

# Wallowa County Fair features new events and old favorites

**Ellen Morris Bishop**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa County Fair—an event that celebrates everyone and everything in Wallowa County from antelope to zucchini—opens on Saturday August 3. In its week-long run, the fair will feature dog shows, horse shows, and if you are not tired of rodeo yet, roping contests. There are parcels of kids and goats. 4-Her's herding sheep and goats. A dog show with obedience trials. A photo exhibit. An art exhibit. Games for kids including an August 10th Saturday at 11 a.m. Games on the Grass and a balloon scramble. In addition, Benny the Beaver—the Oregon State University mascot, will be visiting the fair on Saturday, Aug. 10, as well.

New events include the Team Roping Drawpot, Wednesday, August 7, starting at 5:30 p.m. and the Talent Show, Friday August 9, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

You can peruse a host of delectables, including jams, jellies, preserves, and



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**Rosie Movich-Fields gets coaching from Leslie LeViner on the fine points of jumping in preparation for the hunter-jumper competitions at the Wallowa County Fair.**

and fruit butters. For the fabrically inclined there's quilts, stitchery rugs, a category of clothing made from re-purposed materials, and something called Swedish Weaving. In the baking department, you can peruse pies (one-crust AND two crust), butter cakes, dec-

orated cakes, and cookies galore. If you hang out around the show for awhile, you might meet the bakers and even get a recipe or two.

The photo exhibit is a favorite, with lots of entries from talented amateurs, photo club members, and pro photographers. The Kids



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**The 2018-2019 4-H Court of Quincee Zacharias, Destiny Wecks and Dakota DeLyria preside over many events at the Wallowa County Fair.**

4-H photography always offers some surprising and unusual perspectives on the world. There's also 4-H geology, forestry, and fishing exhibits, along with a category of "outdoors" that may include such practical things as how to build a birdhouse.

The 4-H horse shows are a major part of the fair. Participants devote weeks, in fact months and years, to preparing for the shows with the hope of continu-

ing on to compete in the Oregon State Fair in September. There's something for everyone in the horse department: Equitation—both English and western. Western pleasure, jumping, and very serious dressage. There's also reining, trail horse competition, a driving class, classes for working ranch horses, green horses, and gaming—which includes pole bending and flag racing. And of course, no horse competition in

Wallowa County would be complete without roping.

But of course the most visible portion of this fair—or any county or state fair, is about 4-H and FFA livestock. This is where you'll find the bunnies. The chickens. The pigs and sheep and goats. And of course the market steers. For the more ambulatory of the animals, there are classes in the arena, and also an auction for pigs, lambs and steers, which provides fair-goers and businesses with the opportunity to support not only the youngsters who have worked very hard to raise their livestock, but also support the fair and both 4-H and FFA.

For fair-goers, there are also concessions that provide the kinds of foods and goodies found only at fairs and other summertime events. The fair also has its own food booth that supports the operations of the fair. It opens early in the morning and remains open into the evening. Hours for the official fair food booth vary with the day.

## Trail: Joseph Branch Rails with Trails project seeks to 'regroup'

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working a lot to make this happen."

According to Millar, it's hard to disprove negative possibilities that ranchers threw up as roadblocks against the trail.

One particular instance that helped move the group's decision along was the results of a special county commissioners meeting on June 17 to discuss the JBRWT appeal of the ruling of the planning commission. According to Millar, at that meeting commissioner John Hillock recused himself from having to vote due to a financial conflict of interest, even though the county's land-use attorney, Dominic Carollo, and the JBRWT attorney present, Charles Gillis, didn't think Hillock's interests would meet the bar for recusal. Hillock's decision caused the group to think the two other votes would result in a tie and negate the appeal.

Another decision affecting the withdrawal was the decision of the commissioners to essentially keep the record open until July 1 for the submission of only new or clarifying evidence to be entered into the record. The commissioners would have held an additional meeting on July 9 to weigh the new evidence and possibly render a decision.

The group's attorney advised that those decisions would entail much more time and work. Creating more of a political stir was also a consideration for the group.

"We wanted to see if there was an easier way to make this a possibility without it being a political uphill battle kind of thing," she said. Millar added that the group is working on balancing individual duties so no one suffers from job burnout.

