

Rep. Mark Owens plans meet and greet in Baker June 22

Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane, who represents Baker County in the Oregon House of Representatives, will have a meet and

greet Wednesday, June 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, 4005 23rd St.

Owens will give updates from the Legislature and hear from constituents.

— Staff report

ODFW kills another wolf from Chesnimnus pack

BY BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A second Chesnimnus pack wolf was killed by biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ending the activity of a kill permit issued April 29, according to the ODFW website Monday, June 13.

The website stated that the kill was accomplished from the ground. ODFW also considered doing it from the air.

State officials agreed to help with the lethal removal of one Chesnimnus pack wolf after repeated attacks on livestock in Wallowa County, a spokeswoman for ODFW said June 9.

Michelle Dennehy, of ODFW, said the permit was issued April 29 and extended to June 14. That permit was for two wolves, and an agent of Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier shot one wolf May 3.

The permit allowed Birkmaier or his agent to kill two wolves in Dorrance

Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where recent depredations on cattle occurred, he said when the permit was issued. Dennehy said June 13 that since the two wolves allowed to be taken under the permit are now dead, the permit is no longer active. ODFW will continue to assess the situation for possible further actions and another update will be made if another wolf is killed or the permit is reissued, according to the website.

Before the permit was issued, Birkmaier asked ODFW to “remove” — or completely kill — the Chesnimnus pack given its propensity toward predatory behavior, but the agency just issued the kill permits.

John Williams, co-chairman of the wolf committee Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said ranchers are busy enough and shouldn’t have to do what he considered the ODFW’s job of managing the wolves.

Malheur County Court considers renewing Greg Smith’s contract

BY PAT CALDWELL

Malheur Enterprise

VALE — Malheur County officials are considering renewing the \$180,000-a-year contract with Greg Smith to continue running their economic development agency and remain in charge of the struggling Treasure Valley Reload Center.

The contract with Smith, through his company Gregory Smith & Company of Heppner, expires June 30. The county has retained him since 2013 for economic development work at \$9,000 a month and expanded the contract in 2017 for the Nyssa shipping project, adding in an additional \$6,000 a month.

County commissioners last week tabled a decision on whether to keep Smith in place. The matter wasn’t on the agenda for the court’s meeting on Wednesday, June 15.

“We need to continue to have more discussion with Greg (Smith),” said Commissioner Ron Jacobs.

Commissioner Don Hodge and Dan Joyce, Malheur County judge, agreed with Jacobs.

Smith works part-time on the

Malheur County contract as he holds contracts with other government agencies and is employed full-time in Boardman. He operates a one-person office in Ontario, staffed by an aide who handles tasks for both the economic development agency and the reload center.

Baker County previously contracted with Smith to oversee economic development as well. County commissioners decided in 2019 to not continue the \$96,000-per-year contract with Smith beyond June 30, 2019.

Commissioners cited declining revenue, not Smith’s performance.

The reload center is designed so onion producers can truck their produce to the Nyssa site for loading onto rail cars and shipment to destinations in the Midwest and East. The bulk of the center is funded by the state with a \$26 million allocation approved by the Oregon Legislature in 2017 and another \$3 million in special state appropriations made in 2021.

Completion of the beleaguered rail venture is now on hold after

project leaders reported last week it would take nearly all of the \$26 million budgeted for the development to finish everything but the warehouse building.

Smith has repeatedly cited sources for millions needed to finish the work but he has so far failed to arrange any additional financing.

And the Enterprise reported in March that while the contract requires specific tasks from

Smith, records raised questions about how much of the work was done. Smith released 16 documents in response to a public records request to show what he had done.

His work is under the charge of the county court, but Joyce, Hodge and Jacobs couldn’t answer questions about Smith’s tasks, and they didn’t think the 16 documents answered the matter either.

Joyce wasn’t sure what the documents proved.

“There should be some explanation to go with it,” he said.

Hodge said the information “doesn’t answer the question of what he’s done in the past year”



Smith

Library

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Wirth said pre-event training with Human Library helped her develop the story she wanted to share.

She was asked if she’d ever experienced racism. Her answer was yes — but it came from people of her own race.

She had a story — one that most people didn’t know.

“People know me, but they don’t know of me,” she said.

And that, she discovered, is the power of the Human Library — it is a chance to truly learn a person’s story.

“I think it’s fascinating to learn of people,” she said. “We assume so much of each other but we don’t know where we come from.”

Andy Micka also volunteered to be a book. He’d previously shared his story of addiction through Neighbors

of Baker.

“I’ve been talking about my story a lot,” he said.

The story he shared was about the long-term recovery from addiction, and he said he appreciated the interaction with the readers.

“I think it went really well,” he said. “It was interesting to see people’s perspectives on how they interact with people who struggle with addiction.”

