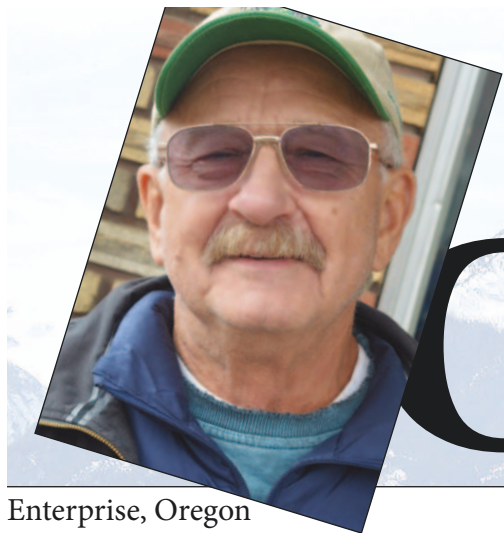


Local opinions on state minimum wage increase proposal - page A5

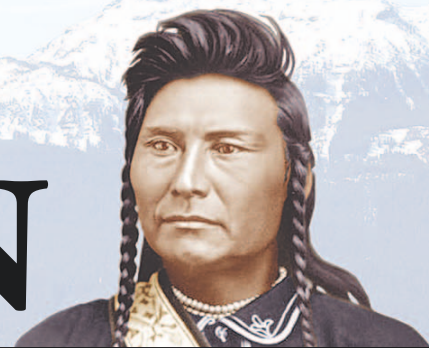


Enterprise, Oregon

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WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Bankruptcy sale nets creditors \$100K

About 500 attended auction to liquidate Dougherty assets; judge issues arrest warrant for missing couple

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

The small-claims creditors of Douglas and Katherina Dougherty should receive about \$100,000 in monetary relief following a U.S. Bankruptcy Court-ordered auction held Saturday, March 28, on

former Dougherty property along Highway 82 just northwest of Wallowa.

About 200 registered bidders, plus some online bidders, were among a crowd of about 500 people who attended the eight-hour auction ordered to liquidate the remaining assets of the Dougherty

couple who have not been located since U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Randall L. Dunn, based in Portland, issued a warrant for their arrest March 17. Ordered to appear personally on March 13 to show cause "why a warrant for their arrest should not be issued in light of multiple and manifest

failures to comply with various court orders," Douglas and Katherina Dougherty did not appear on that day and the arrest warrant was issued shortly thereafter.

Jeanne Huffman, contracted by the U.S. Department of Justice as a Bankruptcy Trustee for the District of

Oregon and the trustee assigned to the Dougherty case, said, "In 20 years of working with bankruptcies, I've never encountered a case this difficult."

In the words of Doug Macon, owner of Macon Brothers Auctioneers, of Walla Walla, which joined with

Booker Auction Co., of Eltopia, Wash., to stage the auction, about 650 lots of items were sold in one day after the district bankruptcy court in Portland agreed to jointly administer the assets of three different legal entities.

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PCM proposes to give parolees A PLACE TO CALL HOME



Steve Tool/Chieftain

PCM, which already has a garden plot and raises chickens and turkeys, would use profits from these activities to help fund the program for parolees.

Couple wants transitional house to be 'transformational'

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County native Neal Isley and his wife, Corrine, of Point of Connection Ministries, hope to soon offer transitional housing to parolees and those on supervised probation in the area. The goal of the program is to help residents of the home adjust to life outside the correctional system by teaching life skills, offering mentoring/counseling and the possibility of employment through acquired job skills.

The prospective home is located at the former Wallowa Valley Family Youth Center located at 83346 Joseph Highway, just north of Joseph. The Isleys call it "transformational housing" because they hope to transform residents' lives through the program.

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Steve Tool/Chieftain

Point of Connection founders, from left, Neal and Corrine Isley. The Isleys intend to lend a helping hand to parolees and people on probation in their transition to becoming productive citizens.

Barreto talks minimum wage, wolves

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Oregon District 58 Representative Greg Barreto, Republican, traveled to Enterprise for a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 28, accompanied by his wife, Chris, and chief of staff, Darryl Breeden.

Wallowa County commissioners Susan Roberts and Mike Hayward also attended the gathering, which was held at Community Connection.

Barreto, of Cove, is a freshman representative. He owns hydraulic equipment company Barreto Manufacturing in La Grande.

After introducing himself, Barreto led the meeting with a short prayer before launching into a detailed, but concise, narrative outlining his first eight weeks in the Oregon Legislature. He said he initially felt hindered by his lack of legislative experience. "I felt like this was something I wanted to do, something I was called to do. I had the tools, but I didn't know the job," Barreto said.

He said he worked straight through his first five weeks, only taking time off to attend church, and this intensive routine helped to get his feet beneath him. He sits on three legislative committees: Education, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and also Business and Labor.

Barreto said he found the lack of time particularly challenging. With days filled with meetings and sessions, he found early morning and late evening the only time he has to study and understand



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Oregon District 58 Representative Greg Barreto, addressing the audience at his March 28 town hall meeting in Enterprise, makes an emphatic gesture using a card he happens to be holding.

the many bills the Legislature votes on.

Barreto also spoke of his frustrations as a minority party member in the various committees he belongs to, particularly the Business and Labor Committee. "That's got to be the most frustrating committee I've ever been on. The things that come through there are the antithesis of how I think," the representative said.

The camaraderie of House members, regardless of political affiliation, proved a pleasant surprise to him, however. "There isn't a one in the other party that I couldn't go up on their floor and sit down at their desk and just start visiting," Barreto said.

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Ace Hardware plans to move

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — With the arduous process of finding a new business site and coordinating the financing to purchase it now behind them, the three owners of Cameron's Wallowa County Ace Hardware remain many weeks away from moving out of the rented Enterprise site they've occupied on NW 2nd Street for 15 years and into their own building a mere two blocks away.

Store owners Ray, Patty, and son Nick Cameron just purchased half a city block that long was occupied by Bronson Lumber at the northeast corner of North and River streets. The owners now plan an extensive remodel before relocating an inventory in excess of 50,000 items.

Nick Cameron, with final contract negotiations still pending, declined late last week to name the contractor who will perform the extensive remodel scheduled to begin this week. That remodel will include knocking down and rebuilding walls and could last as long as six or eight weeks.

Ray Cameron explains the reason for the move in simple terms.

"We need more room and we want to own our own building," he says.

The current building on NW 2nd Street, co-owned by Don Foster and Tom Cutter,



Rocky Wilson/Chieftain

Nick Cameron, right, and father Ray Cameron are two of three owners of the Ace Hardware store in Enterprise that soon will be relocated to the former Bronson Lumber structure two blocks away that Cameron's Wallowa County Ace Hardware just purchased.

includes 4,800 square feet of retail space compared to about 6,000 square feet at the new location. "We will expand our lines of paint, electrical, and plumbing supplies," says Ray Cameron, who then adds that the additional space will allow Cameron's Ace Hardware to stock additional items in all

departments.

The larger Bronson Lumber building has been purchased from the husband and wife team of Mace and Sherry Cadwell, of Union County.

See MOVE, Page A9

ADC seeks approval to sell water downstream

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

Although still under review, a request in early 2014 from Wallowa Lake Dam's owner, the Associated Ditch Companies, to have 4,200 acre-feet of lake water flow-augmented to agricultural growers in the Umatilla Basin along the Columbia River has drawn unanimous opposition from the six entities that filed written responses.

While much of the dissent registered during the 30-day comment period that ended April 24 last year revolved around the lack of public input surrounding the permit request and where the excess water would come from, comments from the Wallowa's Future Foundation and from

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