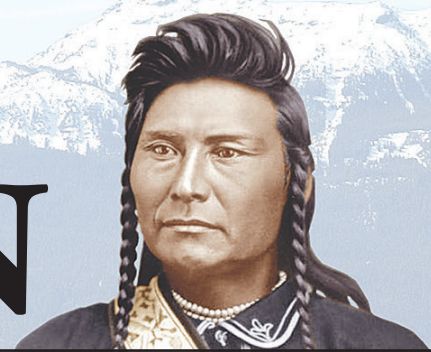


# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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## Wallowa County Voices



**Jim Stivers**  
Enterprise

### Native is home after 70 years

ENTERPRISE — Jim Stivers originated in Wallowa County, but his parents moved him away more than 70 years ago — and now he's back.

"I started out life here and my folks moved out of here in 1950 — under my objections," he said. "I just got tired of living in all that garbage on the coast, so now I'm home."

He moved home to Enterprise about eight years ago after many years in Shelton, Washington. He's retired from about 60 years working in industrial maintenance.

Stivers recently shared his thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

#### What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

It's quiet. It's peaceful. There's no gunfire, at least not like it was over there. I quit carrying my guns when I moved back over here.

#### Are you getting cabin fever yet?

Nah.

#### What are you looking forward to once the weather warms?

I've got fruit trees and last year, the sun torched my lawn, so I've got to redo that. I've got a bunch of stuff to do around the house.

#### What do you think of Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

That's a very mixed question. You can't just say it was a bad thing and I think there's a lot more to be developed out of it. If it doesn't go any worse than it is now, we'll be OK, but I wouldn't bet on it.

#### Do you think it's affecting the high price of fuel?

Yeah, that and our "fearless" administration.

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

If you like country, it's a good place to be.

— Bill Bradshaw,  
Wallowa County Chieftain

# FUELING THE PAIN

## Rising fuel prices hurting local governments

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**W**ALLOWA COUNTY — The ever-increasing price of petroleum is putting a hitch in the current budget process local governments are going through, as they are forced to increase the amounts allocated for fuel and asphalt.

But to put an actual number on what that increase is costing is nearly impossible, most local officials say.

"It's a moving target all the time," said Susan Roberts, chairwoman of the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, during a telephone interview Monday, March 28.

#### Budget pain

She said the county is currently in negotiations with Wallowa County Grain Growers to determine the price for fuel for the next budget year.

Enterprise city Administrator Lacey McQuead agreed, saying the city has no idea just what the cost of petroleum will end up at, but given recent spikes, the city is intending to about double its fuel budget for sev-



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

**Wallowa County Grain Growers in Enterprise is the local business with which the county contracts for most of its fuel needs. The two parties are currently in negotiations for the coming budget year in the midst of skyrocketing fuel prices.**

eral departments, such as Public Works' five separate departments, as well as the police and fire departments.

"We're looking at doubling our budget amounts this year," McQuead said March 28. "It's hard to figure what the budget numbers will look like."

She said usually, the city bases each year's budget on the previous year's costs. This year took the city — and other local governments — by a surprise.

"The cost of fuel is a surprise this year. ... We didn't anticipate this big a jump," she said. "That's why we're looking at doubling

