

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Magazine spotlights county

Wallowa County made the Big Time, again. The September issue of Sunset magazine features Wallowa Lake on the cover along with the headline “Secret Lake Escape: the Tiny Oregon Town on the Verge of Discovery.”

Feelings about such fame are mixed in the county. It’s good for business to be noticed and complimented — but we knew what we had here all along. It’s good when the writer “gets” the unique mix of art/music/tourism and agricul-



BIZ BUZZ
Kathleen Ellyn

ture that is Wallowa County, but then part of what makes a Wallowa County is that love of the high lonesome, the small town, the shared values of local folk.

Recreation for tourists helps keep the county afloat, and Wallowa County is friendly toward its tourists and enjoys sharing talents and

amenities at the various festivals. But a look at local winter events shows bedrock county values: those events, attended mostly by locals, are supported by an army of volunteers, make enough money to put on the event the following year, and nobody is getting rich in dollars — just rich in cultural experiences.

The events that make a surprising amount of money are the benefits for schools and scholarships, the hospital and the NRA.

Todd Nash, head honcho at Marr Flat Cattle Company and soon-to-

be county commissioner, admitted he heard mixed reviews throughout the county. He doesn’t want to say much, given his daughter is mentioned in the article, but he worries that we’ll become like Jackson Hole, Wyoming, if we keep growing.

His response is typical and good politics, too. For many Wallowa Countians, good press for the county goes in the good news and bad news columns simultaneously.

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TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

ODFW says unsecured food, garbage led to removal of two black bears each from Lostine and Wallowa Lake

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Bear complaints from Wallowa Lake and members of a homeowners association in the Lostine River corridor have resulted in the death of four black bears this year, according to Mike Hansen of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who put down the bears. Hansen said the killing of bears is preventable, for the most part.

The ODFW no longer attempts to relocate bears because they either make their way back to the original trouble area or they become problems in their new area, according to Hansen.

“If a bear becomes enough of a problem that we need to catch it, then we’re directed to kill it,” Hansen said.

Hansen first received complaints from the head of Wallowa Lake on June 20 and July 3. Those complaints revolved around bears getting into trash cans.



Stock photo

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has taken lethal action against four Black Bears in Wallowa County this year because of complaints of their intrusion into human habitations.

“Securing your garbage against bear access is a big part of it,” he said. “If you take the food away, they’ll go away.”

Hansen said some people simply didn’t want to go to the expense or trouble to obtain bear-proof containers or keep trash in a garage or other secure location. Two bears were put down in response to the complaints at the lake.

In a second string of complaints, a member of the High Lostine Homeowners Association, a subdivision consisting of about 40 small-acreage lots, filed a complaint Aug. 25, claiming a bear had attacked his horse and that the horse had to be put down.

The homeowner did not provide any evidence supporting his claim.

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DEALING WITH BEARS

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Mike Hansen has a few tips to help homeowners avoid bear interactions and offers his suggestions for what actions to take in an unavoidable bear encounter.

• Feeding other wildlife: With birds, wait until the bears are hibernating or put the feeder high enough that bears can’t get to it. Consider hanging a catch container under the feeder so that the feed does not fall to the ground and entice bears into the area.

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Katy Nesbitt/For Capital Press

Mary Hawkins raises Cornish cross chickens on her family’s farm in Wallowa County. This month she opened a processing plant, the first ODA-licensed facility in Eastern Oregon.

Chicken plant rises in Wallowa

New ODA rules open door for small processing facility

By Katy Nesbitt
For EO Media Group

Following a growing national trend, state licensing is making it easier for small farms to bring locally raised chickens to market, and Mary Hawkins is ready to give it a go.

As of Sept. 1, Hawkins Sisters Ranch in Wallowa is the only Oregon Department of Agriculture processing facility in Eastern Oregon. ODA-licensed facilities are exempt from FDA regulations and allow up to 20,000 chickens to be processed a year.

Hawkins said she and her sisters moved with their mother to Portland when they were in elementary school and spent summers on the farm. She started raising chickens on her own not long after she graduated from Smith College.

“I came straight home after college, had various jobs and raised and sold chickens,” Hawkins said.

After a few years she said she took what she called a “walkabout”; she left Eastern Oregon and worked on farms in New York. While raising and preserving food was still the norm back home, it was becoming a movement across the country in the late 2000s.

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Brown, Pierce clash on rural issues

By Claire Withycombe
Capital Bureau

BEND — In their first public sparring, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Republican gubernatorial candidate Dr. William “Bud” Pierce went head to head on three topics: the economy, land use and the “urban-rural divide.”

The debate was intended to focus on rural Oregon.

Although the candidates agreed that rural communities needed a say in land use issues, better access to healthcare and more jobs, they disagreed on taxes and state expenditures.

“We cannot cut our way toward a better Oregon,” Brown said, summarizing a key difference in messaging between the two campaigns.

Brown reiterated her support for Ballot Measure 97, the proposed tax on certain corporate gross sales receipts,



Pamplin Media Group

GOP candidate Bud Pierce, in his first debate with Gov. Kate Brown Saturday, said prosperous rural economies would have ripple effects in areas such as education and healthcare.

saying that additional investment was needed in basic services, while Pierce said more broadly that promoting prosperous rural economies would have rip-



EO Media Group

Saturday Gov. Kate Brown, in her first debate with challenger Bud Pierce, defended her support for Measure 97, a corporate gross receipts tax that will raise \$3 billion a year.

ple effects in areas such as education and healthcare.

In her opening statement, Brown said her vision for the state encompassed im-

“We cannot cut our way toward a better Oregon.”

Gov. Kate Brown

“All the great words in the world from the governor will not provide affordable insurance.”

Bud Pierce

proving educational outcomes, investing in infrastructure and preserving “the beauty and bounty of Oregon.”

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