

More national recognition for African American loggers of Wallowa County

Gwen Trice, Maxville Center showered with recognition and opportunities

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Gwen Trice, director of Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, just returned from giving a speech at the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) Conference in Riverside, Calif., with yet more good news for the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center.

The Smithsonian Institution, in conjunction with the AAAM, invited Trice to be part of a panel on “Saving Black Spaces and Places.” She was recommended by one of the curators of a Seattle museum.

“This was the first time the conference came to the West Coast in 20 years,” Trice said. “I didn’t want to miss this opportunity.”

Her presentation was on “Connecting in the rural landscape and building non-tradi-

tional networks.” It’s an academic title for a speech about how Maxville’s African American loggers fit into Wallowa society at a time when it was illegal for them to even live in the state of Oregon.

“What I told the audience was that I couldn’t begin to tell the story until I got the perspectives of all people involved in that history,” Trice said.

Because Wallowa County is very remote and most histories are taken from more urban settings “none of them had ever heard of black loggers,” Trice said. “It helped me see the importance of our work.”

Trice said she piqued the interest of the audience through the theme of “inclusion” in finding the story.

“It was a great experience, beginning to look at our diverse community — and it’s not always visible by the color



Courtesy photo
Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center Director Gwen Trice strikes a playful pose in front of an artwork at the Association of African American Museums earlier this month in Riverside, Calif.

of one’s skin.”

While Trice was at the conference she was asked to contribute to the Smithsonian by Paul Gardullo Museum Curator. National Museum of African American History and Culture Smithsonian Institution Capital Gallery.

Trice applied for a special training through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), which was represented in a poster session at the con-

ference through several new certified professionals and students.

“Their conversations and passion for preservation and interpretation was evident,” Trice said. “I immediately wanted the training. The presentations were phenomenal. The training provided flawless delivery of story telling.”

Maxville Gathering

The premier event for the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center is the Maxville Gathering, held this year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Tamkaliks Grounds, also known as the Nez Perce Homeland Site, east of Wallowa. The event will feature historical presentations, demonstrations of logging skills, contests for loggers of all talent levels from beginner to expert, games on the grass for children, live music, a roast pig and more. Admission costs \$5 for an individual, \$10 per family or \$15 for a group.



Scot Heisel/Chieftain
Some of the staff and management team that recently completed Guest Service Gold hospitality training.

Lodge staff completes elite guest service training

Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Lake Lodge managers and staff recently completed Guest Service Gold hospitality training, a program developed by the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute and endorsed by the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association.

The week-long training teaches how to achieve a new standard of exceptional service while encouraging staff to “Go for the Gold” when it comes to providing service above and beyond guests’ expectations.

“Guest Service Gold focuses on the seven key elements required to consistently deliver the very highest

levels of guest service on an ongoing basis,” according to the Guest Service Gold website. “Providing guest service that goes above and beyond the typical should never have a start or an end. It should come from a desire to provide guest with the best a property has to offer. The seven elements are: Authenticity, Intuition, Empathy, Champion, Delight, Delivery and Initiative.”

Fourteen staff members and three members of the management team — Sondra Lozier, James Monteith and Heather Tyreman — completed the training. All those who enrolled, completed the course and passed the AHLEI exams are now certified guest service professionals.

Carman Ranch recognized as century farm

Wallowa County Chieftain

Carman Ranch of Wallowa has been named one of six properties honored this year as an Oregon Century Farm or Ranch.

Kent Carman, Cory Carman Flynn and Dave Flynn make up Carman Ranch LLC and are the current owners and operators. Kent and Cory Carman are descendants of founder Jacob

Weinhard. Dave Flynn is Cory’s husband.

Weinhard founded the ranch in 1913 with the purchase of 2,500 acres. An additional 40 acres were added in 1915.

Early crops included wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa, cattle and pigs. In the early 1970s this changed to wheat, cattle and hay.

The ranch currently raises cattle and pigs and no longer

raises wheat.

An annual awards ceremony will take place at the Oregon State Fair in Salem and will also include awards for Sesqui-centennial Farms and Ranches. The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27 in the Picnic Grove Boots N’ Brew Area.

The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program launched in 1958 to honor farm and ranch

families with century-long connections to the land and to educated Oregonians on the importance of agriculture in the past and ongoing history of the state.

Award winners receive a certificate signed by the governor and the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Historic roadside signs are imprinted with the founder’s name and the year the ranch or farm was established.

VACCINE

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the Zika virus and other emerging diseases, just as in the past people looked for vaccines for polio, measles, mumps, rubella and smallpox.

Many of the vaccinations we receive in this country are for “childhood illnesses.” Despite the inoffensive title, these illnesses can be quite serious or even deadly, especially for the very young, the elderly or those with immune systems compromised by diabetes, cancer, lung diseases or other illnesses. Many people currently live with long-term effects of diseases acquired in childhood — some of which, like polio, have been largely eradicated thanks

to immunizations.

Vaccinations also are important in protecting those who can’t be immunized because of medical reasons. Community immunity or “herd immunity” helps protect these individuals by containing the spread of diseases.

Add this one extra item to that back-to-school list. Make sure your child is fully immunized. While you’re at it, check to see if your own immunizations are all up to date. Immunity to many diseases, such as whooping cough and tetanus, can dissipate over time, and the flu vaccine is different each year.

There is good news with this back-to-school item, though. Recommended vaccinations are available as a preventive health service through Market-

place plans, so this won’t add to your back-to-school expenses. Just be sure to follow your plan’s guidance on where you should get your vaccinations to be sure the cost is covered.

The state of Oregon provides excellent resources for parents, including an immunization requirements flier for the 2016-2017 School Year in English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese; FAQs for parents;

and Oregon Immunization Data and Reports, which allow you to see how your county stacks up on immunizations.

Every child (and parent) should have a safe and healthy school year. Immunizations are an easy way to start out at the head of the class.

Susan Johnson is regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region 10.

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