

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

There really outta be a law — or at least a regulation

Fall sports season is at an end, and our local teams have all done themselves proud. The boys Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa cross country team has earned a richly-deserved 3A state championship. Ellyse Tingelstad and teammates Kyla Hook and Mary Catherine Mathews have been a dominating presence in the girls, also holding the #3 division ranking. In volleyball, Wallowa made the first round of state playoffs. The Joseph Eagles may have ceded the official 6-man football state championship to South Wasco in a very hard-fought, close game, but they are the defensive champs statewide, permitting only a miserly 45 points to their opponents, and scoring the second highest point total in the state this year. Wallowa improved all season, ending with an 80-0 tempered rout of Cove, and a promising season next year.

Which brings up the topic of lopsided scores, and perhaps the imposition of some reason and limits on scoring in six- and eight-man football. Eight-man and six-man football seem particularly prone to scoring that can leave one team in the dust, and the other trying to figure out how to stop making touchdowns without just lying down on the field or playing sub-par football. These schools have small populations of students. And at a time when injuries, whether concussions or sprained ankles, weigh heavily on the minds of parents and students, football may not be the most popular pursuit. Consequently, some eight-man teams may have fewer than a dozen players. In the Joseph-South Wasco game, the Redsidés suited-up a team of nine. In these games each boy plays both defense and offense. They play almost every down. It is among the toughest and most strenuous of high school sports. Many of the players from rural



Ellen Morris Bishop
 A Wallowa player wraps up a Crane opponent in their October 18th matchup. Crane won the game that was closer than the 56-40 score might indicate.

schools across the state grew up on ranches and farms, and participate in rodeo and work with livestock where the possibility of injury is ever present. So the risks posed by football may not seem significant. They play a game they love for both its competitiveness and physicality, taking the risks of injury in stride. Lopsided scores are common. On October 25, 8-man scores around the state included 66-0, 51-6, 58-0, and 80-0. On the 18th, scores included 80-6, 56-0, 60-6, and 54-0. Most games had at least a 20 point spread in the scores. There would seem to be little point in winning by such an overwhelming margin, especially when continued play of tired and stressed players on both sides holds a mounting risk of injury as the game continues, and motivation diminishes on both teams. OSAA rules instituted in 2017

require that if a 45-point differential occurs at halftime or any time thereafter, a running clock shall be used. The running clock shall be started with the ready-for-play signal from the official. Once the running clock is started, it shall be stopped only for reasons that include measurement of a first down, injury, a radio or TV time out, time between the third and fourth quarters, a team time out, and “a team attempting to conserve or consume time.” The OSAA running clock applies to all levels, including state championship games. But this still seems to allow scoring that simply goes farther than needed. In the Plainedge, N.Y. school district, there’s a rule that should a football team win by more than 42 points, the coach must explain how and why this happened to the Nassau County school athletic board. If the rationale is not accepted, the coach will be sus-

pended. It’s only been used once, and the coach received a one-game suspension. How effective it may be at preventing score “run-ups” is unclear. In Nebraska, the Pawnee School District’s Brian Rottinghaus, Superintendent, and Donald Jacobs, MS/HS Principal & AD, have written a legislative proposal for a change in Nebraska School Athletic Association rules that would end games once a 45 point differential in scores is reached. The proposed change is that in eight-man games, any time following the end of the first half of play, once one team has a 45-point differential in team score over their opponent, the game is ended. EXCEPTION: The administration or head coaches from the two teams may agree, before the game, to allow a continuous running clock for the remainder of the game after halftime and when a 45-point differential has been achieved. Only during officials time-outs, team time-outs, end of the third quarter and for injuries will the clock stop. If the score drops below the 45-point differential, the clock will continue to run with the above exceptions. This exception does not apply to playoff games and State Championship games. This seems like a fair rule. Their rationale includes: 1) Player safety. 2) Consideration of the wide discrepancy in skill and ability among eight-man football teams. 3) Consideration of the discrepancy in the number of players from one school to the next. 4) Improving the morale of players. OSAA should consider a similar 45 point rule to stop a game once this point differential is reached. It would improve the safety of the game, the morale of players, and even the attention and interest of fans.

