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WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Scot Heisel/Wallowa County Chieftain

The 2016 Chief Joseph Days court, from left: Princess Sarah Aschenbrenner, Queen Lauren Makin and Princess Taylor Grote.

Makin crowned CJD queen

Aschenbrenner, Grote and Makin shatter previous ticket sales record

By Scot Heisel
Wallowa County Chieftain

It's been eight months since three local girls realized their dream of being named to the Chief Joseph Days court. On Saturday, CJD organizers got down to the business of crowning a new queen.

When the dust finally cleared it was Lauren Makin of Joseph who emerged from an extremely close race to wear

the queen's crown.

The announcement was made and final scores were revealed at the annual Coronation Dinner and Dance on Saturday night at the Joseph Community Center.

Sarah Aschenbrenner of Enterprise and Taylor Grote of Joseph will serve as princesses for the 2016 court, the rodeo's 71st.

After months of hard work and a long, difficult Coronation Day, all three young ladies al-

lowed themselves a deep breath once the announcement was made by Rodeo Co-Chairman Terry Jones.

And there were tears, mostly of relief and joy.

"I was good until I saw my family crying," Makin said during the post-dinner dance. "That really got me."

Jones also announced that the trio "annihilated" the previous record for ticket sales with a total of more than \$91,400

— about \$30,000 more than any other court in the rodeo's history.

All three members of the court confessed that they'd had very little sleep in the days leading up to coronation.

Yet, earlier Saturday they found a way to put on a fine display of riding and public speaking at the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena.

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SEE THIS ARTICLE ONLINE AT WALLOWA.COM TO VIEW OUR 2016 CJD CORONATION DAY SLIDESHOW.

Meet the candidates running to replace Hayward

DeBoie, Nash, Wolfe eager to step in as County Commissioner

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

With the sudden resignation of Wallowa County Commissioner Mike Hayward in January, commissioner position No. 1 is slated for the May 17 election. Businessman Dan DeBoie and ranchers Todd Nash and Steve Wolfe have filed for the position. Interim Commissioner John Lawrence is filling Hayward's shoes until the new permanent member of the commission takes over in November. If any candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote in the May primary, the seat will go to them with no need for a November runoff.

All three candidates are slated to participate in a candidates forum April 28 at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. In an effort to introduce the candidates ahead of the forum, The Chieftain asked each for a brief biography as well as answers to four questions:

1. What is the single most important issue facing Wallowa County, and how should we address it?

2. Why are you running for county commissioner?

3. How do you intend to create time in your schedule to meet the requirements of the position?

4. Why should people vote for you?

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WALLOWA LAKE LODGE SALE FINALIZED

Investors group raises \$3.1M for purchase and nine months of operation



Ellen Morris Bishop/For The Chieftain

Joan Gilbert changes a "Save the Lodge" sign in Wallowa Lake Lodge lobby to "Saved the Lodge." Gilbert designed the lodge's posters and other artwork, and has been an important member of the team.

“ SUCH A PERFECT OUTCOME ”

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Lake Lodge is preserved. The organization led by local investors seeking to purchase the lodge and preserve it from development announced Wednesday (April 13) that it had closed on the purchase of the landmark property.

The transfer of ownership has been a story of whirlwind action by local investors, the former owners who took the property off the market for nearly a year to give locals a chance to raise funds, and the Nez Perce Tribe, who agreed to take over the conservation easement of the nearly 10-acre property surrounding the lodge.

Every step of the way history was made.

Firstly, Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC was created specifically to preserve a popular tourist area from excessive development while still proudly embracing the Travel Oregon 7 Wonders of Oregon designation.

Additionally, this will be the Nez Perce Tribe's first conservation easement, established primarily for purposes of cultural resources and habitat protection and held in



Courtesy photo

Wallowa Lake Lodge in summer.

perpetuity.

The lodge sits on the headwaters of Wallowa Lake and in the past was an important waterway for a vibrant population of spawning steelhead.

The Nez Perce Tribe is a partner in protecting this fragile landscape from being converted into a condominium subdivision. The tribe will hold a conservation easement that precludes development on most of the open ground, including the Wallowa River wetlands and adjacent uplands.

And in a remote, rural county where environmental concerns often

clash with concerns over livelihoods, the purchase of the lodge is an example of how various parties can come to an agreement if the plan is right.

"This campaign to secure the lodge and land at the head of the lake is a testament to the vision and commitment of the community," said James Monteith, managing member of the new company. "Local residents and friends of the county rallied in an unparalleled effort. I've never seen people stretch together like this to solve such a difficult problem with such a perfect outcome."

SHARES AVAILABLE

For a comprehensive investors packet with prospectus, call 541-398-0305 or send an email request to info@lakewallowalodge.com.

Through the combined efforts of local investors and support throughout the Pacific Northwest, the new company raised \$3.1 million to purchase the lodge and cover the expenses of a nine-month campaign.

Investor Jay Graves, who helped launch this private effort after retiring as chairman of the Oregon State Parks Commission, expressed appreciation for the unique ability of investors to see the "big picture" with regard to popularity and preservation.

"We are so excited that the Wallowa Lake Lodge will continue to operate as one of the great lodges of the West and that this sacred ground of the Nez Perce will be protected," he said. "We are eager to see the future of the lodge unfold and many more memories made through this inspiring community accomplishment."

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