He said he’d like to participate in another Human Library event.

“I enjoyed it, and I think it’s important,” he said. “We all have those preset judgments.”

Alex Castillo didn’t hesitate to say yes when Stadler asked him to be a book.

“I liked the whole idea,” he said.

Castillo shared his story about illness and long-term disability.

“I talked about my ego and

my health and how my ego prevented me from seeing that I was sick,” he said. “I was stubborn.”

He said he enjoyed being a book for the Human Library.

“I feel like I connected with every individual I talked to,” he said. “People really do understand. They were really interested in what I was talking about.”

He looks forward to participating again.

“I’m so glad I was involved,” he said. “A lot of stories are pretty private, but this is a good way for people to know who I am — relate to a few simple human stories.”

From a reader

Peter Fargo signed up to be a reader, and he said having a conversation was a big draw of the Human Library.

“After having spent so much time away from each other

during the pandemic, the chance to be face-to-face with someone in a safe space was exciting,” he said.

In the 30-minute conversation, he said he never ran out of topics.

“It’s rare to take the time to get to know someone we don’t already know,” he said. “To turn those pages and pull back the layers. It was really special.”

The Human Library, he said, offers a chance to find the “common denominator of human experience.”

“When people are willing to listen with an open mind and heart — the Human Library gave us the opportunity to do that,” he said.

Stokes, in addition to helping organize the event, participated as a reader to learn about addiction.

“I was curious,” he said. “I’ve read some books about addiction, but it’s a world I’m com-

pletely unfamiliar with — how people fall into that world, and get out of it.”

He said he’d participate again, and is already fielding calls from libraries and organizations around the country seeking advice on how to host a Human Library.

Future events?

Stadler said she appreciated the dedication of the Human Library books, who completed training and volunteered their time for the event.

“It was time and energy on their part — they were invested

in it,” she said.

Books and readers completed evaluation forms, which are a requirement for the Human Library organization. Communities who want to host an event must apply every time, and Stadler hopes to bring another one to Baker City.

“There’s definitely interest,” she said. “Human Library is a dialogue — the focus is on the conversation and interaction. You have a chance to hear the story and see what you have in common. I think it helps us feel more connected as people.”

Park

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Owen said the city also wants to avoid disrupting events in the park, which presents a scheduling challenge.

Perry said city officials told her the benches won’t be installed until after Miners Jubilee, which is set for July 15-17.

“I think it’s all going to work out. It’ll be great, there’ll be places for people to sit,” said Owen.

Money for the benches was donated by several citizens and businesses, Perry said, including:

- Marvin Wood Products — donation order April 2021
- Family of Carl and Virginia Kostol, tribute to parents from children Teresa Droessler, Lars, Carl S., and Cristyn Kostol — May 2021



Contributed Photo

Seven metal benches will be installed in Geiser-Pollman this summer.

- Friends of Merrie Hensley, from Randy and Theresa Dennis — April 2021
- Community Connection tribute bench purchased by an anonymous donor — January 2021
- Beverly Chadwick — May 2021

- Donna’s Groom and Board LTD/ Dyer Kanyid Ranches donation — May 2021
- Memorial to Duwayne and Eleanor Sullivan of Hereford, donated by Dan “Boone”

Sullivan — July 2021

Perry said the bench project started six years ago after Baker City Events, which puts on the summer concert series in the park, the Powder River Music Review, heard from residents that there was a need for more seating in the park.

Baker City Events bought a cement bench and donated it to the park, but Perry said someone complained to the city that the design wasn’t aesthetically pleasing.

The city asked Baker City Events to find a new, metal design. The new benches were built by Natural Structures of Baker City.

Baker City Events removed the cement bench.

“The next wrinkle in the project was COVID and supply problems and rising costs,” Perry said.

Logging

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The Elkhorn Wildlife Area consists of 10 sites along the east base of the Elkhorn Mountains where ODFW employees feed elk each winter.

The purpose of the wildlife area, which was created in 1971, is not to prevent elk from starving, but to keep them from plundering ranchers’ haystacks.

The logging planned this year near the headquarters, at the end of River Lane, is part of the East Face project, a long-term campaign that involves the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The East Face project, which includes commercial logging, precommercial thin-

ning and prescribed burning on both public and private land, is designed to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Marvin said this year’s project at the wildlife area’s North Powder tract will include both commercial logging and cutting of smaller trees, as well as prescribed burning.

“We are selecting trees based on disease and form as the first to be selected for harvest, trees with mistletoe and parasites,” Marvin said. “It will also help with fire risk, reducing the number of trees with touching crowns.”

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that can cause “brooms” — thick expanses of limbs low in the tree — that can spread flames from the ground to the tree crown.

