also being used as a place for city council meetings.

"We sent out a request for a proposal to get an idea on the costs, and we only got one back," Brandt said. "It was so out of sight it was like, 'No, we're not doing that.'"

She said the committee had talked over the idea of sitting down with someone who is versed in computer aided drafting and explain to them the need.

"Then he or she could turn it into the vision of what we'd like it to be," Brant said. "We have a vision of nice seating areas, and expanding toward the alley. We've talked about a deck area in the back with picnic tables."

Brandt said her husband, who is a masonry and general contractor, has agreed to talk to the committee about the project, and she hopes others will join in.

"I have the feeling this county is a 'come together and get things accomplished' place," she said. "My feeling is that if the word is out there, people will do some things for money, but also in kind. Maybe I'm being a Pollyanna -- but I hope not."

OSP: Surge of wolf killings isn't organized effort

By Eric Mortenson
Capital Press

It's been a bloody year for Oregon wolves, with at least 10 killed under circumstances ranging from authorized "lethal control" due to livestock attacks and a shooting ruled self-defense, to an unintended poisoning and unsolved poachings.

At this point, Oregon State Police have no reason to think there is a concerted action by an individual or group to illegally kill the state's wolves.

However, the investigation into the most recent killing, a collared wolf designated OR-23, is still active, OSP spokesman Sgt. Kaipou Raiser said.

Steve Pedery, conservation director for the Portland-based group Oregon Wild, warned that a "shoot, shovel and shut up" attitude toward wolves has taken hold in rural Oregon and become part of the political fault line separating factions of Americans.

In Wallowa County, he said, it's not unusual to see "Smoke a pack a day" bumper stickers.

Doug Cottam, ODFW's Wildlife Division administrator, said the department is "upset and frustrated by the unlawful wolf killings in Oregon." Rewards are offered for information leading to arrests.

"Poaching of any wildlife is wrong and harmful to their conservation," he said in a prepared statement.

Police and ODFW believe the latest wolf was shot Nov. 12 or 13. It was found Nov. 14 in the Chesnimus hunting



Courtesy of Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Despite a number of poachings and other suspicious deaths, Oregon State Police say there's no reason to believe that there's an organized campaign against grey wolves.

area known as Cold Springs, in Northeast Oregon's Wallowa County. Tracking collars on wolves are designed to emit a mortality signal if the animal does not move for a certain period of time, ODFW spokeswoman Michelle Dennehy said. She assumed that's what led to finding the wolf's carcass in this case.

State police found evidence OR-23 was killed by a gunshot, but released no other information.

The wolf was part of the Shamrock Pack. In February 2017, a male from the pack, OR-48, died after it bit or tugged on a M-44 trap set by the USDA's Wildlife Services to kill coyotes.

In April 2017, the remains of a male wolf designated OR-33 were found about 20 miles northwest of Klamath Falls in the Fremont-Winema National Forest. A necropsy showed it had been shot.

In late October, another collared male, OR-25, was found dead near Fort Klamath in the Sun Pass State For-

est. The cause of death was not disclosed.

On Oct. 27, in a case that caused an uproar on social media, an elk hunter told ODFW and OSP he'd shot an uncollared wolf in Northeast Oregon that ran at him while at least two other wolves appeared to be flanking him. The Union County district attorney reviewed the case and decided not to prosecute the hunter; state police said the hunter acted in self-defense.

Conservation groups and others say the 30.06 bullet's trajectory — through one side and out the other — is at odds with the man's account. Some accused the hunter of panicking, or of deliberately killing the animal and making up a story to justify it. In an interview with the Capital Press, the hunter said he believed he was in danger. When the wolf ran at him, he said he screamed, raised his rifle, saw fur in the scope and fired. A shell casing was found 27 yards from the wolf's carcass.

WOLF

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While some have questioned the final draft being approved before the early 2018 count, Dennehy said it was time for the approval.

"This has been going on for more than a year now," she said. "We're looking to bring this to completion. We have others asking us when the plan is going to be finished. It's a big public process, and we didn't want to rush it."

Arran Robertson, media representative for Oregon Wild, said the April plan was not to the group's liking and that the latest revisions did little to change that.

"The previous version that's being edited was not starting from a strong place in terms of wolf conservation," he said. "I would say that although there's a few small changes that improve here and there, there's also some things that take it further back. It doesn't look like a better plan from our perspective."

Robertson was unable to provide further details because the group's wolf expert, Rob Klavins, was on vacation and not available for elaboration.

Oregon Wild works to protect and restore wildlands, wildlife and waters in the state as an enduring legacy for future generations.

Local rancher Todd Nash, who also serves on the county's board of commissioners as well as the Oregon Cattlemen's Association wolf task force, saw little in the plan to encourage ranchers.

"There's protection for wolves, but very little for anything else," Nash said. "Things we've been asking for are absent in there — even some of the things that the commission directed."

According to Nash, col-



They get a directive from the chair of the commission, then you read what's in the plan, but it's not there."

Todd Nash,
Rancher

laring wolves into Phase 3 of the plan was not on the table. He said that both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the management plan call for at least two wolves of each pack to be radio collared so the wolves and their locations can be monitored more closely.

