



Letters to Santa!  
INSIDE  
Page B1

## WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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# County officially rejects marijuana sales

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County Commissioners have voted unanimously to opt out of licensing marijuana businesses. Following recent similar de-

isions by the cities of Joseph, Enterprise and Wallowa, the commissioners' move makes the county effectively "dry." The decision was announced Dec. 16 during the final public meeting on the subject. That meeting was

preceded by two well-attended public meetings during which proponents and opponents presented their arguments to the commissioners. The commissioners had taken an extra week to further investigate issues concerning

medical marijuana and the ability of local residents to get the product. At the Dec. 16 meeting Commissioner Susan Roberts gave a lengthy report on her findings. After talking to several medical facilities in Wal-

lowa County she found that there were none that could write prescriptions because they were either a federally designated medical facility or were seeking the federal designation — and marijuana remains a controlled substance

at the federal level. Roberts said some people have been able to acquire a legal synthetic product for medical uses, but its efficacy was debated. See BAN, Page A9

## Omnibus a boost for local land trust

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Last week's passage of the \$1.1 trillion omnibus bill averts a government shut down for nearly a year and may aid a local land trust in helping preserve the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake.

Wallowa Land Trust, a local land preservation entity, was slated for a \$3.1 million grant through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) that would help the trust purchase land critical to the moraine's preservation. The omnibus will fund the LWCF for the next three years.

The LWCF is not funded by taxpayers, but through fees the federal government accrues through oil drilling and gas leases.

The grant is disbursed through a Forest Legacy Grant under the auspices of the LWCF.

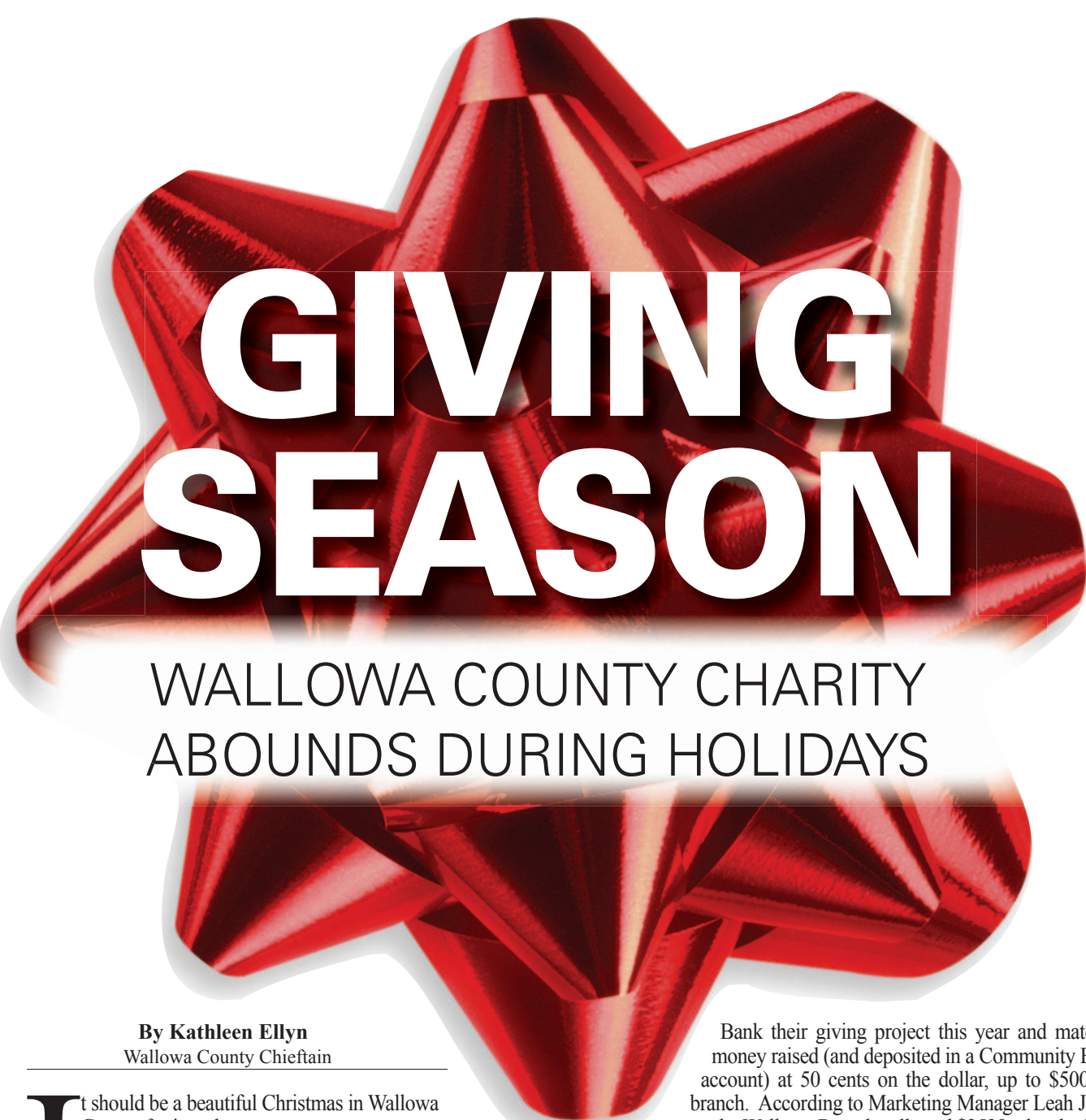
Wallowa Land Trust Executive Director Kathleen Ackley said her organization has put in considerable time trying to secure the grant, including sending a letter of interest to the Forest Legacy Program in May 2014.

The trust was invited to submit an application, which required completion by October 2014. Along with others, the application was reviewed in Salem by the state's stewardship coordinating committee.

The trust's application ranked No. 1 in the state and was given the green light to compete at the national level, where it ranked 10th.

While the land trust took the lead in submitting the grant, Ackley credited The Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership —

See BILL, Page A9



# GIVING SEASON

## WALLOWA COUNTY CHARITY ABOUNDS DURING HOLIDAYS

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

It should be a beautiful Christmas in Wallowa County for just about everyone. Dozens of individuals, agencies, clubs, performers and more have been donating both money and food items to the Wallowa County Food Bank, the Elks Christmas Drive and the Tree of Giving program to make sure no one goes without this season.

The generosity is so fulsome in Wallowa County it's hard to mention every aspect, so we'll start with a few notables and apologize in advance to those who didn't get special mention.

- Community Bank chose to make the Wallowa County Food

Bank their giving project this year and matched money raised (and deposited in a Community Bank account) at 50 cents on the dollar, up to \$500 per branch. According to Marketing Manager Leah Johnson, the Wallowa Branch collected \$2538, plus the \$500 max bank match, which gives Wallowa Food Bank about \$3038.

See GIVING, Page A9

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain  
Enterprise High School students (left to right) Paul Stangel and Adrian Widener help pack the Christmas dinner boxes for the Elks.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain  
Andrea Butterfield donned a Santa hat and full Christmas togs to help pack Elks Christmas dinner boxes. (Right) Adajia Latta, double checks the packing.

