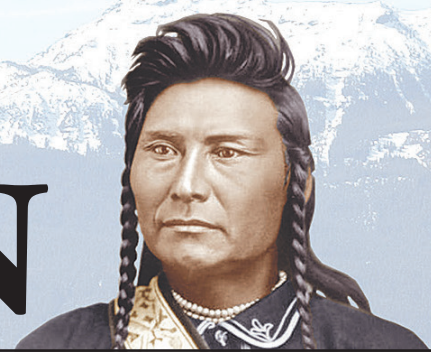




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Wallowa County Voices



Dylan Jennings
Lostine

Lostine youth plans a career in business

ENTERPRISE — Dylan Jennings has lived in Lostine with his parents and sister for 12 years after moving there from Salem.

He's a senior at Enterprise High School and plans to study business at Oregon State University after graduation. He's not quite sure what he'll do with a business degree yet, but hopes to find out. In fact, he has a job at Wheatland Insurance in Enterprise that is helping him on the way.

"I'm a go-fer. You know, go-fer this, go-fer that," he laughed.

At least he figures a business degree will be a stepping stone toward the career he wants.

As for living in Wallowa County, Jennings likes the quiet lifestyle.

"It's pretty quiet; it's nice here," he said. "I keep to myself pretty much, so the quietness is nice."

He also likes the people here. "The people are always nice," he said.

Once the weather warms, Jennings is looking forward to golfing and working.

"Nothing too crazy," he said.

He'll also get out in the woods occasionally.

"I'll go out and hike around or shoot squirrels," he said.

He doesn't attribute the increasing cost of fuel to any one thing in particular.

"I think it's a combination of things, both politically and actually," he said. "Blaming any one thing is just not fair."

He admits to feeling the pinch of the extra cost.

"It costs me a bit more for gas and everything," he said. "But maybe it'll be a good push toward more green and renewable energy."

Interviewed on May 4, the last day for ballots in the primary election to be mailed to voters, Jennings said he won't be voting because he didn't receive his ballot in the mail, although he said he's registered. He didn't feel inclined to go to the courthouse to get one.

"I figured it was a small enough election that it really didn't matter," he said.

Anyone interested in moving here, Jennings said, should be prepared for the weather.

"Be ready for winter," he said.
— Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Sam Morgan tells how he held up his hand and asked, "Help me, Jesus," after falling off the bridge in the background into Trout Creek behind his Enterprise home Jan. 12. On Wednesday, May 4, 2022, he recalled how he felt someone lift him up so he could get out of the creek. He said that was the first of three miracles he experienced that day.

THREE MIRACLES

Morgan recalls fall into Trout Creek breaking back, ribs

By RONALD BOND
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A string of miracles is what Sam Morgan of Enterprise believes has him where he is today, less than four months after a fall into Trout Creek that resulted in several broken vertebrae and had him on the verge of hypothermia.

Today, he can walk. While he has rods in his back that help support him and can be uncomfortable, he doesn't say he is in pain.

"In my mind, it's a miracle that I'm alive and not paralyzed. I had, in essence, three consecutive miracles that day," he said, reflecting back on Jan 12.

The fall happened just two days after his 75th birthday. He had a plan to call one of his siblings who was celebrating a milestone of his own.

"I was supposed to call my brother and wish him happy birthday the day I fell off the bridge," he said. "His birthday is two days after mine."

Morgan went out that morning, he said, to pull a limb that had fallen from a willow tree into Trout Creek. He said the creek is unpredictable and often floods in the spring.

"I thought 'I got to get that thing out of the way,'" he said.

He stepped on a patch of ice on a footbridge he had built some four decades ago, landing hard on the bridge and breaking a lumbar vertebrae before going into the creek itself.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Sam Morgan of Enterprise points to where he fell Jan. 12 while crossing a bridge over Trout Creek behind his home along Golf Course Road. The bridge has been torn down with plans to replace it.

"I knew I was going to fall off the bridge," he said.

When he did, he landed partially on the bank and broke several ribs.

While he tried to figure out how to get himself into a better position, his condition worsened.

"My vision went totally black," he said. "My eyes were open but I could see (only) black. And worse than the loss of vision, I couldn't breathe."

He said his breathing was "paralyzed."

That's when one of the miracles he experienced took place.

"I said, 'Help me, Jesus.' I raised my right hand in my air. He grabbed a hold of my wrist. I couldn't see him, but something pulled me up on my back."

In his new position, he was able to breathe again, but as he was

turned away from his house, his attempts to get more help failed. Eventually, he stopped yelling to conserve energy.

