

# Consolidation trend hitting local Realtors

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain



O'Connor



Wick

The Wallowa County Board of Realtors, in existence since 1964, soon will cease to be. Propelling the change is a new list of core standards from the National Association of Realtors that will go into effect June 30, 2015. And included among those new regulations with which Realtors must comply to maintain their certified status are some stipulations the local 23-member Wallowa County body effectively is too small to meet.

Paramount among those stipulations, says local Association Executive Claesse O'Connor, is as of June 30, each Realtor association must have a paid executive officer. This is a service O'Connor has been offering gratis to the Wallowa County organization for the past seven or eight

years. Wallowa County Board of Realtors Vice President Ken Wick, now chairing monthly meetings in the absence of President Bill Bushlen who has been sidelined with health issues, says the avenue being explored is to merge the local association with the Union County Board of Realtors, which currently has more than 40 members. If that happens, and Wick believes a decision will be reached by April 1, the body in Wallowa County would become "defunct" and the association based in La Grande, because it would be

adding new territory, likely would change its name. Wick suggests the Union-Wallowa County Board of Realtors could be a likely name choice. Wick contends merging with Union County will have no impact on services Realtors provide in Wallowa County, but will incur some changes for local Realtors. Presently, the group within the county meets on a monthly basis and the group in Union County once every three months. According to O'Connor, meetings in Wallowa County traditionally are well attend-

ed because the group actively seeks to bring in speakers to help members attain the minimum of 30 hours of classroom time required every two years to maintain their status as Realtors. This will not change, says Wick, noting Realtors from within the county will continue to draw in speakers such as Watermasters and persons from the Department of Environmental Quality to provide updated education relevant to their trade. In fact, adds Wick, the proposed merger with Union County could bring additional Realtors to attend such ed-

ucational sessions, hence providing an opportunity to bring in more qualified speakers. In the world of real estate, there's a significant distinction between Certified Realtors and real estate agents. Certified Realtors, to qualify for and maintain that title, are held to higher standards in the areas of ethics, ongoing education, and financial solvency. At this point in time, says O'Connor, there are 23 Realtors in Wallowa County and zero real estate agents. "We will stay as Realtors," says O'Connor. "We are adamant about that."

## Community Calendar: WV Little League pre-season meeting

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**  
Wallowa Valley Little League Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Range Rider in Enterprise. They will be discussing sign-up procedures, board of director nominations, and planning for the upcoming season. Anyone interested in volunteering, serving on the board, or coaching is encouraged to attend. Questions, call League President Donnie Rynearson, 541-263-0598.

irrigation. To participate, residence within the cemetery district isn't required.

OK Theatre in Enterprise will have a free showing of the film "America" at 7 p.m. The county is invited to come and enjoy. Event sponsored by Stewards of the Wallowas.

**Feb. 6-7**  
Sweetheart Indoor Yard Sale and Flea Market, Hurricane Creek Grange. Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors can set up on Friday at 10 a.m. Light breakfast and lunch available. Info: Barbara,

541-426-8015.

**Saturday, Feb. 7**  
Wallowa Fire Department Oyster and Steak Feed, 3 to 8 p.m. at Wallowa Senior Center. Cost: \$30 for all you can eat, steak or oysters. Hot dogs available for \$5. No-host beer and wine bar. More info: City Hall, 541-886-2422.

Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet and Auction, Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise. Doors open 5 p.m., dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., auction at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, phone 541-426-6625.

**Thursday, Feb. 12**  
Frostbite Fundraiser, 6-9:30 p.m., OK Theatre in Enterprise. Fundraiser for some of Wallowa County's winter recreation organizations. Featuring the Backcountry Film Festival, auction and raffle. Homemade burritos, snacks, no-host beer & wine for sale. See www.skifergo.com for details.

400 East Grant Street, Enterprise. Month's featured writers are Lynne Curry, Mary Ellen Emerick, Ralph Swinehart. Free event, all are welcome. For more info: Mike Midlo, 541-426-3623.

**Friday, Feb. 20**  
Screening of documentary film, "Damnation," 7 p.m. at the Joseph Center in Joseph. An audience discussion of issues raised in the film will

follow. Discussion could also touch upon related local issues.

The Community Calendar lists fundraisers, free local events and those with a nominal fee organized by non-profit organizations. Submit information to calendar@wallowa.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. To promote for-profit events, contact sales representative Brooke Pace at bpace@wallowa.com.

Wallowa County Victims' Impact Panel, Wallowa County Courthouse. Check-in from 6:30 - 6:55 p.m., program starts at 7 p.m., when doors will be locked. Cost is \$30. Under 18: \$15. More info: Stephanie Stone, 541-426-4543 ext. 141.

