



Steve Tool/The Chieftain

Embers Brew House chili cook-off winners Joanie Fluit, left, won first prize for her "Spicy White Chili from the judged portion of the contest while Vikki Bennett won the People's Choice award for her "Wild and Beasty" concoction.

Cook-off heats up winter

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Snow, rain, sleet and cold didn't stop dozens of Wallowa County residents from attending the 7th Annual Embers Brew House Chili Cook-off on Saturday. The event was held on the deck outside Embers with 16 culinary artists plying their chili to the public.

The competitors vied for a \$100 prize awarded by a panel of judges as well as a \$50 prize for the People's Choice award. The chili featured such original names as "Wild

and Beasty" and "Boilermaker." Appreciative attendees received generous samplings from the competitors.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. the judges handed down the verdict with Joanie Fluit's "Spicy White Chili" getting the nod while Vikki Bennett's "Wild and Beasty" won the People's Choice award. Prizes were drawn for other competitors as well.

Fluit said she's competed in the contest for five years and previously won the People's Choice award.

Bennett's award came

with only two competitions under her belt. She named elk and buffalo as two ingredients of her chili, but wouldn't reveal the other two "beasty" ingredients.

Embers owner Teresa Sajonia was very pleased with the turnout.

"We were up by three extra contestants this year, and everyone's chili was fantastic," Sajonia said. "I'm looking forward to next year and hope this continues to grow. It brings some hustle and bustle to break the winter doldrums."

Ventures take flight

This week we've got a grand opening announcement and two new businesses handing out their cards.

First: We had hoped to be working our New Year's resolutions out at Vault Health and Fitness at 106 SW First St. in Enterprise by now, but the process took longer than anticipated. Nevertheless, the owners have announced an opening date of Feb. 13 and are offering a free three-day pass on their website at valthealthandfitness.com. You also get glimpses of the work as it progresses by visiting the business' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/valthealthandfitness.

Second: Matt Brockamp of Wallowa came by to hand out his card for Brockamp Land Surveying, LLC. Matt is offering full-service land surveying and can handle both small and big jobs.

His equipment list includes: Leica GPS receivers, EDM, survey trucks, 4-wheelers, chainsaws, hammers "and a hard-working family."

He's offering free estimates to Wallowa County residents.

His experience includes large-scale projects from California to Alaska with extensive experience in Cadastral Surveys, ROW, FEMA flood map resolution, construction surveying and logistics. He also does smaller jobs, such



Kathleen Ellyn

as boundary surveys, partitions, subdivisions, boundary line agreements, lot line adjustments, deed descriptions, road right-of-way surveys and topographic site surveys.

Visit his beautiful website at www.brockamp-land-surveying.com for more information and testimonials, or contact him at 541-398-0384k or [matt@brockamp-](mailto:matt@brockamp-land-surveying.com)

landsurveying.com.

And last, but not least: Local resident J.R. Matthews of Enterprise has hung out his shingle for aerial photography. Matthews uses a drone equipped with a camera to do 360-degree views. It's particularly handy for showing real estate, but also fun for wedding photos, social gatherings and sporting events.

To learn more about Matthews service, visit: <http://jerrm44.wix.com/aerial-photography>.

Please send your Biz Buzz news tips to Kathleen Ellyn at kellyn@wallowa.com.

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Gov. Brown unveils minimum-wage plan

Portland would see higher minimum than rest of state

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown unveiled a plan Thursday for a two-tiered minimum wage in the state.

The proposal would gradually boost the minimum from \$9.25 to \$15.52 in 2022 only in the Greater Portland area.

Housing prices and cost of living have prompted researchers from one Portland-area think tank to describe the need for a higher minimum as "urgent."

"The costs of essentials such as food, child care, and rent are rising so fast that wages can't keep up," Brown said in a statement. "Many Oregonians working full-time can't make ends meet, and that's not right."

In the rest of the state, the plan would hike the minimum to \$10.25 in 2017 and \$13.50 by 2022.

After 2022, the minimum would return to increasing in conjunction with Consumer Price Index, the Governor's Office said.

The proposal will be presented to the Legislature during its 35-day session in February and March.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said Thursday they will push to pass the governor's proposal.

Kotek said she would prefer to raise wages in Portland faster than what's outlined in the governor's proposal. Still, she said, the plan gives businesses certainty and time to

plan. The plan still might not succeed in averting a battle over minimum wage at the ballot box in November.

Petitioners for a ballot initiative to hike the minimum to \$15 statewide by 2019 say Brown's proposal falls short of Oregonians' needs, especially those living in the Portland metro area.

"Six years is too long," said chief petitioner Jamie Partridge. "People need \$15 now. The governor's plan is not enough to bring workers out of poverty. We can't expect prices to stay the same over six years."

Partridge said people throughout the state need \$15 per an hour.

Business groups opposed to a minimum wage hike also are gearing up to try to defeat the initiative.

Betsy Earls of Associated Oregon Industries, on Wednesday advised lawmakers to spend their time on issues other than minimum wage.

"It sounds like ... there will be at least one ballot measure going forward no matter

what," Earls said. "What I would say to you is we will have to fight that ballot measure probably so we will have to expend resources regardless of what you guys do. I would advise you to sit tight, do nothing."

Courtney said he thinks legislative action on the issue will drain momentum for the initiative campaign.

"I think if we do take this action and make it happen, as hard as it's going to be, that I think it really puts us in a situation that when the public goes to the polls, they have the ability to say, I think they took care of the minimum wage in a way we can live with and in a way we think is helpful to the wages of our working people," he said.

The higher minimum wage rate would apply to Portland's urban growth boundary. That area includes Hillsboro, Gresham, Beaverton, Tigard, Lake Oswego, Tualatin, Troutdale, West Linn, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Wood Village, Wilsonville, Sherwood, Fairview, Happy Valley, Damascus, Milwaukie, Oregon City and Gladstone.

M. C R O W & C O .



L O S T I N E , O R



Catch the Bus!

- Intercity Transportation to La Grande Monday and Thursday Weekly ~ Cost \$5.00 each way. Free access for veterans medical appointments in La Grande.
- Mealsite Bus ~ providing transportation to Senior Center for lunch ~ Cost \$1.00 round trip.
- Tuesday & Thursday Shopping Bus provides transportation for shopping and errands throughout Wallowa County ~ Cost \$3.00 from Wallowa/Joseph, \$2.00 Enterprise only.

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Wallowa County Stockgrowers Assn. Invites YOU to the **8TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR & SCHOLARSHIP DINNER-AUCTION!**

WHEN? Wednesday, January 20, 2016
WHERE? Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
WHO? Livestock Producers and Interested Public
WHAT?

2:00 p.m. Free presentation "Plowing up the Past in the Imnaha Basin" by Lesley Morris, PhD Assistant Professor of Rangeland Sciences, OSU Agriculture and Natural Resources program at EOU

5:30 p.m. Doors Open for Scholarship Dinner & Auction

6:00 p.m. Prime Rib Dinner Prepared by Apple Flat Catering

\$20 for 13 & Older - \$10 for ages 6-12 - Free for ages 5 & Under

Proceeds go towards College Scholarships for Wallowa County Youth!
Any questions or interest in donating an item may be directed to Katie Howard (425) 248-5227

The Wallowa County Agricultural Resource Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations for education are tax deductible.

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Wallowa County Health Department
758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
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We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.