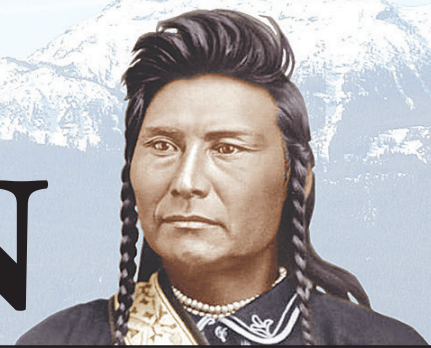




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Wallowa County Voices



Tasha Snyder
Wallowa

Commuter feels pain of fuel cost

ENTERPRISE — She commutes between Enterprise and Wallowa for work each day and is finding the increasing cost of fuel painful, at the least.

Tasha Snyder has lived in Wallowa about 31 years, having moved there from Orofino, Idaho, when her husband's job as a logging truck driver brought them to Wallowa County after a time in the Willamette Valley. They raised their four children in Wallowa.

"They all graduated from Wallowa High School and they all come back" to visit, she said. "They come back for hunting and they love it."

Tasha isn't sure just why the cost of fuel is rising so high, but she thinks it has to do with politics.

"I don't think it's necessary ... and we're getting hit really hard," she said, noting that she pays nearly \$6 a gallon to fuel up her diesel pickup. "I drive 50 miles round trip to work and back. It's getting difficult. You can walk here a lot, but there's a lot of places you can't get to walking."

Tasha has a job as a tax-return processor for a certified public accountant in Enterprise.

"I love it," she said. "I like working there."

She said she loves many things about Wallowa County.

"I love it because of the 'outdoorsness' of it, the people — the people are wonderful here — the community, everything about it, I just absolutely adore it," she said.

Now that signs of spring are evident, Tasha is hoping to saddle up again.

"I like riding my horses," she said. "I barrel race and I'm looking forward to doing that. COVID kind of put a kibosh on it the past couple of years, but now we should be OK."

Although she hasn't gotten a chance to read up on what's at stake in the May 17 primary election, she plans to and is convinced it's important.

"All elections are important," she said. "If you want a voice in anything, you need to vote."

For anyone planning to move to Wallowa County, Tasha says simply, "You have to be able to love it here. ... It's a great place to raise kids."

— Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain



Clem Falbo of Joseph makes a move on his chess board Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Falbo is resurrecting a local chess club that had been going since 2011 until the COVID-19 pandemic forced it to stop.
Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Chairman of the board

Chess helps feed Clem Falbo's love of mathematics

By JEFF BUDLONG
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — A pandemic was not going to corner Clem Falbo on the chess board and force him to resign. His love of mathematics and chess is too great.

The 91-year-old Joseph resident refers to the Wallowa County Chess Club as the "oldest chess club in Eastern Oregon," which began in 2011.

"When we moved here from California, I was a member of the U.S. Chess Federation and had run some chess tournaments, but there was hardly anyone to play here," he said. "Finally, I found out some kids were interested along with some adults, so we got the club going."

The club boasts a roster of 35 people who have played over the years with between seven and 14 people playing on



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Clem Falbo of Joseph, a longtime mathematics teacher, shows one of the books he wrote on the subject Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

WANT TO PLAY?

The Wallowa County Chess Club meets Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture. All are welcome. For more information, call Clem Falbo at 541-263-1415.

a weekly basis. COVID-19 forced Falbo to put the club's weekly meetings on hiatus for about a year beginning in February 2020, but a couple of weeks ago pieces and boards were back in action every Monday at the Joseph Center For Arts and Culture.

Falbo said the benefits of playing chess are many, and it can be a family activity with parents bringing children to the club and everyone plays.

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ODFW changes report on attack on sheep

Wolves still a threat to livestock

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — More wolf attacks on livestock have been reported by producers and confirmed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife over the past week, according to the ODFW's livestock depredation report.

In the most recent report posted on the ODFW's website Thursday, May 12, another four calves and a cow were found dead in Wallowa County alone and one calf wounded and taken for treatment this month. Most of the attacks were confirmed as done by wolves, although one calf attack was listed as "possible/unknown" by ODFW. Other attacks were reported in neighboring counties.

Sheep attack reviewed

A review of predator attacks on five sheep April 29 in Wallowa County has led to a change in the ODFW's determination of "other" to "confirmed" wolf kills on three of the sheep, according to an ODFW official.

Michelle Dennehy, agency spokeswoman, said in an email Thursday, May 12, that because of a review requested by the sheep owner May 4, that one ewe



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo

Northeast Oregon ranchers are seeing a spate of wolf predations on livestock this year and no end is yet in sight.

and three lambs had "injuries and hemorrhage consistent with both coyote and wolf attack locations." Given an analysis of the wounds

and the fact that a "thick wool covering which can be a barrier to effective biting by coyotes," the attack on the two ewes and

one lamb were amended to "confirmed" for wolf kills.

The May 11 report also stated that two of the lambs killed the night before the investigation were still determined as "other."

The report determined the attacks "could have been done by a dispersing wolf or wolves, or the Chesnimnus or Wildcat packs."

The owner of the sheep was not identified by the agency or by local officials who attended the investigation.

County Commissioner Todd Nash, a local rancher and president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said at the time the sheep producer did not wish his name to be made public.

Nash and John Williams, co-chairman of the OCA's wolf committee, had been critical of the ODFW's investigation.

"They were just wrong," Nash said May 4, and said he was going to speak to agency director Curt Melcher. "That's a matter of an inaccurate investigation."

Nash and Williams saw wolf tracks near the slain sheep, and no fresh coyote tracks, they said.

Beth Quillian, a watersheds communications coordinator for ODFW, said in an email May 13 that based on the review, the sheep owner can request compensation through the Oregon Department of Agriculture's wolf depredation

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