



Ellen Morris Bishop

Writer Molly Gloss ("Jump-off Creek," "Hearts of Horses") describes her mentor, Ursula LeGuin's, teaching style while Scott Russell Sanders (right) and Luis Alberto Urrea listen. The panel marked the closing of this year's FishTrap Gathering, and a year dedicated to LeGuin's work.

## Fishtrap goes out with a bang!

Ellen Morris Bishop  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Fishtrap's week of workshops and week-long gathering went out with a bang Saturday night as thunderstorms rolled out of the Wallowas and descended on Wallowa Lake while The Gathering paid homage to award-winning writer and Fishtrap mentor Ursula LeGuin. Securely ensconced under a big tent at Wallowa Lake Lodge, Fishtrap attendees watched a screening of "Worlds of Ursula K. LeGuin," an upcoming, hour-long American Masters PBS documentary about LeGuin's life and writing. Words of wisdom from LeGuin herself in the film included "I never wanted to be a writer. I just wrote." And "Every story must make its own rules. And then break them."

Three of Fishtrap's workshop faculty, Molly Gloss, Scott Russell Sanders, and Luis Alberto Urrea, who had all been mentored by LeGuin, shared their experiences and memories. Sanders related that in the 1990's when LeGuin was taking a walk with him while staying at his Indiana home, she stopped, looked at him and said, with some degree of quiet amazement, "There's water running under here."

"She didn't mean it like there was something seeping under the sidewalk," he said. "She meant water moving freely, deep underground." And LeGuin was right, he said. "I told her that, yes, it was limestone country, and that there were caves and underground rivers beneath the surface. She was extraordinarily perceptive of her surroundings."

LeGuin could be a demanding teacher, but she was good at working with writers who were just starting, Gloss said. "She would always find something, maybe just one thing, that was lovely, and she'd say "This is beautiful." And then she'd find one thing to change that would improve the story. Those students always left feeling inspired." For the gathering attendees, it was a banner evening.

This year's gathering and workshops provided one of the best ever experiences for attendees, said Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNerney. "It was wonderful," she said. "We had a great diversity in our participants—different ages, different cultural backgrounds. That may have been partly because of the workshops we offered—they included Chicana writers, younger writers, and different kinds of workshops. Our Fellows were also really diverse, and came from a pretty large geographic area."

McNerney also touted the support and involvement of the community in Joseph and Wallowa County. "Our youth workshops had 28 students, and half of them were from Wallowa County," she said. Most of those students received scholarships. And Joseph Charter School provided transportation for the students. "Everyone did what they could to help," she said. "We are so very thankful for that."

The positive vibes also extended to Fishtrap Gathering and workshop participants. "My favorite quote from one of our attendees, McNerney said, is "This place is heaven, and if heaven isn't like this, I don't want to go there."

## Fiddle Camp keeps Wallowa on its toes

Megan Futter  
For the Chieftain

Wallowa was surrounded with the culture of music as the 2019 Fiddle Tunes Camp kicked off at the Wallowa School July 5-12. The school yard filled up with tents as over 100 musicians and their families came from as far as San Diego to participate in Wallowa's Fiddle Camp. This week-long music and dance camp offers traditional string instrument instruction for young and old alike. Musicians and instructors from the camp held performances and a dance free of charge for the community.

The camp has been held in Wallowa since 2005 and was started by local musician Peter Donovan. Donovan ran the camp for 7 years before Carla Arnold,



Megan Futter for The Chieftain

Fiddle camp kept Wallowa residents and fiddle camp participants on their toes with great tunes for dancing.

the current director, took over. Arnold resides in La Grande and teaches music for the school district. According to her, the aim is to encourage, inspire and support the next generation and foster a love of music

in youth. This year's camp included a mini kids camp for children ages 3 to 10. The mini camp included dancing, art and making instruments.

The Fiddle Camp offered instruction for banjo, man-

dolin, stand up bass, guitar and dance from 11 professional musicians. The camp is sponsored by the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance, a non-profit whose focus is bringing music to rural communities.

## Wolfpack kills calf in southeast Washington

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

The Grouse Flats wolfpack in southeast Washington killed a calf in a 160-acre fenced pasture, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said today.

Fish and Wildlife employees found the dead 400- to 450-pound calf July 8 in the department's 4-0 Ranch Wildlife Area. The calf belonged to a rancher who has a permit to graze livestock there.

The wolfpack is in Asotin County, which borders Oregon and Idaho. The department confirmed the pack attacked two calves and one cow last year.

Only one other depredation has occurred in the past 10 months. Department policy calls for it to consider culling a pack after four depredations in 10 months or three depredations in 30 days. Previously, the most-recent depredation was Oct. 28.

Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind ordered the department Wednesday to kill one or two wolves in the OPT pack in the Colville National Forest in northeast Washington. The department has not provided an update.

The calf found dead in Asotin County suffered wounds inflicted by wolves, Fish and Wildlife investigators concluded. Most of the hindquarters were consumed, investigators said.

The rancher monitors the herd regularly and removes



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife/Capital Press

A calf has been killed by wolves in southeastern Washington state, officials said Friday.

livestock carcasses to avoid attracting wolves, according to the department.

Since the most recent attack, the rancher has added motion-detection lights and

will check the herd more often until the cattle can be moved to a different pasture, according to the department.

The Grouse Flats pack had at least eight wolves

at the end of 2018, according to Fish and Wildlife's count. It was the state's second-largest pack. The pack's territory extends south into Oregon.

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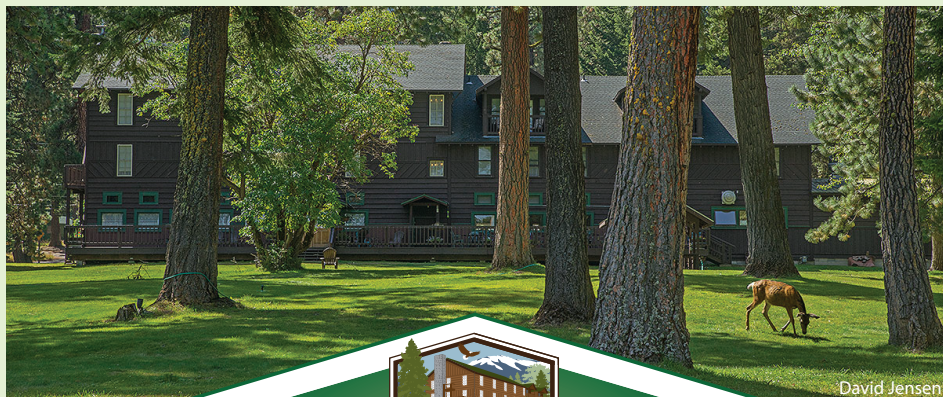
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David Jensen

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