

NYFD FIREFIGHTER VISITS CARPET ONE



Tim Duffy, third from left, a retired New York Fire Department firefighter whose career ended as a result of the dust he inhaled on 9-11, poses with employees of the Carpet One store in Enterprise on Sept. 23. Duffy came to town to thank Carpet One employees on behalf of Building for America's Bravest, a program of the Stephen Sillers Tunnels to Towers Foundation. The program raises funds to build specially adapted homes for catastrophically injured American service members, and Carpet One has been a contributor to the cause. Duffy said he was visiting at least seven other Carpet One stores in the Northwest. More information about the program can be found at ourbravest.org. Carpet One employees pictured with Duffy include, from left, Dan Helmer, Jared Bedard, Ray Norman, Susan Norman, and Chris Stauffer.

Rob Ruth/Chieftain

Forests seeking project proposals

Congress reauthorizes act to encourage improvements

By Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur and Umatilla National Forests are seeking project proposals to be funded under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

The act was reauthorized for two more years by Congress.

The federal legislation encourages individuals, non-profit organizations, local governments, and others to propose projects that restore watersheds, decommission or maintain roads, control noxious weeds, or otherwise improve the condition of the forest.

Proposed projects do not need to be implemented on Forest Service lands, but must show a benefit to national forest resources.

Project proposals for fiscal year 2016 funding are due electronically by November 16. Application forms, instructions, and submission guidelines can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/main/wallowa-whitman/workingtogether/advisorycommittees.

Another round of applications for project proposals will be reviewed in 2017.

Eligible project proposals submitted to the Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur and Umatilla National Forests will be reviewed by the Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee.

The committee will provide forest supervisors with a list of projects recommended for funding.

GIVING: Council signs proclamation

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Mayor Dennis Sands was happy to sign off on the proclamation, saying he first heard of the "day of giving" from Portland's Kris Anderson, co-author of the book

"State of Giving." Anderson learned of the generous nature of Wallowa County citizens through Sands' youngest son, who lives in Portland.

"She (Anderson) sent me an email and said they'd be

kicking off their campaign toward the end of October and she wanted to know if I'd present the idea to the city council with the idea of a proclamation," Sands said. "We passed the proclamation and I sent her a copy

of it, she sent out a press release about it."

This is not a one-time proclamation for the city. It is to be celebrated in perpetuity. Sands said the resolution is to raise awareness for giving.

DIRECTOR: McNerney brings leadership to job

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She spent the next 10 years under great managers and mentors who taught her leadership skills that included the importance of evaluating employee strengths for the purpose of delegating responsibility. After 13 years, she left as a senior manager with the goal of eventually running a non-profit.

McNerney left in the middle of the recession but landed a six-week job with Oregon Public Broadcasting that ended up lasting over 10 months as she learned fundraising skills and communication planning while also hardening her resolve to run a non-profit.

McNerney heard about the Fishtrap director position through a Facebook page called "Portland's Emerging Arts Leaders." She was already familiar with Fishtrap and the area as her best friend lives in Wallowa County.

"I remember the first time I came here I said, 'I'd really love to live here if I can just figure out a way to make a living doing it,'" McNerney said.

The prospective Fishtrap Director mulled over the job for some time before finally putting in an application.

"I wanted to make sure I was ready to relocate and I had to dig deep and make sure this is really what I wanted to do," she explained.

While it may seem a stretch for someone with a music background to run a writing non-profit, McNerney has no qualms.

"What I bring to this job is a passion for the subject. I grew up in the west, and what struck me about the Fishtrap message was that the voices of the west are different than voices from other parts of the world, and it really and truly is a distinct voice," she said.

McNerney is also looking forward to understanding the disparate voices in the west.

"When you talk about the west, you differentiation from someone who lives in New Mexico, and I'd like to see how Fishtrap reaches and encourages these different voices. For me, when I think of the west, I don't necessarily

think of cowboys; I think of open spaces," she said.

When adding writing, reading and storytelling from the western world that McNerney loves is put into a single job, she says passion for the job is easy to come by.

"What I bring to this job is my pretty good track record of leadership and team building and other areas they're looking for. I know how to get the word out to people,"

she said.

Personnel satisfaction is a priority for McNerney.

"When you have people who are as driven and talented as some of the people on this staff, you have to make sure they're doing the things that really make them want to come to work every day," she said.

For the moment, McNerney is in the process of moving and looking forward to

her official first day of Oct. 28 when her western adventure begins.

"The west, and particularly the Northwest of Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana are very attractive to writers because we're storytellers out here - it's part of our tradition," McNerney said.

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Student of the Week

Cole Hafer
Wallowa High School

Cole Hafer is the son of Tom and Tara Hafer. He is a senior at Wallowa High School who is a leader in our athletic programs. Cole is co-captain of the football team, a varsity basketball player and a varsity baseball player. Cole's character is most notable. He is a genuinely nice and respectful student. He is fun to be around and his enthusiasm leads in the classroom. This year his contributions to the new engineering and design program has been stellar. Wallowa High School is proud to put Cole forward as student of the month.

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