

Josephy Center building display honoring Nez Perce

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Josephy Center in Joseph is continuing the work of its namesake, author Alvin Josephy Jr., by establishing a Nez Perce display in the upstairs portion of the building. Josephy wrote several historical works that examine Indian life, particularly that of the Nez Perce tribe that once inhabited Wallowa County.

To that end Rich Wandschneider, Director of Josephy Library of Western History and Culture, has built a display that celebrates the Nez Perce presence in the county. The project got off to a good start with the recent receipt of a \$2,000 grant from Pacific Power.

The Nez Perce project, tentatively titled “The Nez Perce in the Wallowa Country,” is an extension of the Alvin Josephy display, also upstairs at the center.

“We wanted to go from his role in telling the Nez Perce story, then go into the Nez Perce story,” Wandschneider said.

As part of the project, a \$7,500 grant from the Autzen Foundation will go toward hiring Nez Perce artist Allen Pinkham Jr. as an artist-in-residence. Wandschneider plans to meld that grant with the display project and have Pinkham build a 30- to 40-foot Nez Perce ca-

noe for the display.

Wandschneider has contacted a designer for the display and elders from the Colville, Umatilla and Lapwai reservations to ensure the tribes’ involvement.

At this point the project’s scope is open-ended.

“We could have art, photos, language — we’re hoping we can find someone to build a Nez Perce bow for the display,” Wandschneider said. “We’ll examine the Nez Perce life — what did they eat, how and where did they live?”

The estimated final cost of the display is \$15,000 to \$20,000 and the center has applied for a Nez Perce Trail Foundation grant. Wandschneider also expects some community donations, but he’s not necessarily just looking for funding.

“I know there’s community members with a pair of gloves or moccasins that someone in their family may have traded for in the past. We’d love to borrow them and put them on display.”

Wandschneider stressed the importance of the project as a tool for understanding and acknowledging the Nez Perce role in the Wallowa Valley.

“The Nez Perce in Wallowa County is still in some ways an open sore. In order to understand the story of this place, you have to understand the story of the Nez Perce.”

Portland’s Fruition returns to OK Theatre

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Portland folk/rock/soul music group Fruition is returning to Wallowa County for a Feb. 4 show at the OK Theatre in Enterprise.

Theater owner Darrell Brann is excited about the group’s visit.

“They played the Juniper Jam a few years ago, and we had them at the theater last spring, and people were really excited about the show,” Brann said.

The group is gaining some traction outside of the regional circuit and even performed at the famed Red Rocks Amphitheater in Morrison, Colo., last year.

Brann said Fruition has left a big footprint with locals.

“People often ask me to book certain bands, but rarely do I get multiple requests for the same band,” he said.

Tickets are \$22 online at eventbrite.com and \$20 at the



Courtesy photo
Portland’s Fruition will play the OK Theatre in Enterprise on Feb. 4.

door. Tickets also are available at the Dollar Stretcher in Enterprise, M. Crow in Lostine and Joseph Hardware. Tickets were still available as of Tuesday.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

with opening act Bill Finch of Lewiston slated for a 7 p.m.

Fruition is expected to take the stage around 8 p.m. The OK Theatre is located at 208 W. Main St. in Enterprise.

THE SCENE

Thursday, Jan. 28

- “Our Town” film screening, 7 p.m. Josephy Center, Wallowa City Hall, Fishtrap in Enterprise.

Thursday, Feb. 4

- Fruition, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre in Enterprise. Folk-Rock, Americana, Soul, Blues.

Friday, Feb. 5

- Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Friday, Feb. 12

- Fishtrap Fireside, 7 p.m. at Fishtrap

Sunday, Feb. 14

- Open mic, 4-6 p.m. at the Josephy Center

Saturday, Feb. 20

- Old-time Community Dance, 7 p.m. at Hurricane Creek Grange Hall.

Sunday, April 10

- Asleep at the Wheel, OK Theatre in Enterprise. Tickets: \$38. Email oktheater1@gmail.com or call 541-263-0941 to reserve.

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