

LETTERS

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Although Rep. Walden championed Trump's tax avoidance scheme referred to as "Trumpcare" and would repeal the Affordable Care Act, it found no support in the legislature and was canceled. Walden has a large constituency of ACA voters who would have lost health care coverage. So much for representation.

Trump's "white supremacy" attitude and policy of deporting Latinos has resulted in a severe labor shortage in the construction industry, with supply not meeting demand and new housing prices being consequently increased. Latinos who have been U.S. residents for decades are fearful of leaving their homes, they have been targeted, deported and families separated. Labor shortage in agriculture and the food supply will be next.

Contact your representative and let him know you are a concerned voter.

David Ebbert
Enterprise

Another side to the wolf story

OR48, a recently collared male Canadian grey wolf of the Shamrock Pack here in Wallowa County died as a result of biting into a cyanide powder trap set for coyotes. This coyote trap was set by a USDA Wildlife Service trapper. It was set on private property. Of course there has been a chorus of outraged howling put up by those who have no working knowledge or personal investment in the management or removal of predators.

Even Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife expressed their shock and dismay that the unintended or "incidental taking" of a Canadian Grey wolf has occurred.

This shock and dismay is odd given the history of ODFW's behavior regarding their management of the predatory wolves.

A quick examination of ODFW's management of the Shamrock pack reveals numerous wolf vs. livestock depredation investigations being performed. The majority of these "investigations" resulted in livestock killings being categorized anything but a confirmed wolf-caused killing. Coyotes or "other" predators were suggested as being the culprits responsible for the loss of livestock.

If it is deemed by ODFW that most all livestock killing problems can be laid at the feet of coyote or "other" reasons who may argue with them? From personal experience challenging ODFW thought process can be a mostly futile effort.

There has been a near-refusal by ODFW to share collar GPS location data with area livestock owners. One can assume U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees are also kept in the same degree of "blackout" information silence.

A requested lethal removal of livestock killing or harassing Shamrock Canadian Grey wolves was refused outright by ODFW decision-makers; even though all Oregon Wolf

Conservation & Management Plan requirements had been met; even exceeded by the Shamrock pack for such a take. This ODFW refusal gave the impression the Shamrock pack was not and should not be of concern to private property owners.

There is also the fact private property owners are in no way obligated to provide habitat or safety zones for Oregon's latest predator new-comer. This is stated in the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

It is actually an Oregon Statute; ORS 496.192(1): "Nothing in the Oregon ESA is intended, by itself, to require an owner of any private land to take action to protect a threatened species or an endangered species, or to impose additional requirements or restrictions on the use of private land."

So, the coyote trap was set on private property, and lo-and-behold, a Shamrock pack Canadian Grey wolf was caught in the very trap set for coyotes. Maybe the same coyotes who were getting blamed for livestock killings?

Given these facts, it looks like this incidental take can be laid at the feet of ODFW.

Justice sometimes prevails.
Kerry Tienhaara,
Oregon Wolf Education
Joseph

Clean up after your pets

I've returned to this lovely mountain hideaway to find that the discourteous dog-owners are starting to take over!

I go for a walk, along my normal route of South Main and then into town, only to find many remnants of dog defecation. Coming from a town used to having winter, I recognize the telltale roadside poo-piles. Too much snow to hide nighttime dog defecation evidence in your neighbors' yards.

Come on, you dog owners, pick up your pets' pool!

Audra Bellefourche
Joseph

Fundraising auction a success

A fundraising auction was held April 1 at the Imnaha Store and Tavern to at least partially defray the expenses of an initiative to train and equip a team of volunteers responding to medical emergencies in the Imnaha area.

The auction was a resounding success with more than \$6,000 raised for the program.

The program will be a collaborative between Project Heartbeat and Wallowa Memorial Hospital Emergency Medical Services to extend the capabilities of EMS with first responders who can assess and treat victims until the ambulance arrives.

I thank all those who organized and ran the auction and especially Kendra Staigle, primary organizer, and Lee Daggett, who did an excellent job as auctioneer. I would also like to send my gratitude to the many who came out to support this important project.

Dick Burch,
director, Project Heartbeat
Enterprise

MidValley Theatre group seeks permanent home

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

After 23 years of producing high-quality amateur theatre, MidValley Theatre Company believes it may be time to acquire a permanent theater.

The question is: "What does Wallowa County think?"

If patron support is anything to go by, this may be an idea with legs, even given the estimated half-million dollar price tag.

