

72ND CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS COURT



Courtesy of Angelika U. Dietrich  
The 72nd Chief Joseph Days court was announced Aug. 21. From left: Maddi Tracy-Mallory, a junior at Joseph Charter School; Haley Miller, a sophomore at Joseph Charter School; and Caitlin Robb, a senior at Wallowa High School. The 72nd Chief Joseph Days queen will be crowned in April.

# PPL grant mixes it up for Enterprise high class

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Let the cake-making begin.

A grant from Pacific Power and Light has allowed the purchase of four Kitchen Aid Artisan stainless steel mixers and a Viking Husqvarna sewing machine for Enterprise High School's Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) class.

"The kids are always excited about new stuff," said teacher Tamarah Duncan. "They've certainly noticed the new mixers."

Cindi Aschenbrenner wrote the grant for the Enterprise Education Foundation with the FACS class specifically in mind.

"Cindi asked if there was any need and I told her our Kitchen Aids were from 1973 and sometimes worked sporadically," Duncan said. She then shopped for the best



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Jacob Strampe figures out the mechanics of the newest tool in the Family and Consumer Sciences class at EHS.

buy on the items she needed and submitted her findings to Aschenbrenner and PPL met the costs: \$1,500.

Now the FACS class is ready to make an apron on the sewing machine and whip up a few cakes with the new

# Ocean conditions portend uncertain winter weather across West

By Tim Hearden  
Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — Weather forecasters are backing off their earlier prediction that La Nina atmospheric conditions would drive weather patterns this fall and winter.

That means all bets are off when it comes to how — and how many — storms will approach the West Coast, advises Michelle Mead, a National Weather Service warning coordinator.

The federal Climate Prediction Center had issued a "watch" for La Niña — a

mixture of atmospheric and ocean surface temperatures that tends to steer storms toward the Pacific Northwest and Northern California.

But the center abandoned the La Niña watch as ocean surface temperatures dropped to neutral, portending neutral oceanic conditions that don't influence storms in a particular direction as they approach the coast.

"(T)here are no strong atmospheric signals to indicate strong correlations to winter conditions," Mead said in an email.

She said people can "get

the dart board out" as winter outlooks show equal chances of above-, near- or below-normal precipitation throughout virtually the entire West.

For the Central Valley and much of the West, an early-season reprieve in the form of ample rainfall may be elusive. From December through April, the Climate Prediction Center sees a good chance of wetter-than-normal conditions only in parts of the inland Northwest, including Eastern Washington, north-eastern Oregon and northern and central Idaho.

A drier-than-normal win-

ter is expected in Southern California, while the rest of the West could go either way, according to the center's long-range models.

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook expects the drought to persist in most of California and in Eastern Oregon through Dec. 31. The U.S. Drought Monitor still shows abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought throughout the West, with Central California still rated as in extreme or exceptional drought.

For the Golden State, a return to neutral oceanic condi-

tions after a year-long El Niño could mean more dry winters after one good-but-not-great precipitation season in many areas.

As the water year draws to a close, Redding's 40.49 inches of rainfall for the year topped its average of 34.32 annual inches, and more rain in the area was possible late this week, according to the National Weather Service. Fresno's 14.29 inches since last Oct. 1 is above its normal annual rainfall total of 11.4 inches.

But Sacramento will likely finish on Sept. 30 with slight-

ly below-average precipitation, with 16.19 inches for the season compared to its normal 18.37 inches, according to the weather service.

The season was largely capped off with big storms in March that filled Northern California reservoirs and enabled the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to give full water allocations to Northern California farms. But in a majority of past years when sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific remained mostly average, California's rain and snow totals were below normal, Mead noted.

# Uptmor a voice for small schools on state boards

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa School Superintendent Bret Uptmor is broadening his influence and representing smaller schools with service on two state boards.

He has been serving on the Accountability Recording Advisory Committee for about 18 months. That board reports to the Oregon Department of Education and was mandated by the legislature to work on ways to hold schools

accountable for student success and show their work. It also makes recommendations on appeals of information found in school report cards.

A recording issue, for instance, would be if a school has a 90 percent graduation rate on their report card because 10 percent of the class opted out of the testing. This is not accurate recording. The graduation rate may be much higher, and the recording rules should be changed to reflect the accurate number.

An example of an appeal would be one that Wallowa itself might make — the rules say that if a school has less than 40 graduates in a two-year span the graduation rate may not be considered in your school report card. A school's graduation rate will show as zero.

Because of his experience with smaller schools, Uptmor was able to argue for a change in that rule.

