

# Strange light in sky visible from Lostine

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Late at night on Monday, Feb. 23, viewers from nine western states, including one man from Lostine, and from two Canadian provinces reported seeing a bright light in the sky that generated more than one explanation.

Ray Cameron, owner of Ace Hardware, in Enterprise, was leaning against a corral post outside his Lostine home at about 11 p.m. that clear Monday night waiting for his horses' watering trough to fill when he looked up at the stars and saw an unusual sight.

What Cameron reported seeing was a red light first visible in

the southeastern sky heading toward the northwest. He says he watched the spectacle for about one minute in total as it came closer, turned reddish-orange in color, and as it came even closer he discerned what appeared to be a hot fire trail behind the main light "maybe 30, 40, or 50 miles long," he said.

The thought of trying to capture the image on his cell phone camera popped into the hardware owner's mind, but Cameron said he decided instead to watch the unusual sight as long as he could.

"It burned pretty bright," he said. "It was pretty spectacular."

Cameron's initial thought was that he was viewing an airplane on fire and he was antici-

pating the sound of an explosion that never came.

There was absolutely no sound associated with the phenomenon, he added.

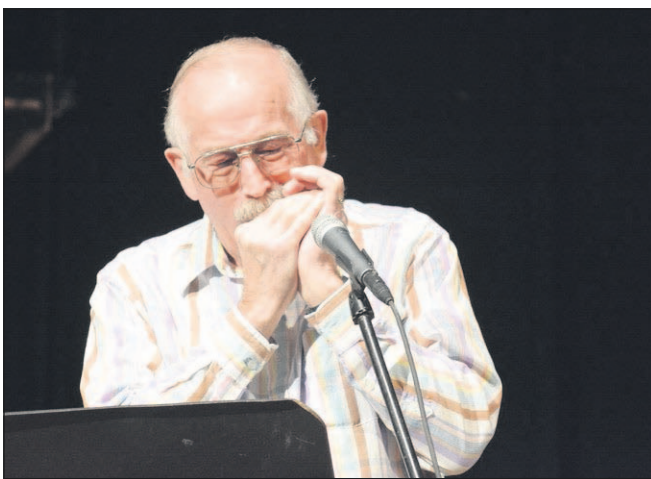
Reportedly seen in Oregon, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Nevada, California, Washington, and Wyoming as well as in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, the National Aeronautic Space Administration (NASA) released an explanation for the uncommon sight that was refuted by many who cater to the theory of unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

Peter Wiggins, a NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory spokesman, said the phenomenon was "space junk" off of a rocket

body launched by the Chinese government in December 2014.

Proclaimed experts on UFOs, of which there are many on the Internet, disagree with Wiggins' assessment of the situation. Major arguments in opposition to the NASA explanation contend the light seen Feb. 23 moved significantly slower than a meteor or space junk would and, in contrast to the latter two, the object seen that night maintained its light even after penetrating the earth's outer atmosphere.

Cameron, who watched the unusual sight start to finish, said the light followed the contour of the earth and did not look as if it would crash on the earth. "I don't have a clue what it was."



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain  
Omar Stubblefield of Wallowa had the crowd tapping their toes to his harmonica playing. Stubblefield has been playing harmonica for 70 years.

# EHS, WHS choirs and bands vie for state spots

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

One year ago, performing before strict judges who grade on such musical criteria as intonation, presence, phrasing, difficulty of music performed, musicality, and technique, high school choirs from both

Enterprise and Wallowa high schools scored above the 75 percent demarcation line and advanced to compete at the state level.

On Wednesday, March 18, choirs from those two schools will attempt to repeat last year's achievements, this year in competition held at the Pres-

byterian Church in Pendleton.

Bands from those two schools again will compete to qualify for state competition on that same day as well, but at a different venue. Pendleton's Vert Auditorium.

The difficulty of qualifying beyond district competition is exemplified by the fact that Enterprise music instructor Randy Morgan, who has competed at district both in band and choir during each of his 38 years conducting music for the Enterprise school district, never has had his band advance

beyond district to compete at state. In contrast, Enterprise choirs have advanced to state on 14 occasions.

Directing the Wallowa choir last year was Helene Hipple, but that torch has been handed over to first-year choir and band instructor Anna Stipe. Stipe says she will take a total of 16 students to district. With some of her performers doing double duty by singing in the choir and playing in the band, Stipe says Wallowa will have 16 individuals singing in the choir and five persons playing in the WHS band.

Instruments in the Wallowa band this year will include percussion, piano, tenor saxophone, trombone, and trumpet.

Morgan's contingent competing in the same 2A/1A classification as Wallowa will include 25 choir members and 28 performers in the EHS band. Morgan says a total of 45 students will ride the bus to Pendleton.

For schools that exceed the 75 percent judges' score, the Oregon State Choir competition will be held at George Fox University, in Newberg, May 7, and the Oregon State Band competition will be held at Oregon State University, in Corvallis, May 15, says Stipe.

Joseph Charter School typically does not compete in district choir and band competitions.

# FCCLA trio raising funds for theater

By Rich Rautenstrauch  
Wallowa County Chieftain

It was a toe-tapping event held at the OK Theatre Saturday evening when three Enterprise FCCLA members — Riley Gray, Eliza Irish and Rachel Frolander — put on "A Spring Surprise Community Talent Show," a fundraiser benefiting the old movie house. Over 30 performers graced the stage during the course of the night, singing songs, dancing and playing musical instruments.

The FCCLA trio — Gray, Irish, and Frolander — came up with the idea while brainstorming for a project they need to complete before the State FCCLA convention to be held in Portland April 16-18. The girls' motto for the project is "Bring Back the OK and we'll be All Right."

Darrell Brann, who owns the theater, said the project does not currently include crowdsourcing, which is a popular way to rejuvenate community historic sites, but is a more conventional fundraiser. The girls specifically want to raise money to replace old theater equipment and bring it into the modern digital age.

The show itself was nostal-

gic enough, with folksy music and a little toe-tapping. Some of the highlights included 2-year-old Swade Shetler coming out to open the show with his Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag; Nodya Papineau captivating the crowd singing a Lana Del Ray song, "Young and Beautiful"; Omar Stubblefield, of Wallowa, playing a harmonica medley, with the audience helping him keep a beat; longtime Wallowa County music aficionado and piano player Gail Swart jazzing the show up with some ragtime music; Enterprise high schoolers Jolene Ginther and guitarist Rocky Davidson providing a nice rendition of "Bright" by Echo Smith; and Darrell Brann and his daughter Meredith closing the show displaying their musical talents singing two songs.

Spokesperson for the FCCLA trio, Riley Gray, said she is a little dismayed by the shortage of local entertainment opportunities for kids and families in Wallowa County so she really wanted to help by promoting the theater. Frolander and Irish have a Facebook page soliciting donations for the OK, and donation cans can be found at various locations in Enterprise.

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