Voters could be asked to decide future of Oregon’s forestry practices

By Sam Stites
 Oregon Capital Bureau

A political fight over how Oregon manages its forests and timber activity could be resolved by voters next fall. Two separate sets of ballot initiatives with contrary views of forestry in Oregon have been filed with the state Elections Division. One side seeks to insulate current practices from change and the other aims to create new regulations that prohibit certain techniques they feel are harmful to the environment and Oregonians. This week, Jim James and his fellow chief petitioners filed initiatives they’re calling the “Healthy Forests and Wildfire Reduction Plan.” They would keep the regulation of forest and timber practices on all state and privately-owned lands in the hands of professional foresters, scientists and the Oregon Board of Forestry. The plan would require the state Forestry Department to report new forestry regulations to the state board



Oregon Department of Forestry
 Six new forestry ballot initiatives offer conflicting goals and practices for Oregon Forestry rules.

for review. The measures would add four members to the board representing scientific forestry fields and timber interests. The package also would also amend Oregon’s constitution to the state to compensate landowner if state actions reduce property values. James is a professional forester based out of Foster and the executive director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, a lobby-

ing group that advocates for private forest owners. The initiatives he’s promoting were filed in response to a set of prospective measures called the “Oregon Forest Waters Protection” package. “I believe that our forests are at a huge risk from the ballot measures proposed by radical, anti-forestry activists. We need these petitions to be successful in continuing to protect our management of forests,” he said. The opposing initiatives were re-filed at the beginning of October by Kate Crump, a resident of Rockaway Beach, and two other petitioners after their original package was rejected for violating the initiative process. One goal of Crump’s initiative package is to prohibit aerial spraying of pesticides on a forest clear cut within 500 feet of forest rivers and streams, especially those that feed watersheds used for potable water. It would also greatly reduce the logging operations in proximity to water bodies.

gets high crop at high altitude, did not mean to imply that hemp contains any mind-altering properties. In fact, hemp is defined as containing insufficient THC to cause any “high,” as was specifically noted in the story.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

I smell an off-road’ rat

Dear Editor:
 I can’t fathom why our city councilors would knowingly lower their town’s standard of living (as per their proposed “new, improved” Annoying Terrorizing Vehicles ordinance). What could possibly justify exposing their citizens to more noise, exhaust and accidents? “Because Sumpter and Union are doing it” (the main reason given at last week’s public hearing) just doesn’t cut it for me. If/when Sumpter and Union reinstate public hangings, will we follow suit as well? My innate cynicism notwithstanding, I smell an “off-road” rat. Respectfully submitted by, C. M. Sterbentz Enterprise

Proposed ATV ordinance it too freewheeling

To the Editor:
 Enterprise currently has an ATV ordinance that puts strict limits on the use of ATVs within city limits, allowing it only for snow removal and official city uses. So when you see a kid riding an ATV with a lawn mower trailered behind, she or he is in violation. Making provisions for this type of use would make sense to a lot of folks, however, the proposed ATV ordinance currently under consideration not only fails to solve this issue, but if passed would also create many new problems for Enterprise residents, as it basically allows anyone over 18 with a driver’s license to ride an ATV anywhere and anytime in the city, just as if they were a car. But ATVs are not cars – they are much less safe and considerably noisier. The new ordinance thus would increase the likelihood of accidents and create more disturbance to citizens who value the peace and quiet of small town life. While I would support an ordi-

nance that allows limited use of ATVs on city streets, the one proposed is simply too freewheeling. ATVs should only be used for legitimate purposes (e.g., snow plowing), speeds should be limited to 10 mph, and all riders should be required to wear a helmet. The new ordinance is scheduled for a vote later this month, so if you want to keep our streets safe and our neighborhoods quiet, I encourage you let the City Council know that the proposed ordinance, as written, is simply not appropriate. Rob V. Taylor Enterprise, OR

America’s veterans need better medical and dental care

To the Editor:
 The V.A. is not helping us veterans at all. Since I have been here, I have been treated the worst by the Walla Walla, Washington VA so-called hospital. They do not compute. Please help us if you can. We were promised free medical care for life. Where the hell is it? I’ve got a mouth full of rotten teeth and I can’t afford to have them pulled out and get false teeth. The dentists are too expensive, like all medical stuff. It’s always all about the money in America, that vets don’t get good care. I don’t like to be lied to. Thanks, V.A. for nothing. You are liars. The V.A. in Roseburg built a beautiful dental facility there and it was only for 100% disabled and lifers. All the rest of us can only just walk by and wish we could be seen. We are not treated well and all of us draftees are looked down upon by lifers. But until you’ve been on the DMZ of Korea, which is a war zone by the way, and you can be killed there, shut up and help vets get the medical care we need. Pat Wilson Wallowa

CORRECTION

In the October 23, 2019 edition of the Chieftain, our story about local hemp grower Shayne Kimball misspelled his name as Shane Kimball. The Chieftain apologizes for the error. This story, headlined Local hemp farmer

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