"I had a deep interest in being on the committee because I could see small schools were not equitably recognized," he said.

While on the board for Accountability Recording, Uptmor also heard about a work committee that meets to determine how the state determines a school's accountability with regard to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The work committee met for three months and their recommendation was that the ODE move toward including a dashboard presentation on the report cards rather than only the basic statistics, so that a parent could look at the document and see how their



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Wallowa School Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

school was doing in a broader, more narrative way.

"They could, for instance, read information on how their school was doing in maintaining a 'school climate' conducive to learning," Uptmor said. "The school climate would include information on absences, disciplinary issues, dropouts and more."

Currently, Uptmor said, "when you're telling parents in a two-page summary how their school is doing, they can't look (at those rows of numbers) and say, 'This school is doing good' or 'I like how they're handling the math problem.'"

# New water stations popular in schools

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

In just one month of use, the water bottle filling stations in Wallowa Elementary and Wallowa High School have saved the equivalent of 800 water bottles, according to Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

Not only is that better for the environment, but it's better for the kids, who are clearly drinking more water.

The water stations, which include a regular drinking fountain, were entirely paid for through a Soroptimist grant in the amount of \$3,140. The grant covered the purchase and installation of two stations as well as two backup filters.

Ann Bloom, nutrition education program assistant at the Wallowa County Ex-



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Kody Salmon tests the coolness of the water coming out of the new bottle-filling station at Wallowa Elementary School.

tension Service, wrote for the grant on behalf of the school.

"I know of other places that have gotten these and they say they get more use than you'd expect," Uptmor said. "I know Ann was concerned about nutrition and kids drinking more water, and I think this addresses that well."

**STAY WARM** with **Rinnai**

- Reliable
- Efficient
- Innovative

**\$100 OFF!** Plus, you may qualify for MORE with rebates & tax incentives!

Offer valid thru October 31, 2016. Items vary by location and may be limited to stock on hand. Please ask a member of the Ed Staub team for more details.

**ASK US HOW!**

**Eds Ed Staub & Sons** 541-426-0320  
Energy Community Service. 201 E. Hwy 82 Enterprise, OR

**Ancient Moraines** and the Early Ice Age in the Wallows and the Pacific Northwest **FREE!**

**Dr. Ellen Morris Bishop**  
geologist-naturalist-writer-photographer

**Evening Presentation**  
Thursday, Sept 22nd • 7pm

How—and how long ago—did the Ice Age (Pleistocene) start? What features did its glaciers and floods produce here? What lived here during the Pleistocene? And what mysteries are left to solve?

**Moraine Field Trip**  
Friday, Sept 23rd • 9am - noon

The most ancient moraines of the Wallows are un-dated, but may be more than a million years old. Our walk will explore the geology of these older features, and locate erratics for Oregon State University to determine an age through Be10 dating.

Meet at Wallowology at 9am. Limit 10 people. Pre-register at 541-263-1663 or come into Wallowology. Sorry no dogs or collecting.

**Wallowology!**

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

Serving **918 entrepreneurs** creating **new jobs** since **2001**

**Wallowa BUSINESS**

Supports Free and Confidential Business Counseling and Services through Blue Mountain Community College **Wallowa County Small Business Development Center**

**Rick Bombaci**, Small Business Advisor

To begin your free and confidential business consultation contact Rick at **541-426-9095**

Wallowa Business is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation

Are you feeling stressed and overwhelmed?  
Do you feel hopeless or has the joy gone out of your life?  
Are you struggling to make your marriage work?  
**I can help!**  
A few sessions can make a big difference.

**Jeff Harman, MA., LPC**  
Professional Counseling In A Private Setting

**www.jharmancounseling.com**

To schedule an appointment call Jeff Harman (541) 426-3067  
Preferred Provider for Regence Blue Cross, ODS, Cascade Centers and many other private insurance and employee assistance programs.

**Weather Forecast** **wu**  
Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
Sept. 22	57	40	Mostly cloudy
Sept. 23	59	38	Partly cloudy
Sept. 24	67	42	Clear
Sept. 25	72	47	Clear
Sept. 26	76	45	Clear
Sept. 27	67	39	Clear

**Phases of the moon**

Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 9	Oct. 16
Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon

**WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE AND SUNSET SEPT. 21-27**  
(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27
Rise: 6:36	Rise: 6:37	Rise: 6:38	Rise: 6:39	Rise: 6:41	Rise: 6:42	Rise: 6:43
Set: 6:47	Set: 6:45	Set: 6:43	Set: 6:42	Set: 6:40	Set: 6:38	Set: 6:36