"When I got back on my back, I floated down the creek a little ways. I hurt so bad I couldn't lift myself at all," Morgan said.

He was still in the water of Trout Creek, which he said runs at a temperature of about 41 degrees.

It was a couple hours before his son went to check on him, found him in the water and called 911.

Medical personnel arrived and was able to extract Morgan from the water. His body temperature had reached near-fatal temperatures at about 80 degrees. Perhaps just a few more minutes and it would have been too late.

See Miracles, Page A15

WOLF DEPREDTION

Ranchers frustrated with ODFW

Producers believe state should perform lethal management

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY
Wolf kills of livestock are becoming more frustrating to Wallowa County ranchers and livestock officials when they see how those depredations are handled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier, who is the president of the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association, runs about 500 cows, most of which have calves. He lost a half-dozen animals to wolves of the Chesnimnus pack in late April and early May. One of those lost was a calf shown in a photo in the May 4 Chieftain that was misidentified as a mother cow.

Birkmaier asked ODFW to "remove" the pack — meaning to kill them, he said May 3.

In response, ODFW issued a kill permit April 29. The permit, good through May 24, allows Birkmaier or an agent on his behalf to kill two wolves in Dorrance Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where the depredations on cattle occurred, he said.

One of Birkmaier's agents killed a yearling male May 3, said John Williams of Enterprise, co-chairman of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Birkmaier declined to identify who took the wolf in an interview Monday, May 9.

"I don't want him to get threatened" by wolf proponents, Birkmaier said.

He said that at the time of the killing, the wolf was not actively attacking cattle, but was in Dorrance Pasture along Crow Creek. A targeted wolf does not legally have to be in the act of attacking livestock, it just has to be in an area where depredations have occurred, he said.

Effective management?

Todd Nash, president of the OCA, a Wallowa County commissioner and a local rancher, said May 4, that the state conservation and wolf-management plan has two main parts.

"They've done one but not the other," he said. "They've been highly critical of poaching, and I'm not defending that, but they need to step up to the plate when it's appropriate for them to take lethal action, and they have not done so."

See ODFW, Page A7

McCloud believes treatment violates party bylaws

By JEFF BUDLONG
Wallowa County Chieftain

SALEM — Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim McCloud claims discrimination in a May 6 press release by his own party for violating bylaws put in place to treat all legally-qualified candidates equally.

McCloud, the first Black GOP candidate in the state's history to run for governor, believes a recent exchange with fellow candidate Marc Thielman during the April 22 Linn County forum led to him being uninvited from scheduled gubernatorial events and ignored altogether. During the forum, Thielman claimed not to know what a white supremacist is.

"It has been a series of escalating comments he is making with me in the room," McCloud said. "After he said (the white supremacist remark) he came and sat down with me and wanted to fist bump me as if, at

that moment, I was going to be an endorser for his comment."

Instead of a fist bump, McCloud wagged his finger at Thielman to note his disapproval. He subsequently voiced his displeasure with the comment on May 5 during a League of Minority Voters event in Portland and has yet to hear a response from Thielman.

Thielman said he does not recall making a comment about the definition of a white supremacist and said the media often "throws out name calls without giving any definition to the term."

"If Tim had an issue with me he should have talked to me like a man, a grown-up, a professional rather than draw a conclusion about that," Thielman said. "I am glad Tim is signed up in the race, he is the first African-American, and he is a hero to me and I appreciate his

conviction."

Following the forum, McCloud said he was uninvited to the Josephine County forum, something he had committed to on April 16.

"Three days after (the white supremacist remark) was made, I got an email from Josephine County telling me that what would be best for me is to pursue a lower office and I was no longer invited," said McCloud of the April 29 event.

McCloud said he can't prove the two things are related, but he believes it all shows that as a legally-qualified candidate he is not receiving equal treatment. Thielman said he has no ability to invite or disinvite McCloud to events and does not see the conclusion being made as accurate.

Holli Morton, chairwoman of the



McCloud



Thielman

Josephine County Republican Party, said the number of candidates was reduced for the forum by taking into account numerous factors. She notified five of the 12 candidates that they were not going to be included in the forum.

Morton said name recognition, financial ability, government experience and business experience were the factors taken into consideration when inviting candidates. Candidates had to meet at least two of the four factors to be included. The business experience criteria was set for someone who has run a business and had at least \$10 million annual revenue with 12 or more employees.

"Our forum was two-and-a-half hours long with just the seven candidates we had," she said. "We made the same response to five candidates and it is not personal. We felt those candidates did not meet the criteria that we established."

See McCloud, Page A7

