

## Wolves:

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"I'm trying all the non-lethal methods that I can," Birkmaier said. "I've had a tremendous amount of help from the community."

"The producer spent several nights in the pasture with his cattle following the first depredation and attempted to haze wolves out of the area on April 26 by shooting in the air over eight wolves he encountered in the pasture," the agency stated. "Despite these efforts, wolves have continued to visit and have killed additional calves."

Birkmaier said he's received assistance from fellow ranchers and residents. In particular, he noted Mike and Mona Rahn, who have a cabin in the area.

"They dropped everything they were doing to help," he said. "They were literally living with one group of cows."

He said many others have helped who he will publicly thank at a later time.



Kelly Birkmaier/Contributed Photo

**A gash is apparent on the hindquarters of one of the cows of Tom and Kelly Birkmaier's at their Crow Creek ranch. The cow was attempting to protect her calf from a wolf attack Saturday, April 30, 2022.**

"All ranchers work so hard during the calving season and we turn out healthy calves with lots of vigor," Birkmaier said. "Before

wolves were introduced, we didn't have to worry about them much this time of year. Now it's at a whole other level of loss, both emotional

and financial and many extra hours of work. Ranchers don't have that extra time ... and to have to work day and night to protect them from the wolves that are both non-native and were introduced."

The Chesnimus pack numbers at least eight or nine adult and yearling wolves, none of which have a working GPS collar, according to ODFW. The agency says killing two wolves would not be expected to impact the pack's breeding success.

Roblyn Brown, wolf coordinator for ODFW, said Tuesday that Birkmaier's April 30 calf losses were expected to be posted on the ODFW website May 3, after the investigation is complete.

She also said it's possible the number of wolves allowed to be taken under the kill permits could increase.

"The potential to increase the number of wolves (permitted to kill) exists," she said. "It just depends on if the number of depredations increases."

ODFW released its annual wolf report on April 19,

showing the state's minimum wolf population remained virtually flat in 2021 while the number of wolf deaths was the most ever recorded in a single year.

The known population grew by two wolves, from 173 to 175, based on verified evidence and sightings. However, the agency says the actual number is likely higher.

Meanwhile, 26 wolves died in 2021, including 21 killed by humans, or about 12% of the population. Of those, four were hit by vehicles, eight were illegally poisoned, one was legally shot by a rancher on private property and another eight were killed by ODFW after repeatedly attacking livestock in Baker County.

"Despite this, we are confident in the continued health of the state's wolf population as they expand in distribution across the state and show a strong upward population trend," Brown said.

Environmental groups argued the report is evidence that wolves east of highways 395, 78 and 95 still require protections to

aid in their recovery.

"State officials need to do more to combat the illegal killing of wolves, and they need to embrace nonlethal ways of preventing conflicts with livestock," said Sophia Ressler, staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity.

John Williams, wolf committee co-chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said ranchers bear the economic and emotional brunt of wolves attacking their livestock.

In addition to confirmed depredations, Williams said the presence of wolves can make normally docile cows agitated, lowering birth rates and birth weight of calves that ultimately affects the producers' bottom line.

"There has been a lot of conservation that has been done under the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan," he said. "It's time that a lot more management starts happening."

Reporter Bill Bradshaw of the Wallowa County Chieftain contributed to this story.



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### IN BRIEF

#### Nearly \$10K raised by Men's Guild

LOSTINE — Nearly \$10,000 was raised by the Men's Guild during a fundraiser for local health care Tuesday, April 26, in Lostine.

More than 50 men turned out for the event, which was the first in-person meeting for the Men's Guild since 2019. The group, which is sponsored by the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation, raised \$9,800, coming close to the stated goal of \$12,000.

"It's because of such strong community support that we are able to be so

well-positioned with modern medical equipment for excellent patient care," Wallowa Memorial Hospital CEO Larry Davy said during the event. "This is critical, as we face mounting inflation, supply chain shortages, and other challenges."

