

2016 a record year for state big game raffles, auctions

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s 2016 auctions and raffles for Oregon big game hunting tags grossed a record \$755,963, of which \$537,816 will go to the Access and Habitat Program and \$218,147 to big game research and management.

Winners of the special tags enjoy an extended season and expanded hunt area.

The auction of 13 special big game tags grossed \$517,000 and included the first auction for an Oregon Rocky Mountain Goat tag, which sold for \$30,000. Several of the statewide deer and elk auction tags sold for new records, including a statewide elk tag that sold for \$49,000 during the Oregon Hunters Association banquet. The governor’s combination deer/elk tag broke the previous record (by \$2,000) and sold for \$70,000 this year.

Raffle winners were drawn at the Oregon Hunters Association state convention on May 21 in Canyonville, Ore. A total of

95,343 raffle tickets were sold, grossing \$238,964.

The sportsman/conservation groups that sponsored the auctions at fundraising banquets of their organizations in the past few months will keep 10 percent of the auction proceeds (\$51,700). Those groups include local, state and/or national chapters of the Wild Sheep Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, National Wild Turkey Federation and Oregon Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

The A&H Program funds hunter access to private lands and wildlife habitat improvement projects in the state. Proceeds from the pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat raffles and auctions fund the research and management of these species, including ODFW’s bighorn sheep and goat transplants which are putting these species back into their native habitat across Oregon.

HOWARD

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National Natural Landmark Manager Heather Eggleston said in an email to The Chieftain that the area was identified as a possible site in 1989, but that the actual designation process didn’t begin until they received permission from the USFS to conduct an evaluation.

The process included a peer review of the report and a public comment period. Notifications were made to the state’s federal congressional and state and local elected

officials as well as other interested parties. The National Park System Advisory Board also reviewed the process before its designation by the secretary of the interior.

The National Natural Landmarks Program recognizes and encourages the conservation of sites that contain outstanding biological and geological resources, regardless of landownership type, according to the National Parks Service website. It is the only natural areas program of national scope that recognizes the best examples of biological and geological features in both public and private ownership. NNLs are owned by a variety of land stewards, and participation in the program is voluntary. For more information about the program, visit www.nature.nps.gov/nnl.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain archives

An intense Jorge Aguilar, Jr. heads for the disaster of a blown tire in the 2015 Bowlby Bash Downhill Race. He’s back this year.

BOWLBY

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Enterprise’s Main Street will be closed to vehicle traffic and event goers will have the entire downtown district to explore. The 5th annual Bowlby Bash Soap Box Derby will take place at 2 p.m. There will be sidewalk shopping, vendors, exhibitors, artists and artisans along the street, live music all afternoon at Ward Park. And the Wallowa County Farmers Market, usually set up in Joseph, will move to Enterprise for the week.

Local restaurants and food booths will be cooking-up summer fare to keep you fueled up as you watch the kids.

Sidewalk chalk art is encouraged.

Soap box competitors will be lined up in front of Main Street Motors between 10 and 11 a.m. for your inspection.

Main Street Motors plans to have a few vintage gasoline-powered cars out to show off as well.

Then, the downhill racers

will put on a parade as they make their way to the starting line, where the VFW Color Guard will make sure the event is patriotic. The Gray sisters, Ashley and Riley, will sing “The Star Spangled Banner” this year.

Photographer Ron Osterloh, who has developed a similar event since his move to La Grande, began the race event. Word is, the La Grande contingent is expected to make the trek to Enterprise this year for a little city-versus-city competition.

Bowlby Bash organizer Michael Berry also confirms that two-time champ Osterloh has a new car that may be even faster than the giant camera car “Flashback” that won him those two championships.

It better be faster; he’s got some serious competition with Jorge Aguilar, Jr., who is coming back hungry for a win with his Steve’s Auto Repair and Texaco Station-sponsored “Bandito.” Jorge was headed for a top placement last year when tire blowouts knocked him out of contention — that only made him more determined to hoist the trophy this year.

“Oh I’m going to win it,” Aguilar said. “Are you going to cheer me on?”

“Jorge is hungry for victory and certain of his status of the last man standing,” Berry said. “He wants it so bad it hurts him. He probably puts in four hours a day on his ride.”

But look out, Jorge. Nathan Curtis and his Main Street Motors-sponsored “Main Street Motors Flash,” fabricated at Stangel Industries, is ready for you.

The race often has last-minute entries, so we’re never sure of the number of competitors, but we know there’s a new car in the ages 8-12 division. Nathan (Lamb) Eaves, 9, of Joseph (but he goes to school in Enterprise) is working with grandfather Terry Lamb to build a new car from scratch. This new car, which is such a mystery it doesn’t even have a name yet, may take the victory away from last year’s champ, Hartwell Brann and his “OK Theatre Roadster” — although it will be Isabella Brann, 10, driving the “Roadster” this year. Is it the year for a girl-power win?

