



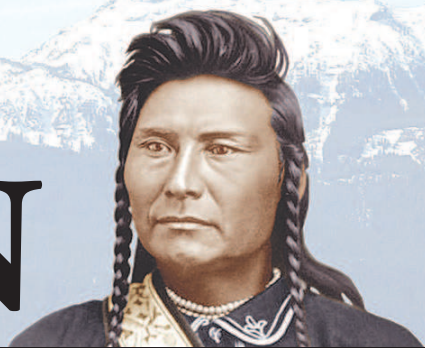
WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

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THE NEW FACE OF AG

“It’s one of the hardest jobs at the school.”

LES LINEGAR, 35 YEARS AS AN AG TEACHER

Educators gather in Wallowa to share ideas, technology for next wave of teachers

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Beginning agriculture teachers from Eastern Oregon schools gathered at Wallowa High School on Oct. 7 to learn how to make “the toughest teaching job at the school” a lot easier.

Wallowa was the site for the Eastern Oregon Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Consortium Ag Teacher Training in part because of the \$480,000 CTE revitalization grant Wallowa High School received in 2013 to upgrade its Agricultural Sciences and Technology program.

“We relied on the advice of our industry partners in determining what pieces of equipment to buy,” said Wallowa High ag instructor Jeremy McCulloch.

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Left to right: Chelcee Mansfield of Union High, Jeremy McCulloch of Wallowa High and an unidentified attendee.

Forum introduces candidates

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County has been fortunate this year in that candidates for all open positions except Lostine Mayor have stepped forward.

“I believe in the process and I think it’s great we have people

who are willing to serve in public office,” said Michele Young, city administrator for Enterprise. “It’s volunteer and it takes a lot of time.”

On Thursday the public had an opportunity to meet some of these candidates and put questions to them.

Approximately 30 members of

the public took advantage of that opportunity and attended the candidates forum organized by Enterprise Chapter of Rotary International.

About 30 others were Rotary members who were putting on the event and candidates for various positions throughout the county, in-

cluding Sheriff Steve Rogers, who is running unopposed. Sen. Bill Hansell, Rep. Greg Barretto, Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands, County Commissioner Susan Roberts and Commissioner-elect Todd Nash also attended.

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Lender opening doors for local projects

Innovative firm played key role in Wallowa Lake Lodge agreement

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

A unique regional lender that played a key role in the Wallowa Lake Lodge acquisition last spring recently opened a new office in Walla Walla.

Craft3, a nonprofit community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), is hosting an open house Oct. 20 at its new office at 103 E. Main St. in Walla Walla that will serve Eastern Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Craft3 works to support businesses, nonprofits and individuals with barriers to traditional lending. Their goal is to support community and ecological projects and they are well known for funding small, family businesses, agriculture, value-added food processing and manufacturing, and retail and tourism projects.

In the case of the Wallowa Lake Lodge, a conservation loan from Craft3 was used as a bridge loan to allow the newly created Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC to purchase and preserve the nearly 100-year-old lodge and surrounding nine acres before the sales deadline.

A portion of the money needed for the \$2.75 million purchase was intended to come from selling off some of the surrounding land to a group interested in conservation of the wetlands and fisheries. The LLC group was in conversation with the Nez Perce tribe on that, but no finalized plans had been made, which triggered the need for a bridge loan.

The configuration of the loan was unusual, said Craft3 Senior Business Lender Brad Hunter.

“Traditionally we work with land trusts, but this was an opportunity to do something with a newly formed community investment group,” Hunter said. “It was almost like lending to a start-up.”

From the point of view of making a conservation loan, several factors gave Hunter confidence that the loan would be paid back: the land did have a high conservation value and, as mentioned, conservation plans already were under discussion with the Nez Perce Tribe.

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Friends of NRA banquet raises \$100,000

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Few people who attend the Wallowa County Friends of NRA Auction and Banquet on Saturday would describe themselves as “gun people.”

They will, however, wax sentimental about their love of the family traditions around hunting, their rural values and the sensibility of carrying a gun in remote areas, as well as proper gun-use training as handed down by grandparents.

And they’ll strongly defend their Second Amendment rights.

Given the solid rural backgrounds of most attendees, it

may be no surprise that the Wallowa County event sells out year after year — this year in just 10 days. Or that attendees spent \$18,320 on various raffles this year.

Or that 64 guns were awarded as prizes. But what pleases organizers every year is the tremendous financial success of the event given the small population of the county.

In 2014 the event grossed \$82,000. That number jumped to \$114,000 in 2015, and this year it grossed close to \$100,000. A good chunk of that money comes back to the county.

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers (unofficially) advises a winner on the uses and benefits of various firearms on the “Wall of Guns.” Winners of guns from the wall could choose the gun that best fit their needs.

