

ATTACKS

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Upon examination of the carcass, multiple canine tooth scrape marks were found on the hide of the right hind leg, back and left front legs.

The findings also indicated pre-mortem hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage from canine bites on the upper left front leg, left elbow, both hind legs above the hocks and the lower-left side of the back.

The agency issued a confirmation on July 24. It is the pack's 12th confirmed depredation since July of 2016 and first of

this year.

The pack does not have a collared member. Only one of Wallowa County's estimated 60-plus wolves is collared. However, the location of the depredation is within the Known Area of Wolf Activity of the Harl Butte pack.

County commissioner Todd Nash said the pack has had more than enough chances to alter its behavior and needs severe curtailing if not elimination.

"We need to clean this mess up," he said. "The state needs to do its part if we're going to achieve co-existence with wolves and ranchers."

Bucks raised during 'Miles for Mammograms'

Walkers and their dogs gathered outside the Thunder Room at the Harley Tucker Rodeo Grounds in Joseph for the 11th Annual "Miles for Mammograms" run July 26. The event, part of the "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" campaign for Chief Joseph Days Rodeo, was partnered this year with Wallowa County Humane Society.

Around 20 dogs joined approximately 100 walkers for the hike from the rodeo grounds and around Iwetem-

laykin State Heritage Site just outside of Joseph. Each dog owner paid \$5 for his or her dog to join in, raising \$100 for the local Humane Society. Human entry fees are added to the other fundraising events of the rodeo and donated to the Wallowa Memorial Hospital to provide free mammograms for local low-income women.

Although a total was not available for money raised for mammograms, organizer Doris Noland said she was happy with the results.

WOLVES

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The county formed the Wallowa County Wolf Compensation Committee in 2011 at the suggestion of local rancher Dennis Sheehy. According to county commissioner Susan Roberts, the idea began as a community alliance livestock fund to help producers who were hardest hit by depredations.

Eventually, a committee of nine was formed. Eventually the idea came to the attention of the Oregon Legislature.

"We said, 'Hey, the state has determined we need wolves and here's how they can help,'" Roberts said.

The legislature ultimately mandated seven-member committees for counties with wolves — two members from the wolf conservation community, two livestock producers and a county commissioner or designee. That group of five would select two members from the local business community.

As the wolf population spread, additional counties have looked to Wallowa County as a model of management.

"We have shared our methods, forms and papers with anyone who asks for them, so they wouldn't have to start from scratch," Roberts said.

The Claims Committee determines the monetary value

of depredation losses.

"Knowing ranchers, knowing conditions: it's all part of the equation," Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash said.

The group meets annually and uses August as its reference point.

"Usually, by August, you know how the markets are going to be for that year," Nash said. "We try not to take the high or low, we decide on a reasonable price."

Market rate for beef doesn't determine the damage amount. For example, if a 100-pound calf is killed, the damages aren't set in the \$150-\$200 range the calf might have brought at auction.

"We don't sell those calves," Nash said. "We consider that he would have made it to weaning at 600 pounds."

A weaned calf depredation that made it through fall might be considered at 800 pounds. Replacement heifers, cows, bred cows and registered livestock present other mitigating factors. Stock dogs and horses are occasional victims and merit compensation.

Current committee members also include Wally Sykes, an original member, and Jacob Johansen from the conservation community, Larry Snook and Bill Phinney from the business community. Jill McClaran and Levi Hermens represent livestock producers.

When a claim is submitted, the county contracts with a

member of the Soil and Water Conservation District, Cynthia Warnock, to complete the paperwork.

Warnock collects the paperwork and hands it to Roberts, who reviews the filing before handing it off to the claims committee.

It does help offset some of the losses ranchers suffer. It's one of those questions that has no good answers."

— Susan Roberts
county commissioner

The paperwork details the type of nonlethal deterrents and other preventatives the rancher used, such as increasing patrols, using the range rider and others.

A pasture rotation form is also used, and the claimant writes a narrative as well as having a third party verify a stock count in the spring before cattle are let loose on allotments as well as a third party to verify the stock arriving in the fall.

Additional paperwork includes the rancher having a verifiable and detailed history of livestock loss on a particular range to make a claim that

they suffered additional losses since wolves migrated to the county.

"This takes agreement and buy-in from the livestock producer to say, 'OK, that's an added thing I have to do, but I understand, and I'm going to do it,'" Roberts said. "Most producers worth anything already keep excellent records anyway."

Thus far, no depredation claim has been turned down, but several have been reduced from the original request.

Roberts said she has never seen what she considers an outrageous claim. For some ranchers, reimbursement sometimes falls short of full restitution.

The fund is administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Part of the funding is for nonlethal deterrents, such as paying the range rider and providing his equipment, among others.

This year, the county received its full funding of \$63,500, \$55,000 is for nonlethal deterrents. The remaining funds are tagged for direct-loss compensation. The federal government has also pitched in an extra \$13,500 for nonlethal purposes.

Roberts said the compensation program is marginally successful.

"It does help offset some of the losses ranchers suffer," she said. "It's one of those questions that has no good answers."

74 golfers turn out for Shriner's Chief Joseph tournament

tee time

Rochelle Danielson

After last week's column and my attempt to explain the lack of interest in golf tournaments, the Shriner's come along and prove otherwise.

Turnout for the CJD Shrine golf tournament included 74 golfers, which made up 18 teams of men and women spill-

ing over on Alpine Meadows fairways.

The Shriner's has always attracted golfers, but the tournament became notorious for its all-day into the night ordeal, creating a reason not to enter the fundraiser.

The Shriners eventually saw the light, eliminated mulligans by the bushel, and in turn, sped up the game. This year teams played the 18 holes in six hours.

Although local Shriner's

Club membership is down from earlier times, those who are members work hard to make their "once a year money maker" a success.

Sam Wade, who has been tourney chairman for ages, claims he has lots of help from his family, friends, Shriner members and Alpine Meadows crew.

"We have great support from the golfers too. Several teams return year after year," said the

always smiling Wade. "Not only can these guys and gals hit the ball, they have a lot of fun even when they don't. In fact, we call the tourney 'Hit and Giggle,' and there's lots of giggling."

This year's scramble winners: Randy Slinker, Nathan Slinker, Kyle Crawford and Josh Harman, 59. One stroke behind the No. 1 team was Gordon Higheagle, Levi Taylor, Frank Taylor, Easton Powauke, and Mike Bisbee, 60. Third Place Tie:

Tristan Beck, Pat Lynn, Justin Bird, Dean Duquette, 61. Dennis Kennedy, Matt Alandt, Bob Payant, Rob Payant, 61.

Ladies Longest Drive, Becky Collman. Men's Longest Drive, Marcus Bridges. Ladies KP, Amanda Weselak. Men's KP, Matt Alandt.

A Hole-In-One was a tournament highlight for the small crowd who witnessed Matt Alandt, of Meridian, Idaho, make his first-ever hole-in-one.

His team had played 4 holes when they made the turn at the clubhouse. Teeing off No. 1 Alandt watched as his 135 yard drive went high and landed on the green uphill from the flag, rolled back and dropped in the cup. For a moment he stood paralyzed, his eyes grew big, his mouth opened wide, then he began to dance.

Congratulations Matt. Golfers: Perhaps we should put "giggle" back in our game.

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