"We've been in business since 1995 when we put on our first production, 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,'" said creator and director Kate Loftus.

That first, nearly 30-kid production, ran for five performances and packed the Lostine Presbyterian Church to standing room only for every performance.

"We've put on 'Best Christmas Pageant' four times since," said Loftus.

And performances continue to play to full houses.

But a cast of 30 wasn't the biggest cast the theatre company has launched.

"The Music Man" called for 58 people on stage when it ran in 2012 with John McCoolin of Joseph as Professor Harold Hill and Kelly Weese as Marion Paroo, Loftus said.

Other ambitious productions have included "The Miracle Worker," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Diary of Anne Frank," "Cheaper by the Dozen," "The Egg and I," "I Remember Mamma," "Desperate Ambrose," and many more.

This summer the company plans to stage "Oklahoma," a production with 27 speaking roles, parts in the men's and women's choruses, cowboys and ladies dancing groups and stagehands who can sing with the choruses.

Loftus has been director on all but three of the 32 shows.

The other three directors were Jennifer Hobbs, Stuart Vencill and Craig Strobel.

According to Loftus, the standout performance over the years goes to Richard Hobbs who played Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird" and had a three-page monologue to memorize in addition to other long monologues.

Hobbs may be the standout for the most difficult memorization, but according to Loftus, "everyone has a star on their door as far as I'm concerned. I tell everybody, 'if you think you're a star and can do anything without the back stage you'll go on stage naked and in the dark.'"

And that is no doubt why her stage manager (Ingrid Cook), technical director (David Cook), set designer (Lyn Westhoff), sound and light technician (Justin Burns), costume designer (Gwen Menton) and other backstage performers have remained with the group year after year.

"We've developed such



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Left to right: Scenic designer Lyn Westhoff, sound man Justin Burns, director Kate Loftus and Pehmah (the Shih Tzu) show off some of the more than 3,000 costumes in the storage shed owned by the MidValley Theatre group.

a camaraderie," Loftus said. "We're all friends. We have a synergy with a bunch of people who want to do good amateur theatre - they are so dedicated."

Part of the draw of the MidValley Theatre Company is that anyone taking part in a production is getting an excellent education in practical theatre arts.

"We teach acting and all phases of theatre," Loftus said. "It's a joint effort, it's an educational opportunity, it's a cultural opportunity, it's a social opportunity, for the theatre company people and for the audience as well."

The company has presented productions in a variety of places, beginning with the Lostine Presbyterian Church, moving to the old South Fork Grange and currently playing in the barn-like gym of the Providence Academy of Christian Education.

What the company needs now, Loftus said, is a permanent place that they can remodel to suit specific needs, house the more than 3,000 costumes, warehouse sets, store supplies and upgrade bathrooms, heating, lighting,

'We're all friends. We have a synergy with a bunch of people who want to do good amateur theatre - they are so dedicated.'

Kate Loftus,
director, MidValley Theatre

sound and other features.

"We would like to do three shows a year, with one in the summer," Loftus said. "We have a very good base, we've had really good relationships with the providers of our locations."

The Fundraising Committee of the 501c3 nonprofit is scheduled to gear up soon but believes there is no reason to wait until the perfect venue has been identified.

"We need a grant writer," Loftus said. "We need some 'angels' to step forward with 'in-kind' donations for remodeling or construction needs, and we need donations for the purchase price of the

right venue."

They also need some computer wizardry to help create and manage a web page.

The theatre company is running in the black. Kathy Johnson of Silvercreek Financial Services is the treasurer.

To donate to the cause, send your tax-deductible donations to MidValley Theatre Company, 64707 Lostine River Road, Lostine, OR 97857 and label it for the "New Theater Fund."

The company is also listed at www.donationplanet.org/charity/midvalley-theatre-company.

For more information, contact Loftus at 541-569-2302.

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WALLOWA COUNTY Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

ENTERPRISE	JOSEPH
MONDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	TUESDAYS 6 p.m. Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) Joseph United Methodist Church 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement
TUESDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	WEDNESDAYS 12 p.m. Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement
7-8 p.m. Enterprise Group (Big Bk Study) 113.5 E Main St.	WEDNESDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.
WEDNESDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	WALLOWA
THURSDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	SUNDAYS 7 p.m. Wallowa Assembly of God Church 205 S Alder St.
7 p.m. All Saints (Mens Mtg) 113.5 E Main St.	
FRIDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	
SATURDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	

UNITY SERVICE RECOVERY