



Hundreds in Joseph join Women’s March

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The morning of Jan. 21 saw more than 300 women, men, children and families of all ages filling the Joseph city parking lot to overflowing, joining what became millions marching worldwide.

The city’s parking lot resembled a protest from another era, with dozens upon dozens of brightly painted signs espousing women’s and racial rights, pleas for understanding and harmony.

“ I (MARCHED) BECAUSE ... I DO NOT WANT TO BE COMPLICIT IN ACTIONS I THINK ARE HARMFUL FOR PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET.”

Heidi Miller

The idea for a Jan. 21 Women’s March started with an event planned in Washington, D.C., as a response to a perceived lack of civility along with increasing racism, misogyny and hatred permeating America’s social and political landscape.

The idea didn’t stop there. Major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, New York, San

Francisco, Seattle and Portland followed suit with the idea swelling nationwide, even into rural areas – including Wallowa County.

One of the Joseph event’s organizers, Sarah Lynch, addressed the crowd before the march.

“I originally thought we might have 20 or 30 marchers, but quickly realized we

might have 50,” Lynch told The Chieftain after the event. “Then a few days before the event we thought we could expect 100. As it turned out, we had 310 marchers with several individuals that could not complete the march so we estimate total participation to have been 325.”

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Steve Tool/Chieftain

Sarah Lynch, (raised hand, right) exhorts more than 300 participants gathered for Women’s March in the Joseph city parking lot to take part in the nationwide Women’s March on Jan. 21. See details about the Salem march on Page A18.

Wallowa County ranch aims to save water

Projects will benefit both farm and fish

By GEORGE PLAVERN
EO Media Group

A Wallowa County ranch figures to save 1 billion gallons of water annually through a series of conservation projects, such as adding sprinklers and forgoing irrigation during peak summer months.

The Freshwater Trust, an environmental nonprofit with offices in Portland, announced it is working with Wolfe Ranch to upgrade irrigation infrastructure, transfer points of diversion and lease water rights on the farm to benefit endangered salmon in the Lostine River.

Funding comes from a \$1.4 million grant awarded by the Oregon Water Resources Department. Irrigation upgrades are also expected to boost crop yields by 5 to 20 percent on the ranch.

“We’ve formed lasting relationships with dozens of farmers and ranchers who understand conservation isn’t just about protecting fish,” said Aaron Maxwell, flow restoration project manager for The Freshwater Trust, who works out of Enterprise. “It’s about the longevity of their farms, economies and entire communities.”

Nearly 1,100 acres of forage and grain crops will be converted to pivot sprinklers as opposed to flood irrigation at the ranch — which Maxwell compared to the difference between letting your hose run into the yard, or watering just the section that needs it most.

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EAGLE CAP EXTREME 2017

Mushers fight poor weather — on and off ECX course



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 11

Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop

Brett Bruggeman, 46, of Great Falls, Montana, and his team race from the starting line in a heavy snow for the Eagle Cap Extreme 200-mile event. Bruggeman, a two-time winner of the event, took second place in the 2017 event, finishing one minute behind Bryce Mumford of Preston, Idaho, who finished the course in 35 hours and 35 minutes.

‘It was not a fun trip’

Ice coated most of the route; some struggled just getting to the event

By Ellen Morris Bishop
For The Chieftain

The 13th annual Eagle Cap Extreme brought 24 mushers to Wallowa County — 10 to run the 200 mile, Iditarod-qualifier course, six for the 100-mile race, six for the two-day 62-mile POT race, and two entrants in the Junior’s race for mushers under the age of 18.

Just getting to the race was an adventure. Snow, freezing rain, and closed roads made the mushers prove their mettle just to reach the starting line.

Although race conditions were predicted to be ideal, the weather’s turn for the worse on Tuesday coated much of the course with ice. Biting winds with hurricane-force gusts built deep drifts, obscuring the trail and forcing dogs to flounder in deep snow. Mushers rated the course extremely challenging.

“I learned,” said musher Gabe Dunham, “why they call it the Eagle Cap Extreme.”

The premier 200-mile event winner was 36-year-old musher Bryce Mumford of Preston, Idaho, with a time of 35 hours and 35 minutes on the icy, drifted course. Mumford won the red-lantern last year — the musher’s traditional award for last place.

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Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop

Bryce Mumford, 36, of Preston, Idaho, and his team cross the finish line in a time of 35 hours and 35 minutes in the 200-mile Iditarod-qualifier event of the Eagle Cap Extreme.



Double Arrow Clinic Veterinarian and ECX Director Randy Greenshields gets checked out himself at the Enterprise vet check.

RACE RESULTS

- 200 Mile Race - 12 Dogs**
1. Bryce Mumford 35:35
 2. Brett Bruggeman 35:36
 3. Mark Stamm 35:46
 4. Laurie Warren 35:48
 5. Jennifer Campeau 48:37
 6. Neil 51:04
 7. Brenden Jackson 52:05
 8. Jason Campeau 52:43
- 100 Mile Race - 8 Dogs**
1. Clayton Perry 22:52
 2. Bino Fowler 22:54
 3. Gabe Dunham 24:52
 4. Steve Madsen 24:59
- 2 Day Pot Race**
- 31 Miles Each Day - 6 Dogs**
1. Morgan Anderson 7:53
 2. David Hassilev 8:20
 3. Jane Devlin 8:23
 4. Connie Starr 10:06