



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



PICTURE perfect

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

New additions help spark another successful Festival of Arts

A somewhat rainy weekend didn't stop the steady stream of art aficionados that poured into the 34th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts last weekend in Joseph.

Artists from as far away as San Diego had work on display in the art show that included more than a half-dozen mediums of art.

First-year festival director Jeff Costello said he was pleased with the show's success. He said he received many positive comments about the event's new additions, including the En Plein Air competition, which pulled in 15 artists. En plein air refers to "open-air" painting in the outdoors with the artist's subject in plain sight. All of the finished en plein air pieces were on display at the Joseph Center during the festival, and a handful of them sold.

"We were so encouraged by the participation and interest level that we are considering ways to expand that component of the Festival of Arts for next year," Costello said. "The autumn colors beginning to change just reinforced that this is the ideal timing and location for such an event."

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Steve Tool/Chieftain
This bas-relief "Harvest," by local artist Tim Norman, won the "Best in Show" award at the 34th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Wallowa Lake Village artist Sam Collette works diligently on his en plein air painting Thursday during the Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts in Joseph.

Who should pay to protect land?

Fire-protection fee could be added to 152,000 Wallowa County acres previously untaxed

By Scot Heisel
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County's so-called fire protection "donut hole" — interior land vulnerable to fire but not currently assessed a fire protection fee — may be a thing of the past starting in 2017.

State forest officials, county representatives and local fire chiefs held meetings last week in Flora and Enterprise to announce a proposal to officially place all non-federal land in the county that isn't within city limits or currently being farmed under the protection of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

A recent survey identified about 152,000 acres of grassland within the county that is not being assessed a tax for state fire protection but nonetheless requires state and municipal resources when fires occur. State and local fire officials argue that because of the risk of a catastrophic event, such fires can't simply be left to burn — they will be suppressed regardless of whether the landowner is paying for fire protection.

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Plan to rebrand Wallowa emerges

Moving train station from Lostine to Wallowa among first steps in major revitalization effort

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The city of Wallowa is tired of being known as "the armpit of the county."

"We're actually the gateway to the county," said Wallowa businessman and City Councilor Garrett Lowe. "But we've got to revitalize this city or it will die."

With that end in view, Lowe asked Wallowa residents if they would be willing to begin a "visioning process" about revitalizing the city — the response was overwhelmingly positive.

Last Thursday a core group of citizens met at Wallowa City Hall to learn that their group had a name and an Internet address — the Wallowa Hometown Project at Wallowahometown.org.



Lowe

5 good reasons to love Alpenfest

Dancing, beer and clothes just a few of the ways to have fun

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Gemütlichkeit! God bless you. Okay, that's a pun that been used to death. Wallowa County residents pretty much know that Gemütlichkeit translates as an atmosphere of warmth, fellowship and good cheer.

And it is one of the reasons so many people enjoy the upcoming Alpenfest, which begins Thursday and runs through Sunday at the Edelweiss Inn at the foot of the Tram at Wallowa Lake. A complete Alpenfest schedule is available at oregonalpenfest.blogspot.com.



Chieftain Archives

A group of ladies in traditional dress for Oregon's Alpenfest.

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