And you won’t want to

miss the greatest street theater event in the county if Dave Carpenter of Enterprise brings out his next outrageous invention. Dave keeps his potential entry under wraps, so we can’t say for sure he’s coming. But if he does, Dave can be counted on to push the boundaries of the term “car.” And the way he takes “People’s Choice” awards proves the method to his madness.

Local wood-carving artist Steve Arment, the maker of the fantastic “Wild Carrot” racer of last year (driven by Michael Berry) and the new “Welcome to Enterprise” sign, has designed a new trophy for the winners.

Prepare yourself for the day and the race with the Bowlby Bash Kickoff Event of coffee, Vali’s doughnuts and cartoons from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the OK Theatre, 208 W. Main St.

Organizer Michael Berry of “Wild Carrot Herbals” and “Dandelion Wines” at 114 W Main in Enterprise is your source for entry forms and rules — and there are few vendor spots open as well. Call 541-263-5539 for more information.

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GRANT

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“I gave a Powerpoint presentation to the advisory board ... to present the need for this project in our community, and then shortly after we got the ranking,” Arentsen said. “They were blown away by the amount of community support.”

Arentsen said the overwhelming community support and the location of the park played key roles in securing the money. The park sits along a Joseph bike path that one day will connect a separate Department of Transportation path from Wallowa Lake Lodge to Joseph with the trailhead of the proposed Joseph-to-Enterprise section of the 63-mile Rail with Trail project, which remains in the planning stages.

And it didn’t hurt that Wal-

lowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts is a member of the state Parks and Recreation advisory committee.

“Susan Roberts has been a huge proponent for us for this project,” Arentsen said. “She encouraged us to go after money from the Board of Commissioners, and they gave us \$10,000 (from the state’s video lottery fund).”

Roberts said she recused herself from any discussion of the project among her fellow committee members and did not vote for it because it’s a local project. However, the other members of the committee were extremely impressed with the proposal.

“What they look for is community involvement and how many partners are associated,” Roberts said. “It was a very well put-together presentation. The Joseph project has a lot of partners and a lot of volunteers. And they went through a good process to

determine what they want to do.”

Arentsen said the total budget for the project is about \$178,000, and more than \$33,000 already had been raised by the community prior to the grant announcement. Other future grants may be in play as well.

“It’s great news for the project, obviously, and for the community as a whole,” Arentsen said. “We’ll continue to fundraise, and now we can look at other things.”

“When we did the final rankings, it was pretty exciting for me to be sitting in the room,” Roberts said. “I was really pleased for them.”

The JCP steering committee is composed of members of the city of Joseph staff, Joseph Charter School (teachers and students), the nonprofit Building Healthy Families and interested community members.

After landing the state grant, the steering committee now may consider additional features including a half-court basketball area, a sidewalk from Main Street to the park a pathway around the park and improved signage.

In January the steering committee unveiled the initial designs for the project. New York firm Play By Design LLC last year sent architect Lisa Deshano to collect input from local students on design particulars. Deshano spent about two hours meeting with children, who drew and submitted their own designs that Deshano melded together to come up with a basic idea of the playground’s form.

The construction of the playground will be a community process. For six days next April, community will work together with Play By Design and the committee to build the playground. Volunteers also will prepare food for the laborers, as well as provide child care.

Visit www.josephplayground.org to learn more about the project or to sign up as a volunteer.



Bowlby Bash Book Signing

Fred Hauptmann will be signing his new book
Damn I Shot My Horse

Saturday July 9th
from 11AM until 3PM

THE BOOKLOFT

Across from the courthouse in Enterprise
107 E. Main • 541.426.3351
always open at www.bookloftoregon.com • bookloft@eoni.com

Mosquitoes & Moths

Karen Antell, PhD • Professor of Biology, EOU

Wed, July 13th • 7pm
Mosquitoes:
Love 'em or hate 'em?

- they have unique and interesting natural history
- they are important species in native wetlands
- they breed profusely and can transmit diseases
- can we find a way to live with mosquitoes?

Thurs, July 14th • 9pm
Nothing Night

If you like bugs and staying up late, this event is for you. This activity should be fun for all ages, and children and adults are welcome to come ready for bed in their jammies. Fairy wings and antennae are optional. **Limited to 20 people**
Call 541-263-1663 or come in to sign up.

Wallowology!

Natural History Discovery Center
508 N. Main • Joseph • Wed - Sun • 10am-3pm • wallowology.org