Fire:

Continued from Page A1

effect for the town of Imnaha and south to Freezeout Road. A Level 2 "Get Set" is in effect for the area from the town of Imnaha north to Fence Creek, including the lands east toward Lightning Creek, and Lostine River Road from Fir Road south including all campgrounds. A Level 1 "Be Ready" is in effect from Freezeout south to the Pallette Ranch and Imnaha River Woods, and Lostine River Road from Highway 82 to Fir Road.

Eagle Cap Wilderness fires

There was low to moderate fire activity on the Sturgill Fire on the Labor Day holiday. The Wildland Fire Modules, working in conjunction with Smokejumpers, implemented structure



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

OFF PAGE ONE

A high-pressure ridge in Wallowa County on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2022, blankets the valley floor with smoke from the Double Creek and Eagle Cap Wilderness fires and makes it impossible to see the mountains.

protection for private inholdings along the Minam River.

The Sturgill Fire has burned 14,262 acres and is zero percent contained, according to the Sept. 6 update. There are 33 personnel assigned to fight the fire, which is burning 15 miles southwest of Enterprise.

Firefighters will continue structure protection measures on Sept. 6 where needed. Additional

resources and equipment will be assigned to the Sturgill Fire to complete a shaded fuel break along the Lostine River corridor.

The Nebo Fire, which is burning 21 miles southeast of Enterprise near Mount Nebo, has burned 7,832 acres and is zero percent contained. There are 81 personnel assigned to fight the

Fire activity was low to

ANOTHER BRIEFING SET FOR SEPT. 8

JOSEPH — Another community briefing on the fires in Wallowa County will be held Thursday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. at the Joseph Community Events Center, fire officials announced Sept. 6.

The meeting will provide the latest information on firefighting efforts on the Double Creek Fire — now the state's largest — the Sturgill Fire, the Nebo Fire and the Goat Mountain 2 Fire.

The briefing also will be on Facebook live at www.Facebook. com/DoubleCreekFire2022 and www.Facebook.com/ EagleCapWildernessFires 2022.

— Wallowa County Chieftain

moderate on Sept. 5. Crews and heavy equipment kept the fire west of the road system. Additional resources assisted with mastication and thinning along the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road (FSR 39) and Forest Service Road 200. Firefighters also implemented structure protection to Forest Service infrastructure, including the Lick Creek Campground.

Roadside mastication will

continue along the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road (FSR 39) to the Canal Road on Sept. 6.

The Sturgill and Nebo fires in the Eagle Cap Wilderness are "managed" fires. That means officials are not trying to put out the fire but are using a variety of tactics, monitoring the fires in some areas and taking action, such as having helicopters drop water and dispatching fire-

fighters on the ground, to try to limit the fires' spread in certain directions.

Both the Sturgill and Nebo fires have surpassed the 2019 Granite Gulch Fire as the biggest in the Eagle Cap Wilderness since the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest instituted a policy allowing lightning fires to burn naturally. The Granite Gulch Fire burned about 5,500 acres in August and September 2019.

The Goat Mountain 1 Fire is not currently active. The Goat Mountain 2 Fire, which is burning 9 miles south of Lostine, has burned 153 acres. It is zero percent contained and there are two personnel assigned to the

Fire activity was minimal on the Goat Mountain 2 Fire on Labor Day. Lookouts will continue to monitor the fire, and firefighters will take action to suppress the fire in Lostine Canyon if needed.

Damage:

Continued from Page A1

He was asked if the group of contractors was complete and said he is open to having more join the recovery efforts.

"You can never have too much help," he said.

Wide variety of aid

Several officials from various agencies also told Wallowans they were available to

Connie Guentert, of Wallowa, executive director of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon and until recently the manager of the Enterprise office, emphasized that Community Connection has multiple resources available, including food, transportation and household materials. She urged contacting the Enterprise office directly.

Dr. Elizabeth Powers said both Winding Waters Medical Clinic and Wallowa Memorial Hospital could help with mental health needs, noting that the community has experienced a traumatic event in the hailstorm.

