

WORKING

One job isn't always enough

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Editor's note: This is the first in a series how people find work and pay the bills in Wallowa County.

Wallowa County's dependence on seasonal employment doesn't always bode well for the full-time, year-round job seeker.

The lack of more mainstream, career-track jobs leads to the area having one of the wildest-swinging employment rates in Oregon. It also affects the county's high median age — older than the state average — and dissuades young people from moving into the area because of a perceived lack of full-time work.

However, the draw of the county's beauty and lifestyle is irresistible to some, who will work a variety of jobs just to keep a toehold here in the Wallowa Valley. *The Chieftain* talked to people who work unconventional jobs (or lots of conventional ones) in order to live in the place they love. Here are two:

Rebekah Nash

At the age of four, Rebekah Nash moved with her mother, now Angela Nash, to Wallowa County and grew up on a ranch while attending Joseph Charter School. After graduation, she moved around the U.S. for the next decade or so.



Nash

"It's kind of like a vortex," Nash said. "Every two years or so I'd always come back to work for the summer. It was like a landing place/launch pad because I could come back and get a job without an application pretty much anywhere, work for the summer and go on my next adventure."

Her vast work experience, as well as the work ethic she acquired growing up on a ranch, suited her for a number of different jobs.

"I pretty much had the keys to every business for three blocks on the west side of Joseph," she said with a laugh.

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EAGLE CAP EXTREME SLED DOG RACES TO BEGIN JAN. 19



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain
Susan Parraga and her dogs practice with the sled at Salt Creek Summit in this Chieftain file photo. The team will compete in this year's Eagle Cap Extreme, which begins Jan. 19 at the Ferguson Ridge Ski Area.

To the Extreme

Mushers, huskies about to descend on county for Iditarod-qualifying race

By George Plaven
EO Media Group

The best part of the Eagle Cap Extreme sled dog race, according to organizer Troy Nave, comes half an hour before race start, when more than 200 Alaskan huskies fill the parking lot at Ferguson Ridge Ski Area with a cacophony of joyous howling.

"You have to succumb to it," said Nave, who serves on the event board of directors. "The excitement is so contagious."

Mushers from across the Northwest and Canada will head deep into the Wallowa Mountains for the 13th running of the Eagle Cap Extreme, beginning Thursday, Jan. 19. Kickoff is at noon for the 200-mile and 100-mile races, as well as the first stage of the two-day pot race, which runs 31 miles both days. The 22-mile juniors race and second leg of the pot race will begin at noon on Friday, Jan. 20. All races leave from Ferguson Ridge, about nine miles outside of Joseph. A shuttle



Chieftain file photo

It's almost time for sled dog teams to once more come out of the starting gate at Ferguson Ridge Ski Area near Joseph for the 10th running of the Eagle Cap Extreme sled dog race. The race begins Jan. 19.

bus will be available at 9:45 a.m. on race days. The public can also meet and greet mushers during a potluck at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Joseph Community Center.

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MEET THE MUSHERS

Twenty-four mushers will compete in four races during the 13th running of the Eagle Cap Extreme, from across the Northwest and Canada.

200-mile

- John Kunzler, Vernal, Utah
- Bryce Mumford, Preston, Idaho
- Neal Bowlen, Park City, Utah
- Laurie Warren, Council, Idaho
- Brett Bruggeman, Great Falls, Mont.
- Scott White, Snohomish, Wash.
- Mark Stamm, Riverside, Wash.
- Clayton Perry, Power, Mont.

100-mile

- Steve Madsen, Cougar, Wash.
- Adam Buch, Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada
- David Bush, Bend, Ore.
- Gabe Dunham, Bend, Ore.
- Dina Ludd, Okanogan, Wash.
- Karen Antonucci, Adin, Calif.
- Karen Ramstead, Perryvale, Alberta, Canada
- Bino Fowler, Bend, Ore.

Pot race

- Morgan Anderson, Enterprise, Ore.
- Scott Barber, Ramona, Calif.
- David Hassilev, Priest River, Idaho
- Linda Pierce, Okanogan, Wash.
- Connie Star, Cle Elum, Wash.
- Susan Parraga, Joseph, Ore.
- Jane Devlin, Bend, Ore.

Juniors

- Christina Gibson, Riverside, Wash.

New legislature, same governor

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown was sworn in for the first time as elected governor Monday, after serving in the position for nearly two years.

The governor used her inaugural address to unveil her legislative agenda for the year.

"Under my leadership, we will continue to move Oregon forward," Brown told an audience in the Oregon House of Representatives chamber.

Brown, as secretary of state, ascended to the governorship in February 2015 when then-Gov. John Kitzhaber stepped down amid a scandal over consulting contracts awarded to his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes. In Oregon, where there is no lieutenant governor, the secretary of state is next in line.

She became the first openly bisexual governor in national history.

Brown was elected in November with an overwhelming majority to complete that last two years of Kitzhaber's four-year term, defeating Republican challenger, Dr. Bud Pierce of Salem.

During her speech Monday, Brown



Jaime Valdez/Pamplin Media Group

Gov. Kate Brown takes the oath of office Monday from Oregon Supreme Court Justice Thomas Balmer. Brown was elected in November to finish the remaining two years of former Gov. John Kitzhaber's term. She succeeded him to the post when he resigned in February 2015.

called on Oregon lawmakers to set aside their differences to work together this session to tackle Oregon's \$1.7 billion revenue shortfall. "We have to come together and know that we are all on the same side," Brown said.

She also said Oregonians should resist any attacks on civil rights in the wake of New York billionaire Donald J. Trump's election as president.

"We must guard against prejudice based on race, ethnicity, religion or

belief," Brown said to applause. "We must not allow the rights of any one person or class of people to be degraded in any way. We must stand for our veterans. We must defend the rights of LGBTQ Oregonians."

Brown also released her priorities for the 79th legislative assembly, which convenes Feb. 1.

Top priorities are the state's high school graduation rate, a transportation funding package, measures to keep firearms out of the hands of high-risk individuals and expansion of health care subsidies to all children.

Revenue

Her agenda omitted specific proposals to raise taxes to address the state's \$1.7 billion revenue shortfall, an issue expected to be at the center of lawmaker debate during the 2017 session.

However, she continued her call for better management of state pension investments, and she called on lawmakers to work together to find solutions to revenue problems.

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