**Monday, Feb. 2**  
Al-anon meets at noon at Safe Harbors, 401 NE 1st St. in Enterprise. The group meets every Monday at noon at this location. If you are bothered by someone else's drinking, Al-anon aims to offer hope and help to family members and friends of those with a drinking problem. More info: 541-426-4004.

**Thursday, Feb. 5**  
Enterprise Cemetery Board public input meeting, 4 p.m. at Wallowa County Courthouse. To cover issue of cemetery's

**Look who is circling the drain!**

**Call a plumber Linda! Happy Birthday! Your Friends and Family**

**Catch the Bus!**

**Transportation Services**  
Wallowa County Public Transportation  
(541) 426-3840 • www.NEOTransit.org

- Intercity Transportation to La Grande** Monday and Thursday Weekly ~ Cost \$5.00 each way. Free access for veterans medical appointments in La Grande.
- Mealsite Bus** ~ providing transportation to Senior Center for lunch. Cost \$1.00 round trip.
- Tuesday and Thursday Shopping Bus** provides transportation for shopping and errands throughout Wallowa County ~ Cost \$3.00 from Wallowa/Joseph, \$2.00 Enterprise only.

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**\$599,000**

**NESTLED IN THE TREES** on 13.47 acres! A 3,106 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms & 3 full baths. The home has been beautifully remodeled with features including: tile counters, laminate floors, stonework propane fireplace and a large custom bar and custom entertainment center. There is an attached garage plus a detached 1200 sq.ft. garage/shop. The acreage is timbered and has had a fuels reduction done leaving a park-like setting and healthy grass for grazing. Located right at the tree line on Alder Slope, 4 miles from Joseph, this property has views of the valley and mountains, frequent wildlife and privacy from being on a dead end road. Move-in ready. Many furnishings are negotiable. RMLS#14168914

**\$319,000**

**AMAZING LOCATION ON ALDER SLOPE** at the tree line. A beautiful 18.99 acres with a mix of timber (about 4 acres) and irrigated pasture (about 15 acres) with a winding stream. Privacy and wildlife abound. The 2 bedroom, 1 bath home is 1,320 sq. ft. located on the treed portion with a shop & wood storage shed nearby. Cross the well-built bridge over the stream to access barn & pasture. Flood irrigated from upper Alder Slope ditch. RMLS#14535897

**\$375,000**

**5.31 IRRIGATED ACRES** with ponds, mountain views, greenhouses, fruit trees, historic barn and a white picket fence. 3,334 sq. ft. classic 2 story farmhouse with full apartment. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms with many recent updates awaiting your finishing touches. New electric heat pump & air cond, hot tub, solar hot water heater, new siding. RMLS#14185090

**\$297,500**

**2007 QUALITY HOME** with many special features. 1,632 sq. ft, 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage in Enterprise. Great room with rock fireplace, wood accents throughout the home. Tile floors with accents, lots of storage, 2 private baths, fenced backyard, sprinkler system on all sides. Cedar siding & deck + 40 yr. roof. RMLS#14074449

**\$639,000**

**A STRIKING HOME WITH STUNNING VIEWS.** 40.65 irrigated acres. This 2,775 sq. ft. custom home has 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Amazing features include 2 rock work patios, marble master shower, media room with projector and screen and Australian Cypress wood floors. The 18' tall stone fireplace is a lovely focal point in the home. RMLS#14540095

**\$589,000**

**HOME + 38.2 IRRIGATED ACRES** in a desirable location on Alder Slope. Mini pivot to irrigate productive land. Sweeping views from a lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with open floor plan that is light and bright. Features include: granite counters, tile floors, large master suite with bonus area, jetted tub, propane fireplace and patio. Move-in ready condition with 2004 square feet of living space and an attached 2 car garage. Barn, corrals and spring fed stock water system. RMLS# 14431951

**\$496,000**

**END OF THE ROAD** 2 acres that is private and beautiful. Custom-built one level home with quality materials, craftsmanship and maintenance. 1,756 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms/2 baths w/hardwood floors, heated tile floors, granite counters, vaulted ceilings, 3 fireplaces, landscaped yard, 20x40 shop, barn, private guest quarters with kitchen, bath and laundry. A cabin in the woods with surprisingly beautiful finishes inside but enough wood accents to keep the cabin feel. Great mountain views & recreation out your door. RMLS#14594330

**\$398,000**

**1.99 ACRES IN THE LOVELY** Valley Heights subdivision of Enterprise. Huge views & well set up for horses/dogs. Storage for boats, RV & other toys. Stalls, runs, kennels, & cross fenced pasture. One level living in 2668 square feet with 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths. Features include 2 newly remodeled baths with tile floors with in-floor heat & tile tub/shower surrounds. Kitchen nook, dining room, living room w/brick hearth & woodstove, family room with wet bar & library. Huge mudroom/storage room with dog door to kennel & fenced back yard. Sprinkler system for yard & irrigation hand lines for pasture. RMLS#14077817

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