In the immediate future, the group plans to re-establish its leadership while maintaining a cordial working relationship with WURA.

"We're working on possibly getting some grants to get an employee to help manage this project and get it where we want to go," she said.

Despite the recent setback, Millar remains optimistic that the group will fulfill its mission.

"We need to take a breather because we're all kind of exhausted," she said. "We're still optimistic because I think there's a lot of community support for it. That's what we got from this process—that a lot of people want this to happen."

Millar said that the Joseph Branch Rails with Trails is a volunteer board always looking for new members. Contact the organization at: <https://www.josephbranchtrail.org/contact>.

## Enterprise: Upgrades go beyond roof repairs

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aha Group, specialists in school facilities assessments, long-range facilities planning, and assisting school districts in improving their physical plants. "The Wenaha Group is based in Pendleton, had worked with the Baker School District in their TAP planning process, and got excellent reviews there," Pinkerton said. "They've been doing a great job for us."

The assessment of Enterprise's needs in physical plant repairs and upgrades will go far beyond roof repairs, said Scott Rogers, a project manager for The Wenaha Group.

"We've looked at overall site condition, including storm water run-off, heating and cooling, energy use, and other factors that will affect the future operation and effectiveness of the school." That evaluation may include the need to update equipment and furnishings in the science labs and computer labs, plus other improvements to bring the Enterprise schools into the 21st century. "The teachers and maintenance staff have done a phenomenal job with facil-

ities mostly designed in the 1960's", Rogers said. "But education has changed a lot since then."

The August 5th Monday evening meeting will address the key needs of the school facilities, along with costs. It's part of a program of long-range facilities planning. "We'll give the school board a snapshot of what the facilities need in terms of dollar amounts. That will begin a conversation among the board members and stakeholders in the community," Rogers said.

The next steps following the August 5th meeting will be to appoint a community advisory committee to make recommendation to the Board of Education for which components of the Wenaha Group's report should be addressed. Pinkerton's emphasis right now is on a new roof.

The costs of a new roof and other upgrades will almost certainly require the community to pass a bond, Pinkerton said. The tentative timing on the project would include patching the school roof for the 2019-2020 school year, while placing a bond initiative on the ballot for the November 2020 election.

## Wallowa: Plan not done

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something catastrophic like losing heat in the building happens," he said.

Wallowa is not as far along in their assessments as Enterprise. They contracted with Pivot, another highly recommended and vetted consultant out of Eugene that, like The Wenaha Group, has a proven track record of working with small school districts. Pivot's team of engineers, architects, and other professionals will have their first on-site visit August 4, 5, and 6. That will kick off the evaluations.

Hummel expects that their studies will be completed in about a month. Then he wants the school board and the community to review the recommendations, determine what should be done, and also

consider what Wallowa can afford. Hummel anticipates a meeting near the end of September for the school board and Pivot to present their findings to the community, and begin developing an affordable, workable plan to repair and upgrade the school's physical plant, classrooms, and athletic facilities to meet the present and future needs of students and the community.

Like Enterprise, upgrading Wallowa's schools will require passage of a bond that will be matched by Oregon's OSCIM fund. "This is a pressing issue for our school board and our community," Hummel said. "The school board needs to understand what is needed, help the community understand and prioritize the needs, and drive the process of getting things done."

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### Schedule of Events

**Friday August 16th**

9am Registration Starts at Main Street Motors  
2pm Cruise to Imnaha Store and Tavern (meet behind the grocery store in Joseph)  
5pm - 8pm Music in Warde Park (Main St. & 2nd in Enterprise)  
**Casey Kiser** and the **Jakewalk Saints**  
Food and Drink Vendors Available

**Saturday August 17th**

7am Registration Continues at Main Street Motors  
7am Parking for Show & Shine Begins  
7am - 10am Elks Breakfast Fundraiser at Main Street Motors  
9am-ish National Anthem - Randy Morgan & Jessie Borgerding  
Flags - Eagle Cap VFW Post #4307

**9am - 3pm SHOW AND SHINE**  
Main Street in Enterprise

2:30pm Awards on Main Street in Enterprise  
After Awards Cruise By Local Senior Homes (map in Goodie Bag or at Information Booth)