

GRANGE: House to hall

Continued from Page A1

work gloves.

The grangers had limited funds — they'd sold their old lot to Norton Welding and the state grange had held funds from the sale of the Wallowa Grange in trust for them. They had enough money to negotiate with, Colony said, and in the end, "The owners were really generous with us," said Colony. "We closed in June. The foundation is top-notch, the building is entirely suitable — it's just ugly right now."

But ugly is fixable and best of all the interior framing can be safely removed to create a large hall.

A work party is scheduled for Sept. 25 starting at noon. Refreshments will be provided and volunteers are asked to bring hammers, crowbars and

The good thing about the strange design of the building is that the tiny house can be remodeled so that sliding doors open into the hall. With those doors closed, the little house serves as a meeting room which will eventually have handicap access bathrooms and a full commercial kitchen. The benefit of that is that, when meetings are held, grangers don't have to heat the entire hall, just the little house.

Savings like that are important, said Colony, because the grange exists to serve the community. "Our money goes through and out the door," she said. "We support FFA, the fairgrounds, personal needs in the community, seed swaps and more. We give scholarships for everything from art

and camps to agricultural education."

When the remodel is completed the building will house a spacious community hall suitable for dances, weddings, anniversaries, political debates, water meetings and many other community gathering needs.

The grange is footing the bill for a new tin roof and upgraded septic system and Wildhorse Foundation has provided a \$15,000 grant to cover the cost of Phase I projects: wiring, insulation, sheetrock, windows and flooring work.

Phase II of the remodel will include the installation of a commercial kitchen. Wiley Frei, owner of Main Street Grill in Wallowa, recently purchased the Odd Fellows Rebekah Hall in Wallowa and donated the entire commercial kitchen to the grange. Grangers are petitioning Wildhorse Foundation again for a grant to bring that up to code and install it along with the two handicap accessible bathrooms.

"We'll be completely ready to be part of the community again by spring," Colony said. "The bathroom and kitchen that is already there is sufficient to take care of immediate needs."

In the meantime, the hall will be ready for dancing to the music of Homemade Jam, 7-10 p.m. Oct. 10 at 317 Rosewell Street, Lostine. It's a family dance with pie and ice cream social.

DAM: Protesters say flow increase will harm 'bionomy'

Continued from Page A1

These items would allow the Associated Ditch Companies (ADC), the dam's owner, to annually send 4,200 acre-foot of water downstream for flow augmentation.

Although the releases would be timed to benefit fish, ultimately the water would reach users determined by the dam project's funders. One of ADC's prospective funders, a Utah-based firm named Wallowa Water Corp., for a time displayed plans on its website to collect the water from Wallowa Lake Reservoir in Portland, and from there transport it to buyers located practically anywhere, including out of state.

In its filed protest, WFF argues the proposed flow augmentation could negatively affect both the "Wallowa Country bionomy" (meaning the "complete natural system" here, including "the land, animals, plants, water, climate, soil, geology and people") and future ability to meet water needs within the Grande Ronde Basin. The group also asserts that stored water in Wallowa Lake Reservoir "is already over-allocated," and that flow augmentation isn't even identified in the Grande Ronde Basin Program as "a beneficial use."

Sending water out of the basin is itself a sore point.

"Water is scarce in the

Grande Ronde Basin, and this scarcity has been even more apparent in recent years," the protest document states. "In 2015, as of this date, a senior, live-flow water right from the Wallowa River with an 1890 priority date has been regulated off for the first time ever; other senior water rights are being curtailed; and ever-increasing numbers of junior irrigation water rights are being shut off. ... The Foundation does not believe the public interest is served by the Department's approval of an Application that would authorize the use of stored water from Wallowa Lake Reservoir for out-of-basin mitigation when in-basin irrigation rights cannot adequately be served, particularly senior, live-flow rights on the Wallowa River."

Tom Butterfield, ADC president, says dam operations aren't a factor in such rights' curtailment, however. The reason some rights were curtailed by Wallowa County's watermaster late this summer, he says, was because they were "strictly natural flow rights and there was not enough water coming in at the head of the lake to serve them."

The protest document also mentions that the Foundation on "at least two occasions ... offered to loan money to ADC to repair the dam." In March 2004 the Foundation sent ADC a letter offering \$150,000 for "necessary repair and deferred maintenance," and a month later the Foundation upped the offer to \$1.2 million.

ADC currently estimates that rehabilitation will cost around \$15 million, and ADC project manager David Hockett says the \$1.2 million the Foundation offered back in 2004 wasn't nearly enough to accomplish the task, even at 2004's lower prices. ADC also was concerned that a loan might put ADC at risk of losing control of the dam, Hockett recalls.

Although WFF was required to file its protest within a specified 45-day window, apparently there's no defined timetable for the Oregon Water Resources Department to resolve the issues the protest has raised. "Worst-case scenario: it could hold us up for another year or longer," Hockett says.

EVENT: SLC band will play in Eastern Oregon for first time

Continued from Page A1

Community members are invited to join in the traditional procession Thursday down Main Street in Enterprise starting at Main Street Motors at 3:45 p.m. Following are the opening ceremony at the courthouse gazebo and Accordions at Alpenfest at Terminal Gravity Brewery.

Salzburger Echo comes from its home base near Salt Lake City to play for the first time in eastern Oregon. Although the band usually performs elsewhere on Alpenfest weekend, the musicians decided to give Wallowa County a try this year, according to Alpenmeister Chuck Anderson.

The band brings the Alps to audiences, playing Old World and contemporary folk music from the alpine regions of Switzerland, Germany and Austria. The band entertains with the 12-foot alphorns, Swiss cowbells and harmony yodeling as well as more traditional instruments.

Together since 1992, Salzburger Echo has played many venues and festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Popular acts returning to Oregon's Alpenfest include Swiss yodeler Arthur Brogli, who hails from Lodi, Calif., but has entertained throughout the country and was a huge hit in 2014.

Brogli is a Swiss native and the eldest son of Swiss immigrants. As a boy, he and his brothers and sisters sang for various Swiss events up and down the West Coast. Amazingly, he doesn't read sheet music but he plays everything by ear. He composes some of his own songs and lyrics.

He played a leading role in starting the first Oktoberfest in Snowbird, Utah, 40 years ago. He also sang at the Swiss consulate in San Francisco to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the creation of Switzerland.

Also performing are the Tirolean Dancers of Oregon, popular Alpenfest entertainers for many years. Their energetic style is typical of Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

The dancers hail from all over Oregon and Washington. They are regulars at Oktoberfests throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Professional polka dancers Randy and Ashley Thull of Wisconsin will return to dance during performances and give free polka lessons before each performance.

Solo alhorn player Bruce Coutant lives in nearby Lostine, where he crafts alphorns as one of very few alhorn builders outside Europe. Coutant also plays French horn locally.



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Student of the Week

Daniel Delancey is the son of Gabriella and Tim Delancey. He is a sophomore at Wallowa High School with a 4.0 GPA. Daniel's teachers describe him as one of the most conscientious students at Wallowa High School. He consistently turns in excellent work and often goes above and beyond what is required. He is active in Wallowa FFA, plays baseball and serves as the student body and sophomore class treasurer. Daniel is good natured, kind, helpful and respectful of others. He truly deserves this recognition.

Daniel Delancey
Wallowa High School

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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.

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To reach Jennifer, call 541-426-4567 (office) or email jpowell@wallowa.com

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