



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Rehearsing lead actors in "Anne of Green Gables," from left: Gwen Menton, Kasey Duncan, Ame Leggett and Stuart Vencill.

# MidValley's 30th show, a classic, opens Friday

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

LOSTINE — With a 10-year-old girl from rural Enterprise taking the lead, Lostine's 20-year-old MidValley Theatre will open its 30th stage undertaking this Friday, March 13, when "Anne of Green Gables" comes to life in the old Lostine school gymnasium.

The first of six presentations of the classic adaptation of that 1908 novel of the same name will begin at 7 p.m. Friday night with little Enterprise Elementary student Kasey Duncan cast in the lead role of Anne Shirley. Director Kate Loftus, who has directed all but one of the 30 MidValley productions, says Duncan has about 400 lines in the play "and is doing great."

A cast of 30 performers from throughout Wallowa County, about 12 of them children, will cross the stage March 13-15 and March 20-22 (7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays) to share a story set in a fictional community in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. During the 107 years since it was written, the children's-focused novel



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain  
Kasey Duncan plays the title role in "Anne of Green Gables."

by Lucy Maud Montgomery has been translated into 20 languages and has sold more than 50 million copies.

Taking lead roles along with Duncan in the MidValley stage presentation are

Gwen Menton, Stuart Vencill, and Ame Leggett.

In Montgomery's novel, Anne Shirley — depicted as talkative, extremely imaginative, and eager to please — is sent from an orphanage to a brother-and-sister team in their 50s and 60s (Menton and Vencill) who have requested a boy from the orphanage to help work on their farm at Green Gables. Much of the story unfolds as the young girl convinces them to allow her to stay on the farm, and then adapts to life in that setting. The character develops friendships, a relationship with an antagonist who later becomes a friend, and encounters several humorous incidents.

The story progresses through a few years as the young girl attends Queen's Academy and has memorable interactions with many main characters she met at Green Gables.

Veteran MidValley actress Ame Leggett performs the role of a nosy neighbor named Rachel Lind.

Loftus says the play will differ from previous MidValley endeavors because, other than one major break between Act One and Act Two, multiple scene changes

will be accomplished courtesy of a lighting technique known as cross-fading. Stage Managers Ingrid Cook and Jennifer Hobbs will assume responsibility for the movement of props during the performance.

Assistant director for the play is Justin Burns.

As usual, work for this stage endeavor has been extensive. Loftus says auditions were held and scripts handed out in early December and rehearsals began in earnest for "Anne of Green Gables" in mid-January.

Admission to all performances, with no reserved seating available, is \$7 for general admission and \$6 for students and seniors.

The remaining members of the cast, some who perform multiple parts, include:

Morgan Anderson, Jared Bowers, Adalyn Deal, Chase Duncan, Tessa Duncan, Clem Falbo, Emrys Hobbs, Foster Hobbs, Andy Martin, Jennifer Hobbs, Richard Hobbs, Sebastian Hobbs, Josh Kiser, Steve Kliever, Lena Lewis, Anna Moholt, Maddie Nordtvedt, Pam Peck, Kamren Poulsen, Annabelle Russell, Renee Seal, Cami Word, and Carol Vencill.

## OBITUARY

**Harold Chitwood**  
Nov. 2, 1940 – Feb. 26, 2015

Harold Chitwood passed away peacefully at his home on Sheep Creek, Feb. 26, 2015. He was born Nov. 2, 1940, in St. Ignatius, Mont., to William and Dorothy Chitwood. His family moved to Joseph when he was in the 1st grade along with his younger sister Joann Cornett.

He and Bobbi (Arnhart) Chitwood were married April 6, 1959. They have four children along with their spouses Dan (Debbie) Chitwood, Darren (Richelle) Chitwood, Doug (Tonya) Chitwood and Darla Chitwood Diaz (Tony). They have 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

As a young man he worked the hay fields and changing pipes for local farmers. He went to work for Ernie Coats where he logged on the Pallette Ranch. He worked for Boise Cascade as a foreman for 33 years until his retirement. He is remembered as a kind, fair and hardworking boss.

He coached baseball from Pee Wees to Babe Ruth. Harold was active in his community serving on the Joseph City Council, Chief of the Joseph Fire Department, a member of Search and Rescue and a deputy for Chief Joseph Days all of these for many years. He was awarded the Wallowa County Distinguished Service Award in 1974.

He loved the outdoors, snowmobiling, hunting and fishing but most of all his family and friends. Harold had a witty sense of humor and a way of making everyone feel welcome and important. He was deeply loved by his wife, children and grandchildren and will be greatly missed.

There will be a Celebration of Life June 6, 2015, from 12 to 3 p.m. at their home on Sheep Creek.



## DEATH NOTICE

**Edward Tautfest**

Edward D. Tautfest, 76, of Joseph, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2015, at St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Wash.. An obituary will be published at a later date.

## About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Send obituaries by e-mail, [obits@wallowa.com](mailto:obits@wallowa.com); fax, 541-426-3921; or mail, PO Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. The deadline to submit an obituary is 2 p.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-426-4567.

## High and Low Temperatures

According to data sent to MesoWest: [www.mesowest.utah.edu](http://www.mesowest.utah.edu)

Enterprise			Lostine		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
March 4	14	45	March 4	11	46
March 5	21	53	March 5	19	52
March 6	23	60	March 6	21	62
March 7	27	59	March 7	25	59
March 8	24	59	March 8	23	60
March 9	23	63	March 9	21	65
March 10	25	n/a	March 10	22	n/a

Joseph			Wallowa		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
March 4	14	43	March 4	33	56
March 5	23	52	March 5	18	55
March 6	27	59	March 6	19	63
March 7	32	57	March 7	23	61
March 8	28	57	March 8	20	60
March 9	28	61	March 9	20	65
March 10	30	n/a	March 10	21	n/a

Imnaha			Troy		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
March 4	21	50	March 4	21	53
March 5	28	61	March 5	28	69
March 6	31	63	March 6	27	69
March 7	34	65	March 7	30	65
March 8	31	64	March 8	30	66
March 9	32	72	March 9	31	72
March 10	34	n/a	March 10	31	n/a

## Six-day forecast

March 11 - March 16  
Source: National Weather Service

March 11		H: 56 L: 38	Rain likely
March 12		H: 56 L: 33	Chance of showers early
March 13		H: 61 L: 39	Sunny
March 14		H: 62 L: 41	Chance of showers
March 15		H: 62 L: 34	Chance of showers
March 16		H: 58 L: n/a	Mostly sunny

## Phases of the moon

March 10	March 24	March 31	April 7
New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**KLINT NORTON**

Wrestling Tournament held in Boardman on March 7. Norton, 13, pinned both of his opponents in the heavyweight division and is seeded in the top four in the upcoming state tournament in Woodburn on March 14.

Norton, who is only in his third year of wrestling, is the son of Krag and Kim Norton of Lostine. Norton enjoys riding four-wheelers and motorcycles in his spare time and shooting his rifle, as well as hanging out with friends. He also helps out in the family's welding shop in Lostine.

Norton also participates in baseball and football.

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*Student of the Week*

**Morgan Forney**  
Joseph Charter School

Morgan Forney is the daughter of Dana Barnes and is currently a sophomore at Joseph Charter School. Morgan is an honor roll student who is also actively involved in FFA, FCCLA and is also involved in the Natural Helpers Program. Morgan is busy this spring representing the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show as one of its court members. In her spare time she enjoys riding her horse, reading and being in the outdoors.

The staff and administration would like to congratulate Morgan for being student of the week. Great Job!

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.