A list of resources was circulated at the meeting and copies would be made available at city hall, Community Connection, the senior center and elsewhere around town. It includes contacts and sources to receive and make donations, bedding, a possible tax break from the county Assessor's Office, food banks,

housing, transportation, veterans services, legal aid and state resources, and contact information for various building contractors, window replacement, carpet cleaning and tree services and auto

Reach out to help others

It was acknowledged that not nearly all who live in Wallowa were represented at the meeting. Notices of the meeting had been posted around town and announced on the city's Facebook page, Harshfield said, but it was just scheduled Aug. 29 and she believes the word hadn't gotten around to everyone.

"Not everybody's on Facebook," she said.

Hulse and Cathey agreed more meetings will be scheduled, be they weekly, bi-weekly or whenever is appropriate.

"The good news is there will be more meetings," Cathey said.

Prior to adjourning the emergency council meeting, Hulse was asked if he wanted to schedule the next meeting. He declined to do so, saying they would wait until they have more information to announce.

In the midst of concern for their own needs, Hillock urged Wallowans to reach out to others they may know who are in need, particularly the elderly.

"Each one of you needs to do that," he said. "You all know someone in need."

Growers:

Continued from Page A1

Melville said he primarily cut that poor crop last year at the request of his crop insurance agent.

With the crop insurance, "You can at least cover your bases," he said.

This year, Melville said, "the only thing that kept it from being a bumper crop was we didn't get that extra inch of rain in July."

Precipitation and cooler temperatures through June helped a lot, he said.

Predictions come true

Official sources predicted Oregon wheat production would far surpass that of last

A writer at Columbia Community Connection said that wheat harvests in Oregon and Washington were forecasted to surpass 2021 yields by as much as 85% due to heavy rainfall and cooler spring and summer temperatures.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service forecasted that Oregon winter wheat production was expected to total 44.6 million bushels, up 41% from last year. Growers in Oregon are expected to harvest a total of 720,000 acres of wheat. And yield is predicted to be 62 bushels per acre, up

23 bushel from last year. Prices are up, too, according to www.oregonlive.com, which stated that the price for Oregon wheat has nearly doubled in the past two years and farmers are anticipating a hearty crop this summer, with the damp spring creating favorable growing conditions.

Farmers agree

Other farmers agreed with Melville that the weather was key to their bountiful crop.

"The moisture's always a factor, especially compared to last year," said Jon VanderZanden, who raises about 165 acres of dark northern spring wheat. His biggest crop is alfalfa and timothy grass hay on the approximately 1,000 acres he farms, but the wheat is an important crop.

"It looks like it's good, but I won't really know until it's all in," he said Sept. 1.

Burke Lathrop, who raises about 1,000 acres in the Leap area outside of Lostine, said his yield also is far above normal thanks to the extra moisture.

"My crops that usually make 60 bushels an acre are making 80," he said.

In fact, he had some volunteer wheat — a crop that comes up on its own from the previous year that wasn't planted — produce more than the crop it replaced.

"I cut a field last year and was going to summer fallow it," he said, meaning he'd not plant it this year. "Then my

tractor broke down and the field grew up. I got 40 bushels an acre where I'd only gotten 28 an acre last year."

Also, Lathrop said, he usually leaves the straw in the field, but there was too much so he baled it and hauled it to dairy farms, which use it for bedding for their cattle.

Melvin Stonebrink, who farms more than 800 acres of dryland soft white winter wheat, DNS and feed barley in the Leap area, said his land is abnormally dry, so the extra moisture was essential.

"We're considered the driest spot in Wallowa County," he said. Stonebrink said his yield,

so far, has been in the high 60s for bushels per acre. "That's way above our

average," he said. "It's normally 48 bushels. Last year was one of the worst droughts we've had and only got 4 bushels. It's kind of nice to have a good crop for a change." He said the timely

rains and lower temperatures made for an excellent grass-growing year, of which hay and small grains are a part of.

"The grass family likes it. That's why the grain and hay did well this year," Stonebrink said. "We need to have a good one every so often."

Other problems

Moisture isn't the only thing that hampers or benefits farmers. Equipment breakdowns are a regular part of farming. VanderZanden had to

take a break from his harvesting Sept. 1 to run to town for parts.

