

Grange gains through drawing

By Rich Rautenstrauch
Wallowa County Chieftain

On Sunday, March 15, the Hurricane Creek Grange held its monthly meeting in conjunction with a potluck and a special event, the drawing for an elk landowner preference tag sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. Wallowa County Commissioner Mike Hayward attended the gathering and officially drew the winning tag with a surprising twist.

The Grange is quite active these days and the fundraiser was a complete success.

Every year The Nature Conservancy lets out a certain number of big game tags to local service organizations or to public institutions to raffle off. Last year, in June, the Hurricane Creek Grange applied to the Conservancy to be one of the local organizations to raffle tags and was selected.

For the Grange it was a perfect fit. Grange secretary Clarann Witty took on the assignment and got the ball rolling. The Grange received 400 tickets to sell at \$25 apiece.



Hurricane Creek Grange master Heather Tyreman and County Commissioner Mike Hayward draw the winner of a landowner preference elk tag sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Sunday, March 15. Tyson Shirley of Nampa, Idaho, won the tag.

Witty arranged for promotion of the sales and took phone calls the past few months from ticket buyers. She said she had a lot of fun talking with callers about hunting.

Several times during the March 14 gathering, attendees expressed their hope that someone local would win the tag. After an imaginary drum roll, Commissioner Hayward

reached into the ticket barrel and drew the ticket with Tyson Shirley's name on it. Shirley currently resides in Nampa, Idaho, but he grew up in Wallowa County. So,

the wish for a local winner did in a sense come true.

When Shirley was called to let him know he had won the tag, Witty said, "He was tickled to death." The surprising twist surrounding this year's winning ticket: Shirley also won last year's local drawing for the TNC elk tag. The 2014 tickets were sold by Wallowa Resources.

The fundraiser was a success with all tickets sold. The Grange's profit exceeded \$7,500.

Current master for the Hurricane Creek Grange, Heather Tyreman, said the Grange greatly appreciates the money. For the last few years the Grange has undertaken a number of project to improve its hall. The building's electricity has been upgraded, a new well has been put in and connected, there's a new handicapped ramp, and the building is newly painted. Tyreman said more projects are scheduled. "This really helps when we need matching funds for other projects. We're here for the future and we have a long-range view," she said.

Soroptimist awards three local women

Three local women are recent winners of financial awards from Soroptimist International of Wallowa County that will help them reach educational goals.

Two of the women — Enterprise resident Kristy Athens and Jennifer Gibbs, of Wallowa — each received a Fellowship Award, while Autumn Rose, of Enterprise, was selected for the Live Your Dream Award. Athens received \$2,000, Gibbs \$1,000, and Rose, whose selection locally qualified her for further consideration at district and regional levels, has already accumulated \$3,000 in award funds and could ultimately win one of three finalist awards for \$10,000.

In June, Athens will receive her master's degree in Food Systems and Society from Marylhurst University.

Athens writes: "I would like to effect change in policy and education so that women are brought to the table and feel empowered to engage with the food system. This grant will enable me to contribute to the cause of educating and empowering women first by my presence as a leader in the food system, and second by my work in the field."

Gibbs, a fifth grade teacher at Wallowa Elementary School, is pursuing a Master of Science in Education degree at Eastern Oregon University. Her emphasis is curriculum and instruction at the elementary and secondary levels. She hopes to work with and inspire young teachers as a mentor to student teachers or as an instructor at the college level. As a teacher at Wallowa Elementary, she is in her third year of participating in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) symposium at EOU.

Rose, a single mother of two young girls, balances motherhood with a full-time school schedule. In June she'll be receiving her bachelor's degree in Nursing.

The Wallowa County Soroptimist group states: "Autumn is an amazing woman who has overcome many obstacles in achieving her goals and we are sure will continue to be a positive role model for many other women and girls."



Author Shannon Ables will sign at Bookloft March 28

By Rochelle Danielson
For the Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Bookloft will host a book reading and signing by Shannon Ables, author of "Choosing The Simply Luxurious Life: A Modern Woman's Guide," Saturday, March 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The seed of an idea for living a life of quality over quantity admittedly began during Shannon Ables' childhood in Wallowa County. Having grown up on Alder Slope and graduating from Enterprise High School she became

acutely aware that life's beauty isn't something that can necessarily be purchased, but rather is the life we create for ourselves.

Over the past five years Ables has established herself in the blogging world, and inspired by her blog, she entered the publishing world with her first book, "Choosing The Simply Luxurious Life: A Modern Woman's Guide," which was published in December 2014.



Ables

At the heart of living simply luxuriously the focus is on choosing quality over quantity in every arena of one's life. Regardless of one's income, relationship status, age or where one might live, Shannon encourages and reveals to her readers through her first-hand experience that living well is all about making the best choices that align with our purpose and passions.

Epitomizing what she writes about, currently Ables is also a high school English and social sciences teacher at Pendleton High and in her off time travels, experiments with new recipes, reads voraciously, and frequently visits Wallowa County as her two dogs love spending time in the country.

This Saturday in Enterprise you can stop by and meet the author, pick up a book or simply ask a question about cultivating your own simply luxurious life.

To learn more, visit www.shannonables.com or thesimplyluxuriouslife.com.

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