Thinning the forest will also boost the growth of grasses

and shrubs that elk and deer eat, as well as create snags and tree cavity habitat for birds.

Producing forage is one of the prime goals of the project, Marvin said.

“This project isn’t necessarily being done for (timber) revenue, it’s being done for forest health, fire protection and making sure we’re providing forage for wild habitat in this portion of the wildlife area,” he said.

During the summer and fall, visitors to the wildlife area should expect to see increased traffic, tree falling and log trucks on weekdays.

Public access to the wildlife

area will remain open, including the Anthony Creek campground.

“Most harvest and extraction will be completed by early to mid fall and then pile burning and clean up into late fall and early winter,” Marvin said.

Logged areas will not be treated with herbicide, as is sometimes done to stem the growth of deciduous trees and shrubs that can grow quickly after logging, he said.

More information about the Elkhorn Wildlife Area is available at <https://myodfw.com/elkhorn-wildlife-area-visitors-guide>.

Market

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As a bonus, the North Powder Library’s summer reading activity for youngsters is at 11 a.m. — right during the market hours.

“We want more people to come check it out,” Thompson said of the market.

She said the market is approved for the Farm Direct Nu-

trition Program, and several vendors are in the process of being certified.

For more information on becoming a vendor, call Thompson at 541-406-8771 or find updates at www.facebook.com/northpowderfarmersmarket.

Thompson’s email is halfwayprintingandcrafts@gmail.com.

Thank You

We would like to extend a thank you to all the Hospice nurses and staff for their wonderful care of our Mother, Donna Terrell. We especially want to thank Mellissa, Seth, Kaitlyn, Haley, and Sara. Special thanks to good friend and caregiver, Brenda Fisher, who helped us to take care of both our Mom and Dad when they most needed it. We appreciate all the cards and phone calls of condolences and memories you shared with us about our Mom.

Dan and Renece Forsea
Patti and Clair Pickard
Jane and Doug Leatherman

Judy Folkman

October 26, 1942 - June 7, 2022

Judith Lee Folkman, 79, of Baker City passed away at her home surrounded by loved ones on June 7, 2022. She was born on October 26, 1942, in Pendleton, OR at St. Anthony Hospital to Walter and Barbara Youngman, weighing a mere 2 pounds, 8 ounces.

She graduated from Pendleton High School in 1961. While in high school, she worked at Hamley & Co., a western store and saddle shop, as a sales associate during the Pendleton Round-Up where her father made his career as a saddle tree maker. She fondly told stories of riding on the Hamley floats during the Pendleton Round-Up parades ushering in the rodeo, and dancing after the rodeo with her brother chaperoning.

Judy attended Eastern Oregon University where she earned a bachelor of arts degree specializing in Education in 1965. While at EOU, Judy enjoyed singing in the traveling choir and was a princess on the 1964 homecoming court.

Judy met the love of her life, Vaughn Folkman, while attending EOU. They were married June 13, 1964, and stayed in La Grande while Judy finished her senior year and Vaughn taught in Cove. A few years later Judy and Vaughn moved to Baker City where they welcomed their son, Chris Folkman. The family then moved to South Dakota for a year so Vaughn could earn his master’s degree in Education. They returned to Baker City where their daughter, Amy Folkman Switzer, was born.

Judy began a fulfilling, 23-year career as a beloved 2nd grade teacher, starting at Brooklyn Elementary School and finishing her career at South Baker Elementary School. She took great pride in teaching children how to read and found joy in finding unique and creative ways to engage her students.

Every summer for 28 years, Vaughn, Judy and their kids would travel to Sequoia National Park where Vaughn was a seasonal park naturalist. Judy would lovingly transform the family’s rustic living arrangements into a cheerful and comfortable cabin. Her times in Sequoia were some of her most cherished memories, recalling campfire programs, hiking and backpacking in the national park with her family.

She was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church in Baker City and taught Sunday School for many years. After her retirement from teaching in 2000, she immersed herself into the church’s youth ministry program where she continued to teach and inspire children. Judy was also an active member of PEO AX Chapter for 18 years and enjoyed hosting meetings in her home.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her brother, William Youngman of Lake Oswego, OR; her son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Carrie Folkman of Baker City, OR and her grandsons, Austin and his wife, Taylor Jean Folkman of Haines, OR and Taylor Folkman of Baker City, OR; her daughter, Amy Folkman Switzer of Los Angeles, CA; her sister-in-law, Marilyn Daggett of The Dalles, OR and her much loved Daggett nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, June 25 at 11 a.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1734 Third St. in Baker City. A luncheon will follow in the church fellowship hall. Memorial contributions in Judy’s memory may be made to the First Lutheran Church through Gray’s West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for the family of Judy, please visit: www.grayswestco.com.