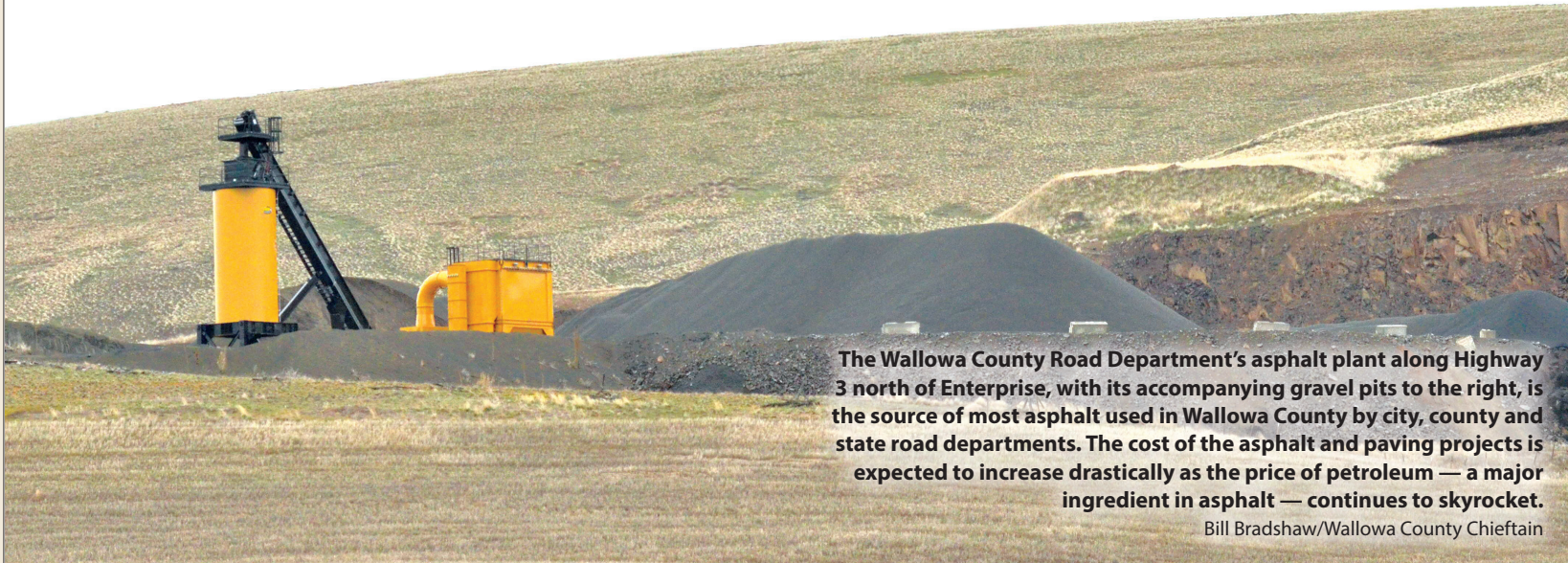
our budget numbers."

Most departments have revenue streams to deal with the budget increases, along with the general fund, but there could be changes in the works.

In general, McQuead said, the city will carry on normally.

"But if it gets to a point that we can't sustain the way we do things, we'll have to modify the way we're doing things," she said. "If it increases too much, we'll have to look at other options."

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**The Wallowa County Road Department's asphalt plant along Highway 3 north of Enterprise, with its accompanying gravel pits to the right, is the source of most asphalt used in Wallowa County by city, county and state road departments. The cost of the asphalt and paving projects is expected to increase drastically as the price of petroleum — a major ingredient in asphalt — continues to skyrocket.**

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

### REGIONAL

## Wolves at the door

A federal judge has redrawn the map for managing wolves in the West

By **STEVEN MITCHELL**  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A judge's decision to restore federal protections for gray wolves last month has put Grant County at ground zero for relisting the predators under the Endangered Species Act.

The decision drew a dividing line between wolf populations that can continue to be managed by state agencies and those that will once again be governed by more restrictive federal rules.

In most of Oregon, the dividing line is Highway 395, which runs right through the middle of Grant County.

While the ruling does not change anything for wolves in the eastern-most part of the state, it does cover wolves in the western two-thirds of Oregon and puts them back on the federal endangered species list.

Before last month's ruling, wolves in Western Oregon had been under the first phase of the state wolf plan, which allowed for killing wolves in defense of livestock and guard animals in



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

**Izee rancher M.T. Anderson moves his cattle last month. A state investigator could not determine whether a pair of wolves seen feeding on the carcass of one of Anderson's cows in February caused the animal's death.**

limited circumstances.

Specifically, wolves could be killed if caught chasing or biting livestock or in situations where the state could confirm that a pack had depredated four times in six months.

Even then, before ranchers could use deadly force in a wolf attack, they had to have been using non-lethal deterrents such as electric fencing or hazing and had to show those methods had not worked to stop the attacks. Those options are now off the table, with federal protections back in place on Oregon's west side.

Meanwhile, ranchers east of Highway 395, where wolves are under state management, can still

shoot wolves caught biting, chasing or killing livestock or working dogs.

In many cases, ranchers are likely to have one herd of cattle on both sides of the highway. And with areas of known wolf activity in both the East and West Murderers Creek Wildlife Units on either side of the road, Grant County finds itself at the center of the long-running culture war flashpoint around wolves returning to the West.

Gray wolves were among the first animals protected after the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, and the decision has

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## County gets new machine for ballot counting

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County is gearing up for the May 17 primary election, and one way it's doing so is with a new central ballot count tabulation machine.

Election workers were being trained in the use of the machine Tuesday, March 22, under the eye of county Clerk Sandy Lathrop and of Christopher Neubauer, an account manager with Election Systems & Software who instructed the employees on its use.

The new machine was purchased by Wallowa County from Lane County for \$12,500, Lathrop said.

"It's used, but in pristine condition," she said.

Such a machine would cost around \$130,000 new, she said.

Lathrop said the importance of the machine is the accuracy of counting it provides and

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