



Photo contributed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

First Day Hikes will be held New Year's Day in 21 state parks across Oregon, including Cottonwood Canyon State Park.

State parks will kick 2017 off with First Day hikes

Wallowa County Chieftain

Celebrate New Year's Day in the great outdoors with one of 21 First Day Hikes scheduled at state parks across Oregon, including Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area and Cottonwood Canyon State Park in Eastern Oregon.

America's State Parks and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring First Day Hikes at participating parks, where rangers or volunteers will lead fun and educational outings for people of all ages.

"This is us helping people have a little fun and remember your parks are there for

you any time of year," said Lisa Sumption, director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. "Bundle up and enjoy your first walk of the year with a state park ranger."

Day-use parking fees will be waived for all visitors participating in one of the First Day Hikes. Hikers should plan for inclement weather, dress appropriately and bring binoculars for wildlife viewing.

At Emigrant Springs, visitors will gather at 11 a.m. for a snowshoe hike beginning at the Oregon Trail kiosk west of the park entrance. Emigrant Springs is located at the summit of the Blue Mountains, near Meacham off Interstate 84.

At Cottonwood Canyon, park manager Tom Peterson will lead a hike down the Pinnacles Trail along the John Day River. The trail runs easy to moderate, Peterson said, though he expects temperatures for the day will be at or below freezing.

Peterson said he will discuss historic settlements of the area, and hikers could see wildlife including osprey, river otters, bighorn sheep and deer. Cottonwood Canyon is located on Highway 206 between Condon and Wasco.

For more information on other hikes around the state, visit the Oregon State Parks website at www.oregonstateparks.org.

A horse packer named Nora

By J.R. Groupe

For the Wallowa County Chieftain

Nora Hawkins grew up in Wallowa County in a packing family. Her father, Meryl, began packing with horses and mules as a high school student for Arnold Shaffer at Lapover Pack Station on the Lostine River.

Her mother's father owned and operated Red's Horse Ranch. His name was Red Higgins and he was a colorful and respected operator. I know — I used to see him on occasion. Nora's mother knew her way around a diamond hitch, a mantie pack and all other aspects of running a dude ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Meryl Hawkins bought Lapover Pack Station as a young couple. Their three daughters grew up in the business and learned it well. As young ladies they spread their wings and hired on with Ed Millar at Wallowa Lake Pack Station. In the 1990s Barry Cox bought out their parents and changed the name to Del Sol Wilderness Adventures. All three girls worked for him at times.

Growing up in La Grande and beginning packing as a teenager, I have heard the legends of Meryl Hawkins for my whole life. Though our paths never crossed it was fun interviewing him on the phone recently. I was able to penetrate his modest persona to learn a few facts of how legends are initiated. He began packing alone as a junior high student. As a very young man he packed for the concession at Wallowa Lake, Troy, Red's Horse Ranch and Lapover. He was able to buy out Arnold Shaffer at around 22 years of age and ran Lapover Pack Station for a couple of decades.

While at Lapover, life could be colorful. Meryl generally ran about 50 horses to accomplish the wide variety of outfitter chores. Notable jobs included hauling fire hoses, powder and dynamite and packing 22-foot-long steel re-bar. The re-bar was for the headgate at Minam Lake,



Submitted by John Groupe

Nora Hawkins saddles a horse this summer before leading a group into the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

which is still operational.

He had a high-profile neighbor who often helped with packing. One time Meryl was short-handed so the neighbor anonymously packed a group into Minam Lake. Successfully completing the trip, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas was beaming with pride at his \$5 tip.

I ran into Nora a few days ago while she was on the job with Del Sol. She was adjusting saddles for ten dudes and instructing them on basic horsemanship. Her demeanor was efficient, reassuring and comforting to the bewildered dudes. We saw her the next day with several of her pupils enjoying a ride through the

Lakes Basin of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. "Classy in the saddle" would be overblown but nonetheless they looked relaxed and were enjoying the magnificent scenery. Obviously good students except the two with mosquito nets covering their heads.

Nora and her coworkers spend most of their time wrangling livestock, transporting them to trailheads and packing equipment and supplies into and out of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Their job description includes some trail work and setting up camps, and it all must be done rain or shine.

Nora used this mode of employment to put herself through college. She has earned a three-year Bachelor of Science degree as a licensed midwife. Having just completed a two-year internship, she will soon enter the workforce in western Oregon. In a couple years she plans to return to the county she loves and hang up her own shingle.

Like all young people, she had to try a couple of things. One summer she hired on as a packer in Alaska. Another time she went to the Antarctic. On that trip she became acquainted with and was hired as a model by Duluth Trading Company. They use only real working people as models for their outdoor wear. Nora is one of about a dozen ladies who promote their dry goods. They travel to where she is working and photograph her in Duluth jeans, flannel shirts and belts. She has been on their payroll for five years.

While Duluth Trading Company is most likely not going to get into midwife apparel, they will still use Nora's recreational packing and ranch work for backdrops. It is enjoyable seeing her in catalogs and on the internet promoting Duluth products. Her career as a Wallowa County midwife and an international real working model will be fun to watch.

John Groupe is a retired veterinarian and author.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On January 24th, 2016, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office, 104 W Greenwood Street, Enterprise, OR 97828, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 207 NW Second Street, Enterprise, OR 97828. The court case number is 16-05-14704, where Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is the plaintiff, and Kevin E. O'Malley; Priscilla O'Malley; and Persons or Parties Unknown claiming any right, title, lien, or interest in the property described in the Complaint herein are the defendants. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Wallowa County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: www.oregonsheriffssales.org

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On 24th day of January, 2017 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Wallowa County Justice Center, 104 W Greenwood Street, in the City of Enterprise, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 59936 River Canyon Road, Imnaha, OR 97842. The Wallowa County Circuit Court case number is 15-04-14548 where JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association is the plaintiff, and Norma J. Hilty, Individually and as Constructive Trustee of the Estate of David E. Hilty; Unknown Heirs of David E. Hilty; and Parties in Possession are the defendants. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Wallowa County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: www.oregonsheriffssales.org

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BID

Northeast Oregon Housing Authority will accept sealed bid proposals until 3:00 PM Pacific Standard Time January 25, 2017 for the performance of annual audits for fiscal years ending 3/31/17 and 3/31/18. Interested IFAs who meet standards specified in the Standards for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions may obtain complete proposal specifications from Dale Inslee, at NEOHA's office, 2608 May Lane, P. O. Box 3357, La Grande, OR 97850 or phone 541-963-5360 extension 22.

(Minority- and/or women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond)

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Wallowa County CHIEFTAIN

SCOREBOARD

DEC. 27-29
Boys and girls basketball
La Grande Optimist Tourney, Wallowa boys and girls competing

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
Girls basketball
Joseph at Damascus Christian, 11 a.m.
Boys basketball

Joseph at Damascus Christian, 12:30 p.m.

DEC. 29-DEC. 30
Girls basketball
Les Schwab Shootout, Pendleton
Enterprise opponents to be determined

DEC. 30-JAN.1
Boys basketball
Les Schwab Shootout, Pendleton

Enterprise opponents to be determined

FRIDAY, JAN. 6
Boys basketball
Joseph at Echo, 7:30 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.
Weston McEwen at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.

Girls basketball
Weston-McEwen at Enterprise, 5 p.m.

Joseph at Echo, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7
Girls basketball
Joseph at Wallowa, 4 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7
Boys basketball
Joseph at Wallowa, 5 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.

CHIEFTAIN CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
Monday @ 4pm
Call 541.426.4567