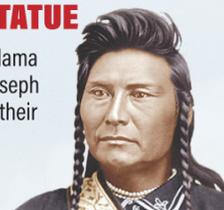


WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

JOSEPH UNVEILS NEW STATUE

Event marks a turning point for the walama NiiMiiipoo, better known as the Chief Joseph Band Nez Perce, and one more step in their homecoming journey. | A4, A10



BRONCS AND BULLS A SUCCESS

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

Imnaha buckaroo Riley Warnock masters his bronc at Mountain High Broncs and Bulls. Warnock was just 0.5 seconds shy of an eight-second ride.
Ellen Morris Bishop

The 15th annual Mountain High Broncs and Bulls Rodeo set new records for attendance, and for the number of cowboys competing. Nineteen bronc riders and 13 bull riders competed, along with eight wild horse race teams. Three present and past World Champion ranch rodeo bronc riders competed. But the winner was Juntura, Oregon, cowpoke and broncbuster Gabe McKay. He took home a purse of \$2,100 for mastering the two horses he rode, with a combined score of 155.5 points.

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EAST VS. WEST IN ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

East shows west how character, winning is done.
A9

DRAGONS IN THE WALLOWAS

New dragon boat events have been added, including a new 10-paddler event and 20-paddler boat races.
A17

NEW OWNERS AT IMNAHA STORE AND TAVERN

Brooke Van Sickle and Cody Mawhinney plan to expand its inventory, keep its legendary friendly atmosphere intact.
A18

Bowlby Bash 2019

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

This year's Bowlby Bash provided a host of fun and unique booths to explore, with local goods and treats galore, along with plenty of activities for youngsters. From kettle corn and face-painting to sidewalk-chalk art and delectable root beer floats, the Bowlby Bash offered something for everyone. This year, the 16-year-old event got its original name back, after having enjoyed a brief stint as Summerfest in 2018.

One of the most anticipated parts of the Bowlby Bash celebration is the soap box derby. This year, eight derby racers were entered. The derby, sponsored by Greater Enterprise Main Streets (GEMS) was largely organized by Jorge Aguilar, Jr. There were two categories: Creative and Speedster. This year, all the vehicles were entered

as speedsters. All were required to be inspected before being permitted to race. Rules for the cars included specific weight limits depending upon the age and weight of the driver. Derby racers driven by 8-12 year olds were required to be less than 250 pounds for the total weight of car and vehicle. Drivers 13 to 17 years of age could weigh in at a total of 350 pounds for car and driver. Vehicles with drivers ages 18 and older could total no more than 550 pounds.

"It's all about keeping the downhill speed of the cars at a pace that drivers can control," Aguilar said. "Younger and less experienced drivers really need to go slower to be sure they keep control." The pre-race inspections focus on safety. One car, designed as a tri-cycle, with two wheels on the back and one small one on the front, was required to literally install training wheels on each side

of the small front wheel to improve the vehicle's stability. "It would just tip over too easily without them," Aguilar said.

Other general rules—are that the cars be hand-built, often from cast-off or salvaged parts. Baby stroller wheels are good. So are bicycle wheels and even wheels from garden carts and the game carts that hunters use to transport their deer out of the woods. All derby cars have to have brakes that work. In some, that's bicycle caliper brakes. In others it's a block that is applied to the wheel via a hand-lever. Steering designs include primitive, very simple rack and pinion designs as well as the wires that are more like boat steering. Aguilar's creations include the VFW's racer and lots of work on the Number 1 car. He added a number of

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Nick Jannuzzi pilots the Elks Lodge racer towards the finish line at the 2019 Bowlby Bash soapbox derby.
Ellen Morris Bishop



Kari Greer/U.S. Forest Service
Wildfire season will approach its peak later in the summer this year, experts predict.

Getting ready for wildfire season

By Brad Carlson
Capital Press

Mark Moore is ready for another busy wildfire season on southwest Idaho's rangeland.

As chief of the Mountain Home Fire Department, his crews must not only be prepared to fight structure fires within the city limits but also battle wildfires that can roar across the countryside. The volunteer Mountain Home Rural Fire Protection District contracts with his department to assist with wildfire suppression.

"We anticipate every year being a big season in terms of wildland fires, even more so because of the type of vegetation we have — carpet fuel, so to speak," Moore said.

Though the wildfire outlook for the Northwest is mixed — some of this year's hot spots for wildfire are, ironically, along the usually damp Pacific coast — the idea is to train for any possibility.

The June-September regional forecast from the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise predicts that

western wildfire activity won't start to increase until late June.

The coastal area of Washington and Oregon will have an above-normal fire risk. That means the number of acres burned are predicted to exceed the 10-year median for significant large fires because of fuel loading and drier-than-normal conditions.

Some of Northern California will also have an above-normal risk of significant large fires through October because of an abundance of grasses, down and dead fuels and heavy brush growth.

Nationwide, the wildfire season this year has already been busy, although not as busy as in 2018.

Year-to-date through June 17, the number of wildfires nationwide totaled 17,118 burning 459,776 acres, the NIFC reported.

That's down from 25,661 fires burning slightly more than 1.8 billion acres during the first six months of last year.

As of last week, six large

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