The project presented to the Guild on April 26 was to provide for ultrasounds to be performed in the field "so that life-saving information can be learned right away, so earlier intervention is possible," a press release from the WVCHF stated. "That includes accessing Life Flight helicopter services if needed, and alerting hospital medical staff in advance so they can begin preparations."

For more information about Men's Guild, or to join, contact the WVCHF at 541-426-1913.

gether, which was the first time the event had been held in person since 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So far, about \$15,400 has been raised for the bed, said Stacy Green, WVCHF director.

"It was so nice to see everyone," Green said in a press release. "We really missed getting together."

For more information about Circle 100, contact the WVCHF at 541-426-1913.

#### Intro to native languages offered

JOSEPH — A virtual lecture as an introduction to Nez Perce and other Sahaptin languages will be held May 14 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. presented by the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, according to a press release.

Angel Sobotta will conduct the lecture. She is a Nez Perce mother, dancer, language instructor and Ph.D. student at the University of Idaho.

Cost of the lecture is \$30. This interactive lecture will cover:

- Nez Perce and other Sahaptin languages. How close are they? What do they share or what makes them different?
- Accepted linguistic spellings and pronunciations so that we can follow words on maps, words that come up in tribal papers, etc.
- Common greetings and place names, especially names of places in Oregon and Idaho.

• Family names — how are they passed down and carried on. What names can a family choose from? Are native names used more now than in previous decades?

• Next steps for those who want to really learn the language. To register, contact

Cheryl Coughlan at the center at 541-432-0505, by email at [director@josephy.org](mailto:director@josephy.org) or stop in at 403 N. Main St. in Joseph.

The Nez Perce language program app is available on your phone.

#### Soroptimists accepting award applications

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Soroptimists are accepting applications for The Fellowship Award, the organization announced Thursday, April 28.

The \$2,000 award is presented annually to a woman continuing her education in a postgraduate program. According to a press release, qualified applicants include a woman who:

- Is a Wallowa County resident.
- Is established in business or profession.
- Conducts her business/profession competently and ethically.
- Has a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited college/university.
- Presents a plan of "worthwhile" study in a postgraduate program at an accredited college/university that leads to an advanced degree or that enhances standing her business/profession.
- Provides other information the committee deems necessary.

Applications are due by June 1. They are available online at [www.wallowacountysoroptimist.org](http://www.wallowacountysoroptimist.org). When completed, they can be mailed to Soroptimist, P.O. Box 127, Enterprise, OR 97828.

For more information, contact Janet Pulsifer at 541-398-1089.

— Chieftain staff

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Left of the Court House

**Hello Wallowa County!**

As you can imagine, I have had a lot of color appointments since my first introduction to women in the County. With lots of beautiful blonds, vivid colors, low lights and fabulous pick a boo colors; I feel it is important to inform everyone of my salon's satisfaction guarantee policy regarding the art of hair coloring.

With the varying nature of individual hair types, even the best colorist can sometimes have unexpected results. i.e. color grabbing, ends too dark or unexpected lift etc.

It's always been my belief that with a "long as it take consultation" which includes Examining your hair density • The amount of silver • Level of darkness of my clients existing hair color, is the best and only way to determine realistic goals that will result in realistic and achievable hair color. When we take the time to get to know each other and determine what your desired results are, it dramatically reduces the chances of a problem.

Although, even with all that considered, a good colorist can still find themselves in the weeds. In which case, I have the knowledge and ability to adjust it then and there!

I have extensive experience helping my clients with corrective color and it is with this knowledge that we can get much closer to the desired results.

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When you get home and decide that it needs some tweaking, I will provide as many services as needed to guarantee that you are thrilled! All services are completed to my clients desired color and style and it will always be absolutely FREE until you LOVE IT!

I love being a hairdresser here in Enterprise and I love coming back to my roots. I hope to continue to make the beautiful women of this County more beautiful!

Many of my new clients say to me when they are leaving, "thank you Michael for moving back to the County!" and all I can say is "YOUR WELCOME."

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