

>>> FROM THE COVER

an inside look at northeast oregon's
arts and entertainment scene



Fishtrap Fireside celebrates seventh season

■ Monthly reading series opens Oct. 4 with special event at Wallowa Lake Lodge

JOSEPH — Fishtrap brings its popular monthly reading series to Wallowa Lake Lodge Oct. 4 for a special season-opening celebration of Fishtrap Fireside.

Come up to the lake, find a seat by the fire and enjoy readings from Wallowa County local writers Whitney Chandler, David Laskin and Forrest Van Tuyl beginning at 7 p.m.

An open mic follows the readings, giving audience members the chance to share their stories too.

Fireside is a free monthly event for Wallowa County writers to share their work. More than 80 Wallowa County residents have stepped up to the podium to read their personal stories, poems, essays and more since the event began.

"When we launched Fireside in 2013, I thought we might run out



Whitney Chandler

of local writers to feature, but every year more people attend, read and become a part of the program," said Program Manager Mike Midlo. "It's great fun."

Fishtrap Fireside takes place the first Friday of the month October through April. After this month's special season-opening event at Wallowa Lake Lodge, Fireside will return to its original location



David Laskin

at Fishtrap, 400 E. Grant St. in Enterprise.

The community is encouraged to attend these readings, enjoy light refreshments and hear new work by local writers.

October's Fireside is sponsored by Wallowa Lake Lodge and The Bookloft. For more information, contact Midlo at 541-426-3623 or mike@fishtrap.org, or visit www.fishtrap.org.

WHITNEY CHANDLER

Chandler is a Colorado native, literally raised with her head in the clouds. She earned a master's degree in natural resources with certificates in environmental education and science communication from the University of Idaho before relocating to Joseph in 2018.

Chandler is passionate about using nature as a muse and a tool for expanding the creative mind. You can find her blogs, poetry, editorials and op ed pieces all over the internet.

When not reading and writing, she is usually traipsing through the



Forrest Van Tuyl

mountains and fields of Wallowa County with her dogs.

DAVID LASKIN

Laskin was born in Brooklyn and raised in Great Neck, New York. He graduated from Harvard College in 1975 with a degree in history and literature and went on to New College, Oxford, where he received an MA in English in 1977.

After a brief stint in book publishing, Laskin launched a career as a writer. In recent years, he has been writing suspense-driven narrative nonfiction about the lives of people caught up in events beyond their control.

His 2004 book, "The Children's Blizzard," won the Washington State Book Award and the Midwest Booksellers Choice Award and was nominated for a Quill Award.

Laskin writes frequently for the New York Times Travel Section and has also published in the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal and the Seattle Times.

FORREST VAN TUYL

Van Tuyl is a packer, poet, cowboy and songwriter who resides in Wallowa County. His poetry is free verse musing lifted from journals kept while working horseback in the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon wilderness and inspired by Chinese hermit poets and the voices of the place he calls home.

He says, "I believe the open wilderness of the Western United States is the most important thing."

When he's not writing songs, Van Tuyl is learning to train horses from older cowboys or leading pack mules.

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