



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

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Protest delays OK of water releases

By Rob Ruth

Wallowa County Chieftain

Never mind about that report earlier this summer that Wallowa Lake Dam owners may soon finalize funding arrangements for the dam's rehabilitation.

The central component of dam owners' funding strategy — sale or long-term lease of stored water to a third party, an entity which would first pay to rehabilitate the dam — has been placed on hold while state regulators digest an 11-page protest filed by Wallowa's Future Foundation (WFF), a group based in Joseph.

WFF filed its protest within the allotted 45-day window following the Oregon Water Resources Department's July 7 publication of its notice concerning a proposed final order and draft permit.

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Salzburger Echo to headline Alpenfest

WALLOWA LAKE — Salzburger Echo, a lively, internationally known band from Utah with the unusual specialty of Swiss alpmusic playing, will be the headline act at the 2015 edition of Oregon's Alpenfest.

The annual Swiss-Bavarian festival takes place Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 24-27, with four performances at Wallowa Lake and additional activities in Joseph and Enterprise. In addition to live music, Oregon's Alpenfest will feature Swiss yodeling, Alpine folk dancing, solo Alpmusic, accordionists, the Alpine Art, Antique and Craft Fair and traditional bratwurst and beer.

For the second year in a row, there will be free polka lessons.

Details and ticket information are available at oregonalpenfest.com.

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SOUTH FORK GRANGE GETS NEW DIGS



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Left to right: June Colony, grange secretary; Vicki Crane, head of the grange building committee, and Rhee Lathrop, the grange member with the longest continuous membership. The women are inside the framing that will come down to create a hall space in the new South Fork Grange location.

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

LOSTINE — The South Fork Grange is rising from the ashes and planning a Founders Day to beat all.

When their grange hall burned to the ground in February 2014, the 22 grangers of South Fork Grange vowed to be back — and now they'll be hosting the "The Shepherd's Ball" on Founders Day, Oct. 10, in the new digs.

The new hall is on Rosewell Street in Lostine and is a house expansion gone wrong for the original builders, but just right for the grangers.

"We did a lot of looking at other places and then working on this one to see if it was usable,"

said grange secretary June Colony.

The "house" began life in the '50s as a tiny dwelling with nothing much to recommend it.

It was expanded upon in the '80s and at that time an excellent foundation was put in and the inside of the large expansion was framed, but not finished. Then, it sat for 30 years.

The property was a good bargain for the grange. It started as eight lots (1.5 acres) and a number of buildings, but after a very long negotiation, the seller agreed to split off the house/expansion and two lots for the grangers. Two usable outbuildings came in the deal.

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Chieftain file photo

The old grange burned to the ground in February 2014.

State's pot-ential for profit unclear

OLCC estimates \$18.4 million in pot tax revenue for 2015-2017

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

How much money might Wallowa County expect to receive in tax revenue from the sale of pot statewide and county-wide?

Well, that's the \$64,000 question.

As Wallowa County Commissioner Mike Hayward said last week, it may be thousands or it may be six bucks.

Nobody knows. The reason the number cannot be nailed down is because Oregon's marijuana tax plan and Oregon's relationship to illegal marijuana is very different from the tax structures and marijuana relationships of Colorado or Washington.

Colorado raked in \$11,608,684 in taxes for the

month of July 2015 alone. Washington reported tax earnings of \$11,484,814 the same month. Neither number includes licensing fees.

Back in July 2014, ECONorthwest released an independent study that projected Oregon would collect a (relatively) modest \$78.7 million in marijuana tax in the first biennium — an average of \$3,279,000 per month. The study was commissioned by New Approach Oregon, the organization that helped write Measure 91. The ECONorthwest study did not consider the impact on courts, police, and jail operating costs that might accrue.

By April of 2015 the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which will oversee implementation of Measure 91, had scaled that estimate back considerably.

In a press released dated April 11, OLCC reported it had requested that the Legislature establish a 2015-2017 budget of \$10.5 million to handle the recreational marijuana program.

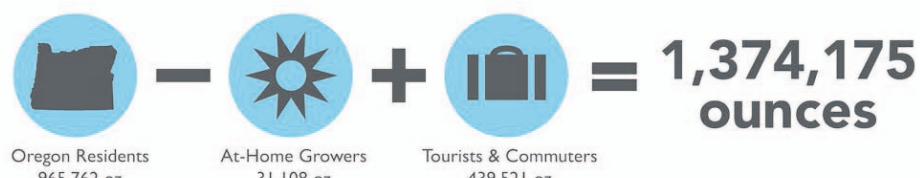
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Oregon + Cannabis

One Year Projected Fiscal Revenue from Cannabis Legislation: FY2017



(adjusted for price elasticity, that's 965,762 ounces)¹



(taxed at \$28 per ounce)²

\$38.5 million*
in fiscal revenue

¹ Demand adjusted upward by 16.4% due to lower prices and demand elasticity.
² \$28 per ounce is a blended rate based on estimated consumption of flowers and leaves.
* Not including licenses and fees. Total includes plant taxes generated by home production costs. To view the full report, visit econorthwest.com.

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