

VACANCY: Three chief finalists announced

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The selection committee carefully reviewed and scored the nine chief candidates, finally settling on four of them. One applicant later pulled out for personal reasons.

Thursday's meet-and-greet will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Community Connection in Enterprise. The night will include an opportunity to ask the candidates questions. All persons attending will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire, as the community's input is valuable for the selection process.

The candidates will be visiting Enterprise with their spouses. Interviews will be conducted Friday, Oct. 2. The Enterprise City Council will meet the following week to discuss the recommendation of the interview committee and public comments.

Based on the council's recommendation, a job offer will be made pending the candidate passing a thorough background check.

CAMP: Wounded vets have chance to reboot

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In true Wallowa County fashion, part of the device was created from a leather fencing tool sheath. The two vets are looking into possibly patenting the adaptation.

As a bonus, several devotees of the camp arrived from the west side of the state bearing gifts, including a \$2,600 Two-Star General Mak Grill donated

by the Dallas, Oregon company that manufactures them.

Scott Stuart, who was instrumental in obtaining the grill, cooked up steaming pounds of beef brisket, pork ribs and three whole chickens for the Divide Camp crowd, which included several of the camp's neighbors. Tiffany Ryan, visiting from Williams, cooked up blueberry cobbler, rice and other dishes utilizing her Dutch oven skills for the

get-together.

After the late lunch, Divide Camp Director Julie Wheeler talked about the ups and downs for the year. Through donations of time and money, several cabins are well on their way to complete restoration, and the National Rifle Association bought the camp some 3-D deer targets, and most importantly a Track Chair, which is similar to a wheelchair, only with tracks

similar to a tank's. The chair allows people with physical challenges to access areas inaccessible to wheelchairs.

A grant from the Wildhorse Foundation funded purchase of a solar energy system that supplies the majority of electrical needs for the camp, which formerly used a generator that was expensive to run.

On the down side, this year's drought dried up the camp's

spring, requiring water to be brought in. Wallowa County Grain Growers offered the use of a 1,000-gallon tank to haul water to the site. A funding drought also forced the cancellation of a scheduled five-day veterans raft trip down the Snake River.

Besides financial help, Wheeler said the camp really needs construction volunteers to for cabin renovation and fence construction for the 40-acre site.

REFUGE: More people seeking Safe Harbors services

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She started working for Safe Harbors in 2011 as a crisis advocate, becoming interim director in August and taking over the position full-time on Sept. 1.

Statistics show an increase in people seeking Safe Harbors services, Stubblefield noted. In 2013, the organization served 149 victims while 2014 saw 210 clients served. Through July of this year, 114 clients have sought help, 68 of them with no previous contact with the organization. Safe Harbors also provides shelter for victims if needed.

Stubblefield attributes the statistical rise to Safe Harbors' efforts in community education, particularly as to what constitutes domestic violence and sex-

ual assault. "I think we're seeing an increase in victims reaching out rather than an increase in the behavior itself. I think people are more open to reaching out rather than keeping it behind closed doors," Stubblefield said.

Socio-economic standing has little to do with domestic violence or sexual assault rates, according to Stubblefield. "These are the types of crimes that transcend all boundaries. There's no way to be immune to it or to think because you live in a certain area that it isn't happening to your neighbor," Stubblefield said.

Safe Harbors uses any venue they can to make their presence known in the county, including booths at public events, multiple Facebook pages, their web page and even schools — with the exception of Enterprise. "We hav-

en't been able to work an agreement that the powers-that-be think is appropriate," Stubblefield said. Safe Harbors already has an in-school relationship with Joseph Charter School and is working on developing in-school relationships with Wallowa schools and the Alternative Education school.

Ultimately, Stubblefield says that education, the earlier the better, is the key to stopping or at least limiting domestic and sexual violence. "Knowledge is power, and a lot of victims come in because they're not sure if their situation is abusive, and we can provide them with information to help them make that decision," she said.

Safe Harbors is in need of

monetary donations, which are tax-deductible. Household goods and volunteers for the mobile hotline are also needed. Stubblefield also said she hopes to build or purchase better transitional housing for clients who are starting life anew. "What we have now is focused more on immediate need and not the long-term transition people need to get back on their feet," Stubblefield said.

As for the future, Stubblefield said she hopes to continue her predecessor's success in funding and community partnerships, as well as providing services and educating the community as to what abuse looks like. "We start from a place of believing and supporting. We

believe that victims know their circumstances and situations better than anybody. We try to support them in any decision they're making," she said.

Safe Harbors is located at 401 NE 1st St. Suite B in Enterprise. The website is at www.wcsafeharbors.com. The phone number is 541-426-4004 with the 24-hour crisis line at 541-426-6565. The group's Facebook Web address is: www.facebook.com/Safe-Harbors

RESOLUTION: Document lays fire blame on Congress

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It identified "administrative rules and policies as the root cause of the agencies' inability to create practical and cost effective management" and blamed current law for "allowing small incidents to become catastrophic events."

The resolution stated that the Board of Commissioners would "no longer place blame for failed National Laws and Agency policies on the environmental community, the US Forest Service or any other Federal Agency."

As a result, "Wallowa County will make it known to all that the responsibility for the current conditions of our National Forests lies solely with each member of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the United States Senate and the President of the United States."

"I was upset about the fires and I proposed we lay the blame where it really belongs," Dunn said. "We all have complained about enviro groups and agencies, but the root cause is we have unreasonable laws. The administration, the House, the Senate, these people have a responsibility to protect the national treasures of this county."

Dunn said current laws were poorly written or interpreted, and changes to policy and procedures should be taken up by individuals in a position to effect that change.

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley were contacted with regard to this resolution but were unable to issue a response by press time. Rep. Greg Walden's office issued the following response: "Greg understands why people are frustrated — he's very frus-

trated too. Three times in the past three years, he has helped pass bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House to reform broken federal forest policy and bring back active forest management. Yet, the Senate has not taken action on any of these bills, and the President has threatened to veto them. It's time for the U.S. Senate to get serious and finally pass meaningful forestry reform legislation."

Wyden, Merkley and Walden have all been working to make changes to the laws that dictate the way in which the forests are managed. As was reported in the Sept. 23 Chieftain (see article titled, "Enviros worsen wildfire problems, Walden says"), Walden has been championing HR2647, which in addition to other changes, reforms the National Environmental Policies Act and streamlines the process to begin logging

and thinning federal lands.

Wyden and Merkley introduced a revised O&C Lands Act in Jan. 2015. The original Act, covering 2.1 million acres of timberland, was introduced in 2013. O&C lands are The Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands; approximately 2.6 million acres of land located in 18 counties of western Oregon. The Wyden/Merkley Act of 2015 covered 2.8 million acres without waiving environmental law or giving away public lands — two approaches the president promised to veto. The O&C Lands Act of 2015 would more than double the timber harvest on Oregon's O&C Lands over the next 50 years. Wyden's bill passed the Energy Committee on a bipartisan 15-7 vote last year, but House Republican leaders blocked it from being included in an end-of-the-year package of natural resources bills.

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