

COUGARS UPSET EAGLES

Wallowa humbles top-ten ranked Joseph in hard fought contest | **PAGE A10**



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Ellen Morris Bishop

Morgan Anderson gets an enthusiastic send-off from spectators as she starts the first leg of the 31-mile two-stage race in 2018.

Eagle Cap Extreme boasts biggest field in its history

Oregon Field Guide returns to document the event

By Ellen Morris Bishop
For The Chieftain

As the all-volunteer staff of Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race readies the 2019 course, there's already some good news for this year's event.

As of Monday, 25 sled dog teams are registered for the 15th running of the Eagle Cap Extreme. That count includes seven competitors in the Iditarod-qualifying 200-mile race and another seven, including local veterinarian Jereld Rice, in the classic 100-mile race. It's one of the largest fields to compete in race history.

Oregon Field Guide, one of Oregon Public Broadcasting's premiere TV programs, will be here to film the race — for the second time. Oregon Field Guide covered the race in 2009 and they are back a decade later.

"The scale of the Eagle Cap Extreme is really unprecedented," said Ian McCluskey, Oregon Field Guide producer. "It has really grown over the years. It has become an epic race in distance and landscape, the only sled dog race west of the Rockies that offers an Iditarod qualifier. It just felt like we needed to document it."

McCluskey is bringing an unusually large team of two producers, an associate producer, two cameras and two cameramen to film the race. They will cover aspects of the event including the vet checks, race finishes and the awards banquet. Better technology and better cameras are part of the reason for returning, McCluskey said.

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Ellen Morris Bishop

Dr. Kathleen McGill, head veterinarian for the Eagle Cap Extreme, gets to know an Alaskan Husky at the Enterprise Wednesday afternoon vet check.

Wildlife commission to finally vote on Oregon wolf plan

Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission is finally set to vote on a plan for managing wolves in the state, after years of contentious meetings.

The commission is expected to vote in March, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

As in other northwestern states, wolves have been controversial in Oregon, with ranchers saying they wreak havoc on livestock and conservationists saying they play a key role in the ecosystem.

The main sticking point has been over when and how lethal action can be taken against wolves that kill livestock.

The first wolf management plan was implemented in 2005 and revised in 2010, just a year after wolves made their return to Oregon after dispersing from packs in Idaho. The plan was supposed to be updated every five years, but the 2015 revisions became mired in argument and repeated delays ensued.

The state said it will release the management plan to the public before the vote, but the plan currently allows officials to consider killing wolves that have been confirmed to have killed livestock twice. However, officials typically don't approve wolf kills until after three or more confirmed depredations, the agency said in a written statement.

"In practice, ODFW has denied more lethal removal requests for wolves than it has approved," the statement said.

The state hired a professional facilitator last year to oversee five meetings between the sides, beginning last August. But all four conservation groups involved — Defenders of Wildlife, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands and the Center for Biological Diversity — pulled out of the discussions last week, just before the last meeting. The groups said the state failed to seriously consider their proposals.

"It was a very difficult decision to make after years of advocacy and coming to the table in good faith," said Quinn Read, Northwest director for Defenders of Wildlife. "If we thought there was still an opportunity for meaningful discussion, we would be there."

Derek Broman, carnivore coordinator for the state agency, said the decision by the conservationists was disheartening.

"We were disappointed these groups left the discussion and we did not have the full stakeholder group present at the final meeting," Broman said in a statement. "Since the drafting of the original 2005 plan, stakeholders remain very passionate so consensus is challenging to achieve."

Jim Akenson, conservation director for the Oregon Hunters Association, said the talks had been heated at times, but the process had been fair.

There are more than 120 wolves living in a dozen packs in Oregon, most of them in the northeastern part of the state. There were 17 confirmed wolf attacks on livestock in 2017, according to the state. Five were killed that year for repeatedly attacking livestock.

Couple welcomes Wallowa County's first baby of 2019

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Adele and Mark Schott of Joseph are the proud parents of Henry "Hank" Owen Schott — the first baby born in Wallowa County in 2019.

Hank Schott was born at Wallowa Memorial Hospital on Jan. 4, at 6:18 p.m., weighing 8 pounds, 13 oz. at birth and was 20 inches long. He is the couple's first child, and the sixth generation of the family to live in Wallowa County.

Renee Grandi is the couple's doctor and helped Schott through a grueling 40 hours of labor, including 26 hours at the hospital.

Adele Schott (nee Nash), is the daughter of county com-

missioner Todd Nash and 6 Ranch owner Liza McAllister, a well-known cowgirl in the area. Her husband, Mark has a degree in bio-chemistry from Southern Oregon University, but prefers ranch work and has traveled all over the west working for horse trainers and large ranches.

The couple met at the Chief Joseph Days rodeo and has rarely spent a day apart since. He now trains horses and the couple partners on Corriente cattle with the 6 Ranch, selling grass-fed beef in Portland and the local market, as well as managing outside yearlings in canyons during the summer.



Happy New Year Parents Mark and Adele Schott of Joseph with Wallowa County's first 2019 baby, Henry Owen Schott, aka "Hank," the sixth generation of his family to live in Wallowa County, was born at Wallowa Memorial Hospital on Jan. 4 at 6:18 p.m. He weighed eight pounds, 13 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Steve Tool/Chieftain



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