

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area Board of Directors will be holding a public quarterly meeting and receiving a financial review on July 16th, 2015 at 9:30 am. This meeting will be held at the OSU Extension Building in La Grande, Oregon located at 10507 N. McAlister Rd. in the South Conference room.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Troy School Board will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday July 14th at 4:00 p.m. in the Troy School House. A copy of the agenda may be seen at the Wallowa Education Service District administrative office at 107 SW First Street #105 in Enterprise.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

He may be rushed, but U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden is enjoying his visit to Wallowa County as he meets with local citizens at the Wallowa Lake Lodge to discuss what he can do to support tourism in the county. Left: Todd Davidson, Chief Executive Officer of Travel Oregon; Right: Kathleen Ackley of Wallowa Land Trust.

The DEADLINE for LEGAL NOTICES is 10AM Monday

MENUS

WALLOWA COUNTY SENIOR MEALS

Meal site information: Wallowa 886-8971, Enterprise 426-3840, Home delivered meals 426-3840. To sponsor a senior meal, call 426-3840 or stop by the Community Connection office.

Monday, July 13: Oven baked chicken, pasta salad, green salad & fruit dessert

(sponsored by Bollman's Funeral Home)

Weds., July 15: Spaghetti with meat sauce, seasoned green beans, green salad & cookie

(sponsored by Carnation Rebekah's #157)

Friday, July 17: Hamburgers with tomatoes, lettuce & onion, potato salad, Jell-o with fruit & cookie

(sponsored by Leap of Faith Ministries)



SEE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON A6

SOLUTION

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Winners of the Children's Division for parade entries at the 2015 Wallowa City 4th of July Parade are Montana and Lilee Post with The Hot Hulas on Horses.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Grand Marshal Georgia Wilson of Wallowa at the Wallowa City 4th of July Parade. Wilson is a well-known booster and, among many other good deeds, purchased the library building for the city.

Wyden partners with Travel Oregon to talk tourism

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

It's hard to say how much U.S. Senator Ron Wyden is enjoying his busman's holiday visiting the 7 Wonders of Oregon, given the pace he keeps up. But what was clear from his July 3 visit to Wallowa County, in tandem with the Travel Oregon creators of the 7 Wonders Campaign, was that he is intensely interested in seeing rural Oregon capitalize on the tourism boost that campaign has brought.

There is no question that the campaign has created increased interest in vacationing in the seven hot spots chosen by Travel Oregon. The numbers are in. And tourism in general is big business in Oregon. According to studies commissioned by Travel Oregon, Oregon's tourism industry is a \$10 billion business and 100,000 Oregonians work in it.

But what is in question is whether or not Wallowa County and the other areas can meet the infrastructure needs of the visitors coming their way.

And that is what Wyden wants to help with.

What, exactly, he can do to help is what he wanted to know and why he was meeting with interested parties during his whirlwind tour of the 7 Wonders.

Throughout the meeting at Wallowa Lake Lodge, Wyden repeatedly reminded the crowd of business owners, foresters, boosters, commissioners, artists and citizens that he needed to hear what a man on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee could do — not what local agencies ought to be tackling.

Given Wyden's position on that committee and others, his work to revitalize the National Forest Service top to bottom and return to reasonable timber harvest, and his dedication to the Secure Rural Schools Act, it was clear that the Senator was looking at what he could do to improve usage of National Forests.

"What I've heard is that the natural resources people in particular have not been front and center with their mission," Wyden said.

Nils Christoffersen of Wallowa Resources addressed that issue directly when he suggested that the Forest Service ought to be picking up the responsibility of campground and trail upkeep — responsibilities that Wallowa Resources and others have picked up as Forest Service funds have dwindled.

Furthermore, Christoffersen said, his group is creating natural resource programs for children and working against a complicated permitting system to do so. "We are filling a hole the Forest Service should be filling," he said.

The crowd at Wallowa Lake Lodge was very clear on why funds for vacation resource upkeep and programs in National Forests have dwindled.

"Fifty-eight percent of Wallowa County is federal land and is managed by the Forest Service," said Wallowa County Commissioner Mike Hayward. "Money keeps going away to fire suppression."

According to Wyden, working to address that imbalance — and fixing the poor money management in the Forest Service — is at the top of his list.

"My top priority when Congress comes back next week is to fix a thoroughly broken system," he said. "Prevention gets the short end of the stick and (then) because we've had so many fires, we run out of money. The bureaucracy borrows from prevention funds to put the fire out."

The biggest problem in resolving the problem of poor infrastructure leading tourists out to natural wonders, and then poor maintenance as they recreate, is to get the state and federal agencies to "bond," Wyden said. "We need to see if we can build a partnership between the Secure Rural Schools Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Payment In Lieu of Taxes program," he said.

Another idea that Wyden likes is the reprise of the successful Build America Bonds effort of 2009. Wyden backed the original legislation that created the \$188 billion market for Build America Bonds, which expired in 2010, and last month introduced his "Move America" bill with Republican Senator John Hoeven of North Dakota.

"You cannot have a big-league economy with little-league infrastructure," Wyden said in a statement before the Finance Committee in June. "Picking up on several of the best features of Build America Bonds, our new proposal, according to the Joint Tax Committee, will turn an \$8 billion taxpayer investment into \$226 billion worth of infrastructure projects."

To contact Senator Wyden with your comments and suggestions visit:

<https://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact/>

Doubling down on aid to Wallowa County

Wallowa County natives are familiar with the Secure Rural Schools Act (also called the Safety Net) and the payment counties receive to make up for lowered timber harvest. Sen. Ron Wyden is adamant that those funds continue no matter what improvements we see in timber harvest. "There is no harvest level high enough to not need a safety net," Wyden told Wallowa County citizens at the July 3 meeting at Wallowa Lake Lodge.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies). The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and

facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

"Payments in Lieu of Taxes" (PILT) are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries. The law recognizes the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on federally owned land can create a financial impact. PILT payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations.

Wallowa County has received \$387,703 as payment on 1,169,368 acres in 2015.