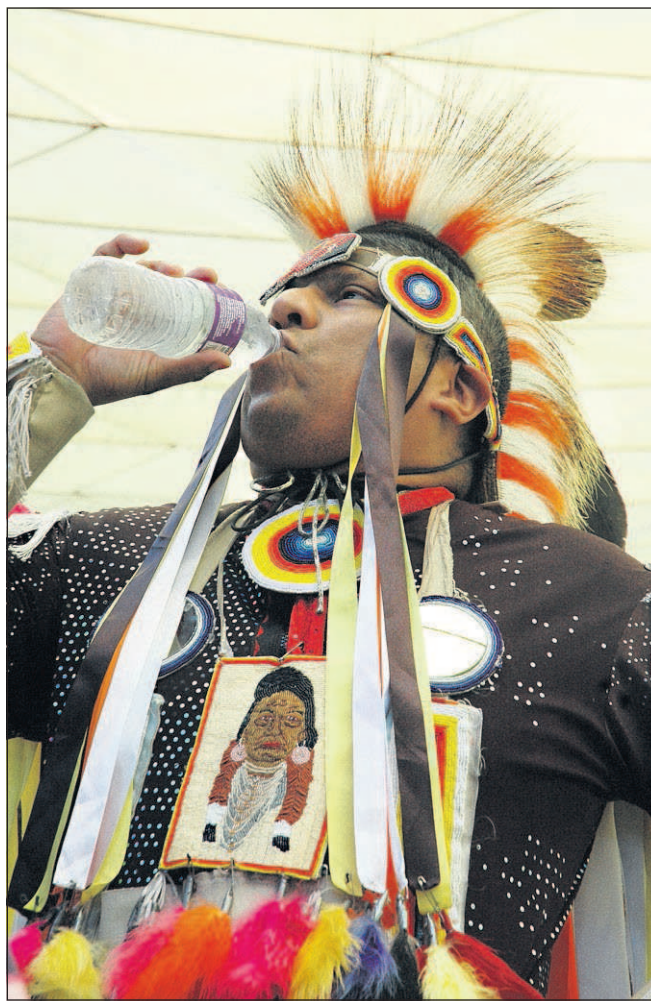


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A senior woman in full regalia prepares to compete at the 2016 Tamkaliks Pow Wow.



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They took a lot of ribbing from the younger dancers when they took a water break between dances, but the senior dancers put on an amazing show at the 2016 Tamkaliks Pow Wow.

Color, skill, friendship on display at Tamkaliks

Annual event and ceremonies celebrate tribe traditions

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The 26th Annual Tamkaliks Pow Wow and Friendship Feast in Wallowa has ended and everyone has gone home happy.

It was a laid-back and comfortable experience, with spirited dancing, singing and drumming interspersed with heartfelt traditional ceremonies and plenty of traditional food to go around for the feast. Tribes provided the elk, buffalo and salmon, and friends brought in many side dishes for the free meal.

Although the new longhouse on the Homeland Project Property in Wallowa is not yet finished and open for tours, Native Americans enjoyed a morning meeting there.

“Words can’t describe the feeling we had this morning in the longhouse,” said Bill Timentwah of Nespelem, Wash. “We were thinking of the celebrations we will have for first salmon, first kill and, for some, a first marriage.”

The tribal groups also enjoyed the new bridges, which are installed on the grounds of the Homeland Project, making river crossings easier.

Emcees Thomas Morningowl and Fred Hill kept the crowd laughing, gently teasing entrants who are well known by this time and making the non-natives feel welcome and well-informed. Young dancers also ribbed the Senior Men’s Traditional Dancers when they paused between the two dance songs to rehydrate. The Senior Men took it all with a smile. When they completed their second dance they began chanting for “more, more, more” drumming. The mock competition made for much laughter all around and more teasing from Hill and Morningowl.

The camaraderie was palpable. Every competition ended with the participants giving each other high-fives at the end of the dance.

This year attendees witnessed the falling of an eagle feather, which called for a cessation of all celebrations while the feather was honored as an emblem of a fallen warrior and a military vets, both male and female, were chosen from attendees to be honored with gifts as tokens of appreciation for their service.

Other honorees throughout the event included local contractors Erik Lockhart and Kirk Skovlin, both of whom worked on the longhouse.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Shawl dancers wait for the drummers and singers to begin.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

A striking shawl makes another appearance at the Shawl Dance.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Steven Rueben of Kooskai, Idaho, teaches his grandson Carson Funderburg, 4, to dance.

Council seats up for grabs

Few applying for open city positions

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Four new mayors in Wallowa County in the same year? It’s unlikely but certainly possible as voters in the county’s four largest towns — Enterprise, Joseph, Lostine and Wallowa — have mayors whose terms end this year.

City clerks report that there are few takers so far.

The towns are all seeking applicants for various positions and report that anyone interested in running for office must pick up their applications at city hall and submit them before Aug. 30. City clerks will deliver completed applications to the county clerk on the 30th.

So far only a few seats county-wide have volunteers willing to claim them.

Wallowa is seeing the best result. Mayor Vikki Knifong, who has served a pair of two-year terms, is willing to serve for another two.

Wallowa City Councilor Garret Lowe also is willing to come back for another four years. One new volunteer, Shawn Sealey, has applied for the seat being vacated by Councilor Lisa Mahon, who will not be running for re-election, according to City Recorder Carol Long.

The very structure of city council is a question mark in Lostine. Mayor Krag Norton is finishing out his two-year term and “will most likely” run again, according to City Clerk Jodi Burgess. However, Norton has not filed his intent at this point. Councilor Hub April’s four-year term also is up, and again, no formal word on whether he will apply again and no new applications at this point.

There seem to be possible candidates for positions in Enterprise. Mayor Steve Lear’s two-year term is up this year and although he has not yet decided if he will run

again, several applications for the position have been handed out by city staff and former councilor George Hill has submitted his application for the job.

Lear will finish out his term, he said, despite having leased his restaurant and announcing plans to spend more time with grandchildren in Lewiston.

“We still have our apartment here,” Lear said. “I’ll still be here to finish my term.”

Three open council seats — those of Larry Christman, Bill Coffin and Stacey Karvoski — have not drawn formal applicants. Those finishing out their four-year terms have not indicated whether they will return, nor have any applications from new candidates been submitted.

Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands, who has served two terms, has not yet formally applied for a third.

Three Joseph council positions also are open next year. So far only Councilor George Ballard has indicated he is willing to return. Councilor Tyler Evans, who was appointed in August of 2015 to finish out Liza Butts’ term, has not indicated whether he will return, nor has Councilor Sharon Newell. City staff recently reported that no one has requested application packets for any open position so far.

Thank You

We, Kenneth Elwyn Powers’s family, wish to extend our most sincere gratitude to those who attended his service and to those who’ve extended caring thoughts and prayers. We wish to acknowledge the special comfort and care provided by Elwyn’s doctors and staff at Wallowa Memorial Hospital.

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