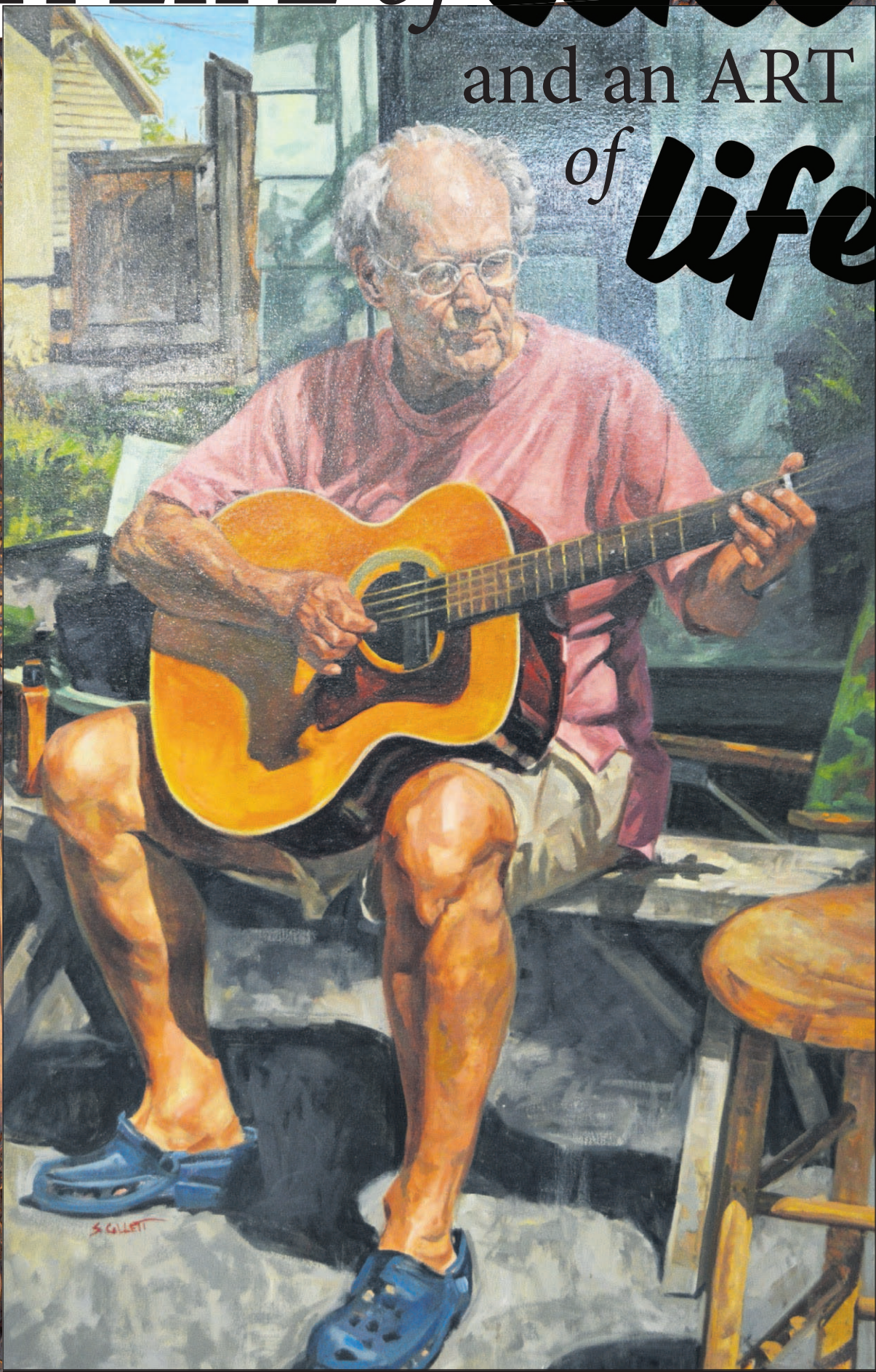




Sam Collett makes A LIFE of *art* and an ART of *life*



This work of Collett's, entitled "Good bye my friend" won first prize at the 2016 Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts event.

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Sam Collett is a Wallowa County institution. That is remarkable for a Salt Lake City native, who has lived here since 2000. Collett's paintings and drawings with a local focus hang in local galleries and homes. He is

generally among the prizewinners at the Wallowa Valley Festival of art. Collett's road to his local celebrity was sometimes rocky. He faced hurdles that were seemingly insurmountable. But his love for art persevered. What follows is part one of the story of this gifted artist. The boy is 11, and it's Christmas Day. He's been obsessed with drawing and art for most of his life. He just

received his first paint set. "I always drew. My mom had no background in that or the cultural aspects of things. She was a farmer's daughter, but she bought me those oil paints for Christmas when I was 11-years old, and that day, I just sat down and did a painting of my grandfather.

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Access retained at Eagle Cap area inholding

Land purchased by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, conveyed to forest

By George Plaven
East Oregonian

The largest private inholding in the Eagle Cap Wilderness will be kept open to public access after the land was recently purchased by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and conveyed back to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The 470-acre property, which runs parallel to Hurricane Creek south of Joseph, provides access points to some of the most heavily used trails leading into the wilderness area, including Hurricane Creek and Falls Creek trails.

Bill Richardson, senior lands program manager for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, said the group spent several years working with the Forest Service to buy the land from the Hostetter Family Trust to protect access for hunting, fishing and recreation. The acquisition finally closed in January.

"Public access is huge for us," Richardson said. "It's a real important part of our mission."

The Hurricane Creek project was identified as a national priority for the elk foundation, based in Missoula, Montana.

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Initiative makes bid for FFA funding

Two bills and broad support for premiere leadership program from teachers, legislators

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Does Oregon value its agriculture sector? That's one question raised by an initiative before the 2017 Oregon Legislature. The bill would fund Future Farmers of America programs.

Wallowa County has a robust FFA program, but ag/votech teachers have "the toughest job" in school because of the variety of jobs they must juggle. And that job mix in-

cludes fundraising. That is why three area agriculture teachers – Stephanie Schofield, J.D. Cant and Chelcee Mansfield – and a small troupe of FFA students met with the Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee in Hermiston on Feb. 17.

The timing was important because Sen. Bill Hansell of Pendleton and Rep. Greg Barreto of Cove are prime sponsors of bills to establish funding for the FFA program. Of the two bills, the House bill

has moved, gaining a public hearing and referral to the Education Committee.

FFA has been operating on private money since 2011.

Up until 2011 grant funding for the Student Leadership Center, an Oregon Department of Education group, supported the FFA Association and other service and leadership programs. From 1970 to 2011, that money had been cut in half.



Courtesy photo

Industry mentor Zane Anderson and FFA student Karli Bedard in the welding booth at Enterprise High School..

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