"I've been living in my truck," he said. Melville had a more

unusual forced halt when his combine ran across a steel squirrel trap. On Aug. 31, he was har-

vesting a field of oats just west of Highway 3 north of Enterprise and ran across the He said they regularly trap squirrels because they

devastate the crops. But the traps are made of metal and secured to the ground with a long metal stake that wreaks havoc on a combine header. "Those squirrels cost us

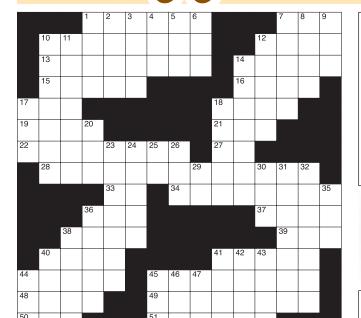
tens of thousands of dollars each year," he said. "But it's tough to remember where all the traps are."

Fortunately, this time, hitting the trap bent only a portion of the header a little and Melville was able to keep going.

But the producers keep producing, all agreed. As smaller farms get consolidated into larger ones, or farmers retire and their land gets sold to developers, that means the farming community is shrinking. Those who remain on the land feel the need to stay there.

"There are fewer and fewer of us doing it any-Stonebrink more," "We've got to keep it going."

ee Break!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Grievous 7. Queens ballplayer
- 10. Honorable title 12. Created
- 13. Grillmasters do it 14. Wartime German cargo ship
- 15. Cocoplum 16. Hebrew calendar month
- 17. British thermal unit 18. Brews
- 19. One of Thor's names 21. Decorative scarf
- 22. Clothes 27. -__: denotes past
- 28. A way to address a lover
- 33. Commercial
- 34. Utters repeatedly 36. Google certification
- (abbr.) 37. Taxis 38. Belgian village in

39. Talk excessively

Antwerp

- 40. Broad volcanic crater 41. Surgical instrument 44. Listens to
- 45. Revelation of a fact 48. Paddles
- 49. Heard 50. Tooth caregiver
- 51. Metric capacity units
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Protein-rich liquids
- 2. Musician Clapton
- 3. Wine 4. When you hope to
- arrive
- 5. Something one can get
- stuck in 6. Midway between east and southeast
- 7. Mothers 8. German river
- 9. Israeli city __ Aviv 10. Discharged
- 11. Areas near the retina
- - 12. Greek mythological sorceress 14. Very unpleasant smell

17. "__ Humbug!"

alien

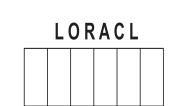
- 18. White poplar 20. Journalist Tarbell 23. Teachers
- 24. One older than you
- 25. Long Russian river 26. Run batted in 29. Beloved Hollywood
- 30. Holiday (informal) 31. Furniture with open
- shelves 32. Argued 35. Sino-Soviet block

(abbr.)

- 36. Cars have them 38. Volcanic craters
- 40. Made of fermented honey and water 41. Shelter for mammals
- or birds 42. One who utilizes
- 43. Moves swiftly on foot 44. Builder's trough
- 45. Architectural wing 46. 12

47. Pacific Standard Time

WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dogs.

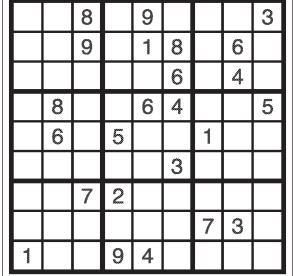


Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Pennsylvania on September 5, 1951. I am the youngest of seven children. I worked as a cameraman for a local TV station, I've been in many popular movies, including dramatic and comedic roles. My real surname is Douglas.



Puzzle solutions can be found in today's classifieds



AGILITY

BALANCE

BARK

BEARD

BELLY

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mindbending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Fun By The Numbers

Solve the code to discover words related to dog ownership.

Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = E) 21 8 17 25 17 15

Clue: Companion animal 7 8 23 24

Clue: Dog sound 21 8 23 15

Clue: Provide for health 22 14 17 15 23

M C A B В В 0 В Υ U ٧ 0 C Y U K В В Ε G В C Α D Н D W Ε R В C U В 0 Α D Н 0 C S U R Ε G R

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards. **WORDS**

> BREED **BRINDLE**

> > CAPE

CLUB

CROUP **CANINE CHAMPION**

SHOW **SPAY** TAIL VETERINARY WITHERS

DOCKED DOG **HOCKS NEUTER**

CRATE