"They never really achieved that, like a lot of other things they don't achieve," Nash said.

The agency explained that collaring wolves was expensive because they're hard to find, but Nash said collaring helped identify which packs stayed within close range of livestock. He said that Michael Findley, the commission chairman, assured him money could be found.

"They get a directive from the chair of the commission, then you read what's in the plan, but it's not there," Nash said.

The rancher said suggestions of more local control of suspected depredations was also completely dismissed by the agency. He added that the suggestion that law enforcement, including Oregon State Police, be involved in the process was also discarded, even though local agencies were willing to participate.

Nash said that another bone of contention with the plan is a section that called for mandatory minimum wolf population on units, but did not dictate maximum wolf populations. He also said the plan as it stands probably won't be acceptable to either ranchers, hunters or conservationists.

"It doesn't address the three components that I think are necessary to have wolves in Oregon," Nash said. "Livestock producers need to be assured that their livestock can be protected in an effective manner; hunters need to be assured they'll have viable wildlife populations to hunt; and the environmental community needs to be assured that wolves that are not in conflict with the last two will be unharmed. If we have all three of those, we achieve equilibrium and possibly live with each other."

In Nash's opinion, conservation groups probably called ODFW wolf coordinators Russ Morgan or Roblyn Brown enough to wear them down while livestock producers try to openly air their grievances in public debate.

"It looks like most of the environmental applications are being addressed but very little of what we've asked for," Nash said.

The rancher said that he hopes changes will take place in the plan before the final revision is issued. He said that as it stands, he didn't think stakeholders such as the Oregon Hunters Association, the Farm Bureau and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation would sign on to the document.

"It's as if we aren't even in the room," Nash said.

The Chieftain also tried to elicit comments from Cascadia Wildlands, a Eugene-based conservation group, but did not receive a reply.

ENTERPRISE

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Administrators have already begun circulating their best math teachers to improve instruction in all classes, according to Supt. Erika Pinkerton.

"Our school k-6 will begin a web-based program called 'Study Island,'" Pinkerton said. "This program will focus on math and language arts,

which are both aligned to the Common Core standards."

Pinkerton expects to launch that program by January, and parents can have their child log on from home and help their child with assignments. There will also be a direct link for parents to access Kahn Academy where a video clip of a teacher teaching the concept in the homework will show them how to help a child.

Some parents report that

children in grades three and four are particularly confused by "word problem math," which not only requires students to know mathematical formulas but to translate them out of and then back into word problems.

Student scores are expected to improve as teachers become more proficient in new teaching methods and new individual student tracking quickly indicates which students are struggling.

WALLOWA

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Supt. Bret Uptmor said that he doesn't focus on the students in the top two tiers as much as he looks at the students in the bottom. The primary problem with low scores in the higher grades is motivation, he said.

High school is a time when social engagement is far more important to a student than the score of a test taken once a year, which drives the state school report cards. Motivating students to take that test seriously can be difficult, he said.

Uptmor and his teachers have undertaken a serious campaign to raise school spirit, engage parents, and use pride as a motivator for excellence, he said.

To help reach all students,

Wallowa is implementing the Response to Intervention program, which recognizes that different students are struggling for different reasons.

Elementary teachers work collaboratively with trainers at the state level to evaluate success and change instruction assessments to better serve students.

Among the many methods used to assist students are practical measures such as dividing the class into groups according to student ability so that learning problems can be targeted by teachers or assistants and moving the students from group to group as they learn so that no stigma is attached to encountering a learning problem in the process.

RTI is meant to be fluid in process. It is also effective in identifying students

who may need to be referred for special education services and will additionally provide documentation of what types of instruction have not been helpful.

The district is also partnering with the Oregon State University Singleton Professional Learning Community, a training program designed to support and improve the excellence of teachers.

Groups of high school math and English language arts teachers began meeting in August and will work with other teachers across Eastern Oregon.

Teachers enjoy both the collaborative benefits and the focus on action.

Eight districts are involved working on what they hope will be high-impacting strategies for classroom assessments.

for high schoolers that need extra support, need to recover math credits or need a different type of math class," he said.

Motivation of high school students remains a challenge.

"Teachers and staff work really hard to motivate students," Homan said. "Motivation varies from class to class. We take the assessments in smaller chunks of time in order to try to keep them fresh and not feeling overwhelmed."

JOSEPH

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Supt. Lance Homan says that his school is also working with programs similar to those used in Wallowa in addition to making use of the I-Ready and ALEKS programs, which help identify students who are struggling.

"We split our algebra class into two classes to better serve our students, created a math class

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Greenshields & Aschenbrenner

This week we're featuring co-athletes of the week, Brett Greenshields and Coy Aschenbrenner, two football standouts at Enterprise High School. Greenshields, a senior, and Aschenbrenner, a junior, were selected as both first and second-team honors in the Wapiti League. Greenshields was selected as a first-team punter while also getting the nod for second-team defensive lineman. He also competes in basketball and track and is an FFA member. Aschenbrenner racked up first-team offensive lineman honors and second-team defensive lineman accolades. He also competes in baseball and basketball and participates in FFA.

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