

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

WORKING IN WALLOWA

How to make it in the new economy

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Tyler Evans and his wife and children moved to Wallowa County five years ago. The two had vacationed here as children and continued the tradition as they became a couple and had children. During a working vacation Evans had a revelation.

"I was working on my laptop while sitting on top of the (east) moraine and it kind of dawned on me: 'You know what? It doesn't matter where I am anymore. With cell technology and the Internet I don't need to be in a gray cubicle in Hillsboro.'"

NetApp agreed, and Evans moved his family to Wallowa County within months.

Evans doesn't hold down more than one job to live in the county, but he is probably the first part of a wave of people who telecommute. He works at home from a computer for a company located in Sunnyvale Calif. He is also a member of the Joseph City Council.

Born in Pendleton, Evans moved as a boy with his family to the Portland area. Upon graduation from high school Evans attended the University of Oregon where he graduated with majors in finance, business and psychology. He focused on organizational psychology as a career and after graduation moved back to Portland and worked in the investment industry before going to work at Intel. He eventually found work with a company later bought by NetApp, a networking and storage company.

Employment observations

"I was fortunate to be able to bring a job with me. I don't think I could live here if I had to find a job here with my skill set and what I was making in Portland," Evans said of a lack of viable full-time employment in the county. "I think in general there is a definite lack of jobs to support a family whether it's one or two jobs," he said.

Evans thought the lack of such jobs was because of the geography and infrastructure of the area.

"Sheer distance in terms of shipping product into the county to convert to a higher value and ship back out will be difficult to be competitive because of the transportation costs. You have to look into services and businesses not as dependent on heavy haul trucking to get things done," he said.

See ECONOMY, Page A5



Evans

ENTERPRISE STUDENT FORCES A DIFFICULT CONVERSATION

Film "Bully" is shown at the OK Theatre

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Imagine the horror of a parent walking into a child's bedroom to find him hanging dead in a closet. Consider the pain of a middle-school child facing incessant bullying from the time he leaves home for the school bus stop until he returns – only to face more bullying from his father and sister, for being bullied.

A crowd of more than 200 witnessed these and other tragedies when they attended the showing of the documentary film "Bully" at the OK Theatre Thursday night.

The local movie showing was part of a Future Career, Community Leaders of America project of Enterprise High School freshman Jadon Garland. The EHS student took up the project at the urging of his mother Julie Garland, who counseled at the school in the past.

The film addresses bullying through telling the stories of five bullied youths. Two of the bullying victims, including an 11-year-old boy, eventually committed suicide. The other three victims included a gay student and two students bullied for the crime of "being different." It is not a movie for the squeamish.

The 2011 R-rated movie, shot at schools in Iowa, Texas, Mississippi and Oklahoma during the 2009-2010 school year, contains explicit bullying scenes as well as graphic scenes of family dynamics centered on bullying and the two families dealing with the tragic deaths of their children.

One poignant scene shows one of the victims, taunted beyond endurance, bringing a firearm on the school bus and threatening her tormentors with it in graphic language. Perhaps even more disturbing is the indifference in communities and even school administrators. Some of them denied a bullying problem existed even when faced with video evidence.

Several local teachers, students from all the county's schools watched the film. No school administrators attended.

See BULLIES, Page A16

"I KNOW IT'S CLICHE, BUT I THOUGHT, 'WOW, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE. I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON THIS IS HAPPENING TO. BUT I ALSO FELT PRETTY BAD ABOUT MYSELF.'"

TOM,
A LOCAL VICTIM OF BULLYING



Sled dog athletes win Montana race

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County's Morgan Anderson, daughter of Rene Grandi and Craig Anderson of Enterprise, along with her exchange student "sister" Charlotte Burkhardt of Oggau, Austria (about one hour from Vienna) have returned from the Flathead Classic Sled Dog Race in Montana with wins.

The two students had entered the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race this January where Morgan won the six-dog 31-mile race and Charlotte, competing for the first time, won the five-dog 22-mile junior race.

Emboldened by their experience here, the two went to the Feb. 26-27 race in Olney, Montana, north of Whitefish. They were the only two competitors for the six-dog 82-mile race, there.

"We did 41-miles on Saturday and

41-miles on Sunday," said Anderson.

The girls run Alaskan Huskies. Anderson ran with one dog of her own and five borrowed from musher Trevor Warren of Council, Idaho.

Charlotte ran with three of Trevor Warren's dogs and two borrowed from Enterprise Animal Hospital Veterinarian Jerald Rice.

They started off scared, Morgan said, but found their feet immediately.

"Before the race the trail boss was explaining all the turns and about the avalanche danger," Morgan said. "He was just explaining about the trail, but we were scared about missing a turn or the avalanche danger. But once we're on the trail it was well marked. It's always scariest before the race, but once I'm out there it's fine."



Charlotte Burkhardt

Ellen Bishop/
for the Chieftain

See RACES, Page A10



7 29467 50001 3