



FARM-RELATED BUSINESS
SWEATS BECAUSE OF DROUGHT
BUSINESS, A6

MORE RESULTS FROM THE
WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR
LOCAL, A10

\$1.50

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



137th Year, No. 20

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Wallowa County Voices



Amber Gillett
Enterprise

Wildlife biologist returns to Northwest

ENTERPRISE — Amber Gillett moved to Enterprise nearly two years ago to be closer to family on Oregon's west side.

"I moved from Tucson, Arizona, but I'm originally from Portland, Oregon, born and raised," she said. "I just wanted to move closer to home. All my family's on the west side and I missed all the seasons. I've always traveled through this area since my early 20s and I just fell in love with it, so I thought I'd give it a try and I was able to find a place and it's worked out."

A wildlife biologist, Gillett currently works for the U.S. Forest Service as a recreational ranger. Still single, she has no family in the county, but has many friends.

She recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The nature. You have a wide variety of diversity. You have the mountains and you have the prairies and you have Hells Canyon, which is an amazing place, and I love the small-town, community feel of it.

Are you concerned about the recent coronavirus spike?

A little bit. It's something I think we should watch out for and take care of each other. I think we should keep an eye on it and ... we all need to be careful and protect each other.

What do you think of the governor's recent mandate on having to wear masks?

It's kind of sad but it may be necessary with all this coming down and ... hopefully they'll get everything in check.

What did you think of this year's fair?

I couldn't go. I had to work.

What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

It's definitely a beautiful place to visit, but living here — in the winter it's a little different and things slow way down and it can be pretty harsh, from what I've been told. It's definitely something I don't think anyone should just jump into. But it's a beautiful place to visit, and if you find yourself moving here, it's a beautiful place to live.

Brown: Educators must be vaccinated

Health care workers also must get shots

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Facing a sharp surge in coronavirus infections that threatens to swamp Oregon hospitals, Gov. Kate Brown ordered a double dose Thursday, Aug. 19 of mandatory vaccination mandates.

All K-12 educators, school

staff and volunteers must be vaccinated no later than Oct. 18, Brown announced, or six weeks after one receives full approval from the federal Food and Drug Administration, whichever is later.

The FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine Monday, Aug. 23.

"COVID-19 poses a threat to our kids, and our kids need to be protected and they need to be in school," Brown said.

A second mandate with the same deadline would apply to doctors,

nurses, emergency medical teams and other health care workers.

"Our No. 1 priority is to continue to provide health care to the people of Wallowa County," said Wallowa Memorial Hospital CEO Larry Davy. "We will abide by rules as set forth by Gov. Brown as to not disrupt this care. There is no option to not comply and we will continue to provide support and information around the vaccine, this mandate, and its exemptions to our employ-

ees as it becomes available."

Wallowa Superintendent Tammy Jones said in an email to the Chieftain Thursday afternoon — one in which she wrote was a message from herself, Joseph Superintendent Lance Homan, Enterprise Superintendent Erika Pinkerton and Karen Patton of the Troy and Wallowa ESD — that local school leaders are waiting for more information from the state.

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Grim harvest



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Brothers Kurt, left, and Kevin Melville operate combines harvesting dryland soft white winter wheat north of Enterprise on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. The Melvilles said the dryland crop was particularly devastated by this year's drought.

Farmers get low crop yields after summer drought

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — A hot, dry summer seems to have come to an end last week with a few days of rain that grain farmers didn't necessarily need as they got going on harvest.

"With most harvests you have a little rain," Kevin Melville of Cornerstone Farms said Monday, Aug. 23.

Cornerstone, which Melville operates with father Tim, brother Kurt and their wives, is one of the largest small-grains producers in Wallowa County, largely growing wheat but also sizeable crops of hay, peas, canola and mustard.

Possibly the worst of what was harvested was the Melville's dryland wheat. The Melville brothers were hard at it harvesting dark northern spring



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

John Williams unloads just-harvested dark northern spring wheat at Cornerstone Farms just outside of Enterprise on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. His plans to return to the field for another load were foiled by a surprise downpour that halted harvest for the day.

(DNS) wheat north of Enterprise on Thursday, Aug. 19, but they were disappointed in what the

unirrigated fields were yielding.

Kevin said they were getting about 6 bushels per

acre there when they normally get 60-70 bushels.

"It's a good thing we have insurance," he said.

Cornerstone's fall-planted irrigated wheat isn't doing nearly as bad, Melville said.

"With the irrigated, everything we've cut so far slightly below normal," he said, adding the yield has been about 120 bushels per acre, when it should be around 130.

"Fall wheat is within the margin of error," he said. "Everything's about 10 bushels lower than average on irrigated side."

Not worth it

Many of the crops are hardly worth the trouble.

Melville said they didn't even bother with their peas and timothy grass hay rather than wasting the fuel to attempt to harvest a crop not worth the effort.

"We just walked away from those," he said. "We never harvested the timothy hay."

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Show 'n' Shine shines despite weather

Event returns to downtown Enterprise

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — Only the weather and the recent surge in coronavirus cases prevented this year's Main Street Show 'n' Shine from being the most successful ever, said Doug Crow, of Main Street Motors.

Although the morning was fairly dry, a downpour hit midday chasing some people away and — of course — forcing convertible tops up.

"We were just a little bit short," Crow said. "As the weather came on, some of the Union and Baker county folks probably decided not to drive over



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Main Street in Enterprise was crowded with classic automobiles and people interested in seeing them Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, for the annual Main Street Show 'n' Shine.

in a rainstorm."

The recent increase in coronavirus cases also is believed to have kept some people home, Crow speculated, though Main Street was full of car-show enthusiasts.

He said as many as 14 vendors also lined Main Street.

Crow said there were noticeably more inquiries about participating this year, but the numbers

dropped off in recent days as reports of coronavirus cases came in.

This year's event concluded with the usual cruise by the senior citizens homes in Enterprise

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Find more photos of the Show 'n' Shine cars on Page A14.

and Joseph and on down to Imnaha.

The annual event garnered a full slate of awards, honoring the participants, sponsors and the vehicles entered.

Bronze awards were contributed by TW Bronze and Parks Bronze, both of Enterprise, while blown glass was contributed by Sterling Webb, Olaf Pottery by Ted Juve and miscellaneous art by Stangel Industries, Candor Custom and Stein Distillery.

The Show 'n' Shine was started by Main Street

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