



Wallowa Valley Eagles sweep double-header • SPORTS, A14

# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

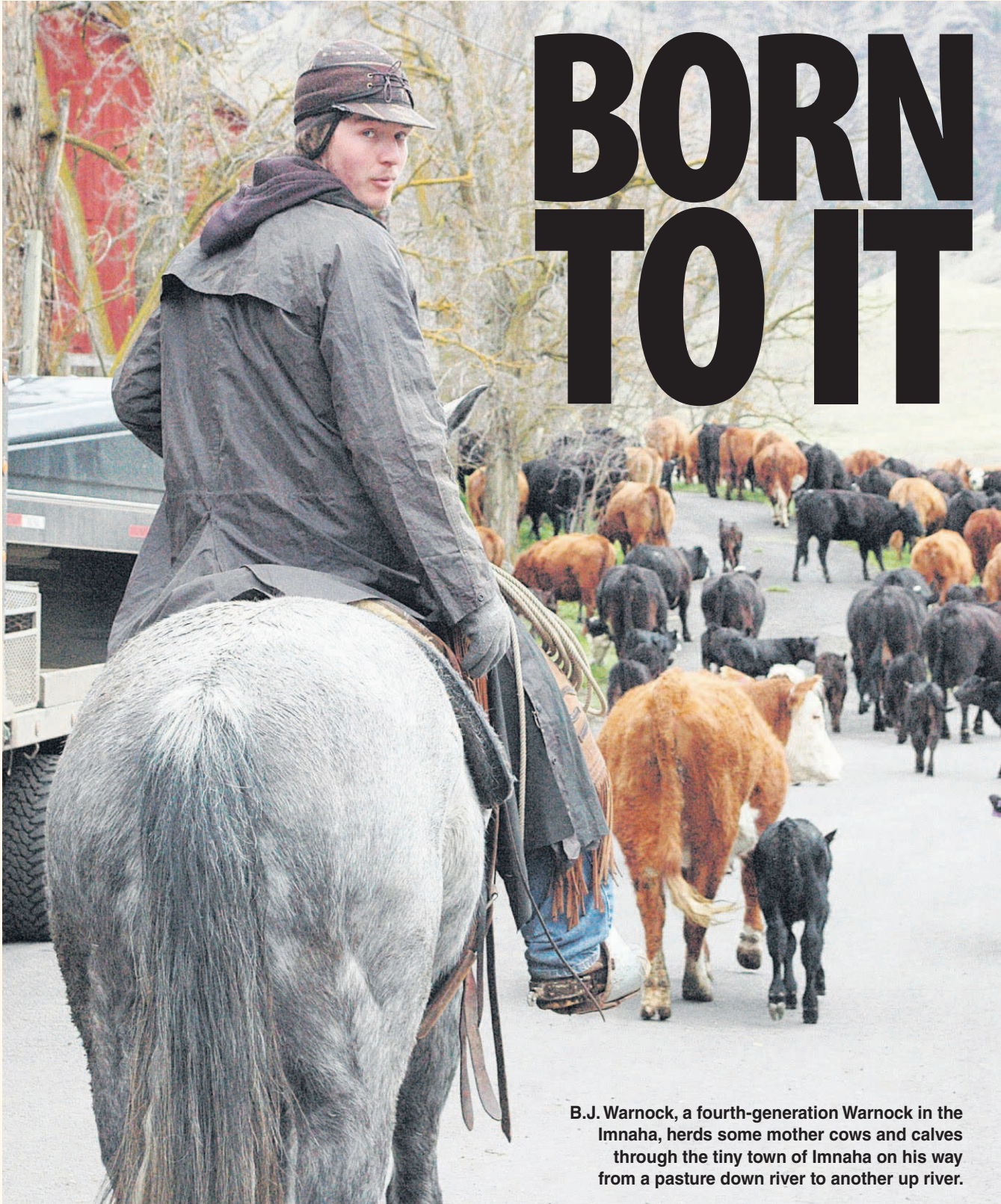


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## BORN TO IT

B.J. Warnock, a fourth-generation Warnock in the Imnaha, herds some mother cows and calves through the tiny town of Imnaha on his way from a pasture down river to another up river.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

## Fourth generation Imnaha rancher starts from scratch

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**B**J Warnock, 23, is ranching the way his great granddad ranched — the hard way. Not only is the fourth-generation Imnaha rancher running cattle in a semi-arid desert country of awe-producing ruggedness, he's building his ranch from nothing.

That's rarely done today. Most 19-year-olds fresh out of high school certainly don't do it.

Warnock, now 23, and his young wife, Emily, 21, are living a 19th Century cowboy dream partly because they think hard work is just what you do and partly because the stars aligned.

See RANCHER, Page A10



Miles Warnock and mom, Emily, meet B.J. and the cattle at a fresh pasture. Miles will be a fifth-generation Warnock in the rugged Imnaha country in Wallowa County. His mom, Emily, works the ranching business, and Miles spends as much time outdoors as possible.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

## Frolander exonerated in Gray case

West also refused to dismiss criminal charges

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Judge Russell B. West ruled Wallowa County's Deputy District Attorney did not commit prosecutorial misconduct, and he did not dismiss a criminal case because of it at Wallowa County Circuit Court on May 2.

The allegations stemmed from an incident regarding a possible civil settlement for Aaron Gray, 38, the former director of physical therapy at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, who is facing charges of harassment and sex abuse from two former patients.



Frolander

Gray's attorney, Benjamin Boyd, filed for a dismissal of the second of the two cases claiming that Frolander had interfered with his client's right to settle the case with a possible financial transaction. The acceptance of such an offer would result in the cessation of the criminal case, since it would amount to double jeopardy.

See GRAY, Page A18

## Commission candidates oppose lodging tax increase

Business topics part of Joseph Chamber forum

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Neither candidate for Wallowa County Commissioner supports raising the county Transient Lodging Tax. The idea was originally floated as a way to support the Sheriff's Department and fund improvements at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds.

Both candidates weighed in on the issue during a forum May 1 in Joseph.

Bruce Dunn said he had given the issue a lot of thought.

"I've thought about this, and I see both sides of it," he said. "I fought this issue over in my mind. It's a difficult issue to answer. But, I feel you have to be consistent, and I don't like taxes. I don't think you should have to pay more taxes. I think you should find other solutions."

Diane Daggett also stated other solutions should be sought.

"I'm opposed to the increase in the tax as it is currently configured and as it was proposed," she said. "I think it could have an adverse impact on our tourism economy and

See FORUM, Page A18



## REMODELING UNDER WAY

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

A group of investors has signed an agreement to reopen the former Mt. Joseph's Family Foods in Joseph.

The store has been closed since February. Previous owner Troy Berglund is no longer involved with the enterprise.

Spokesman Marco Rennie told the Chieftain that there is no timeline for reopening but added that it would be "as quickly as possible" and would be completed in phases.

Phase I is cleaning and prepping the store for stocking.

Rennie said the timelines of several contractors are at play, making it impossible to provide an accurate opening date.

The partnership is also planning to reopen the sister store, Market Place, in downtown La Grande.

Rennie announced that Marc Duncan and Dave Yount have signed on as partners in the project. Duncan is a professor in the business department at Eastern

See REMODEL, Page A10

## Partnership formed to reopen Joseph grocery store



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

A giant trash receptacle appeared outside the former Mt. Joseph Family Foods on Main Street Monday, and work crews were seen entering and leaving the building.

