

BRANDING DAY



Kathleen Ely/The Chieftain

It was a beautiful day for a branding Saturday as a group of ranchers and cowboys joined to get calves doctored, tagged and branded on the moraine just outside of Joseph.

Public meeting set to discuss transformational housing

Wallowa County Chieftain

Point of Connection, the family recreation center on Highway 82 just outside of Joseph, is in the process of formalizing plans for the future of the former Wallowa County Family Youth Center.

Neal Isley, president of POC, took over the center in June 2011.

Since then, it has served as a place where families could gather for bible study and recreation.

Occasionally, youth or adults with addiction or mental health issues stayed for a few months while they got their life situation under control.

Now, Isley is planning to assist the county in dealing with a specific need for which he feels he has the training and programs: to assist men with addictions and other life crises who are ready to get to work and make changes in their life.

Isley will present information and answer questions regarding the plans for the building at an open meeting scheduled for Monday, April

18, 2016 at Community Connection in Enterprise.

“Concerns have been raised about our intentions for the transformational housing and what will be happening there,” Isley said. “Transformation is a term that many are equating with transition, but they are not the same. Transition just means passing through from one place to another. It doesn’t require much, other than being willing to move. Transformation is altogether different in that it goes much deeper. It requires a person to evaluate their life and goals, what got them into crisis to begin with and then being willing to make changes to alter their future.”

The men who will come to Isley’s transformational program will be volunteers, they are not mandated by a court system to attend, he said. They will voluntarily accept, coming in, that they will be required to make progress toward their goals to stay in the program.

Needless to say, some of these men have not dealt well with their life in the past and

may have spent time in jail.

“Some people seem to fear we may be bringing these men in from other locations, but there are approximately 100 parolees already in Wallowa County who are being serviced by two parole officers. We are working with law enforcement to make Wallowa County more safe — it’s why law enforcement is in favor of our program.”

The men in the program will be committed to change — or leave, Isley said.

“If they’re not willing to follow these programs they’re not going to stay,” he said. “You have to have clear boundaries where they have to make progress or leave. We’re not making any money on this so it doesn’t do anyone any good if they’re not willing to move forward.”

The meeting will give the public the opportunity to ask questions about the purpose of Point of Connection, its plans for the future of the ministry and for the property.

“There’s been a lot of disinformation about what we’re planning to do here,” Isley said, “We want every-

one to come to the meeting. We welcome all questions and concerns about what we have been doing from the very beginning.”

Isley said a member of the Wallowa County parole board is expected to attend and field questions as well.

The public meeting will convene at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 18, in the dining area at the Community Connection building located at 702 NW 1st, on the north highway in Enterprise. Call 541-398-0761 for additional information.

Divide Camp annual benefit dinner April 30

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Divide Camp, the local organization that provides healing for post-9/11 veterans through outdoor pursuits and recreation, is hosting its second annual benefit dinner and auction April 30 at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

Divide Camp representative Kathleen Bohms said this year’s banquet features a no-host bar manned by La Laguna restaurant, with meat options provided by Sammy’s Barbecue and salmon caught and donated by Joe McCormack. Tammy Couch and Shelley Tippet will provide side dishes.

An added treat is the music provided by Jessie Borgerding and her father Randy Morgan.

Local rancher Todd Nash will serve as the evening’s emcee. Guest speakers will include a number of veterans who had previous successful stays at Divide Camp and a short film titled “A Soldier’s Memoir” also is slated for the evening.

Bohms said sponsorships for Divide Camp are also available and given out with a red, blue and white levels indicating \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 contributions.

“We’ll make sure that the sponsors and their logos are prominently displayed on the wall during the event and we’ll also make sure they get recognition on our Facebook page and our website,” Bohms said.

Both a silent and live auction are planned, with Dave Yost serving as auctioneer for the live auction. Bohms said a multitude of items were donated, including restaurant gift certificates, an airplane ride from the Joseph Fly Club, art and a bed and breakfast stay.

After expenses, all the funds collected from sponsorships go directly to veterans participating in Divide Camp and even in purchasing dinner tickets for the veterans.

“We’ll also be providing more benefits at Divide Camp. We need to purchase some special-needs tools that can help our veterans with extreme handicaps to access Divide Camp and utilize our facilities. ... It’s a work in progress. The whole purpose of this event is to get funding to get our wounded warriors up to Divide Camp so they can get some solace and healing.”

Uppermost in Bohms’ mind is to remind the public that Divide Camp is run on a volunteer basis with all proceeds going toward the camp.

“I want everyone to recognize that Divide Camp is run by volunteers. There’s no paid employees and there’s no connection to the Wounded Warrior Project. The motto of Divide Camp is: Helping them Heal ... One wounded warrior at a time.”

Bohms said interested parties should purchase tickets immediately. Tickets are \$30 each and are available at dividecamp.org, at the Sports Corral in Joseph, The Bookloft in Enterprise and The Blonde Strawberry in Wallowa.

-Up Town Art-

13 S. Main St., Joseph
541-432-0203

Candidate forum set for April 28

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a candidate forum at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28 at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

The purpose of the forum is to give Wallowa County voters an opportunity to hear candidates discuss the issues of importance to Wallowa County in this election.

The candidates will answer written questions from the forum committee and the public during a moderated event.

The forum will follow a nonpartisan, unbiased and impartial format.

If you would like to submit a question for the candidates there are two ways to participate: (1) Drop your questions in a closed envelope at the Wallowa County Chamber office by 5 p.m. April 27; (2) Questions may be submitted at the forum.

State Rep. Greg Barreto and State Sen. William Hansel will be in attendance. Hansel is a candidate for the

Senate Position of District 029 and will participate in the forum, as will his challenger, Barbara Dickerson.

All three candidates for Wallowa County Commis-

sioner, Position 5 — Dan DeBoie, Todd Nash and Steve Wolfe — also are expected to participate.

The primary election will take place Tuesday, May 17.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Wallowa County Fair Board Scholarship(s) will provide scholarship assistance to Wallowa County 4-H/FFA members. Applications are available from the Fair office for graduating high school students who will be attending college, vocational or trade school during the 2016 – 2017 school year. Amounts will range from \$250 to \$1000.

Applications are available and can be picked up at the Wallowa County Fair office or e-mailed to you from wallowacountyfair@gmail.com.

Candidates must submit the following by May 1, 2016

1. Completed and signed application
2. High school transcript or statement of GPA from Registrar.
3. Three letters of reference with one being advisor or leader.

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