

# Events accidentally combine for success

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

It was a great break-away from the late snows. The first-ever Wallowa Spring Fling serendipitously coincided with the Tamkaliks Rummage Sale, with lunch served at both locations and it was an inspired accident.

“What a nice thing for a snowy day,” said shopper Kate McLain of Wallowa. “Two events to spend time at.”

The Spring Fling event, organized this year by Nancy Reinke of Wallowa, is a craft fair at the Senior Center to raise funds for its operation.

The well-attended event featured a number of local crafters including Raenita Deal’s “That’s So Addie” dresses, Crystal Newton’s Fine Art, Jeanette Hibbert’s “Air Soap” made from goat milk, 91-year-old Gene Hays art books and gift cards, prints of Dennis Reinkes fine art and wife Nancy’s textile art, Rebecca Dickenson’s Sentsy products and more. John Raines, Bill Henke, both of Wallowa, and Peggy Brennen of Enterprise provided live music.



Crystal Newton shows Wyatt Kickenson, 3, of Wallowa how watercolors work, as another young lady observes.

The event raised \$397 for the senior center to help replace the commercial water heater.

“We thought for the first time we’ve done a Spring Fling that was a pretty good result. We have so many great talented people here and we thought, why not do something that draws people to Wallowa,” said Reinke.

The Tamkaliks Rummage Sale and lunch, held at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Interpretive Center (across street from the Senior Center in Wallowa) is an annual fundraiser with proceeds going toward two \$500 scholarships given away at the summer Tamkaliks Pow Wow. They, too, enjoyed good visitor traffic and rave reviews for

the food – especially the light and fluffy fry bread.

“The secret to good fry bread is to let it rest overnight,” said cook Debra “Raven” Reth of Wallowa.

The Tamkaliks event raised \$938 over two days, almost completely funding the Taz Conner and Terry Crenshaw Memorial Scholarships for 2017.

## TAMKALIKS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS READY

Tamkaliks Scholarship Applications for the Taz Conner and Terry Crenshaw Memorial Scholarships, which are presented at Tamkaliks each summer, are open to one Native American applicant and one Wallowa County applicant.

Both must have the intention to attend an institution of post secondary education, full-time, for the fall term of 2017.

Compete applications should be returned to Melanie Crenshaw, 701 West First Street, Wallowa, OR 97885.

The Native American application is due by June 30, 2017; the Wallowa County application is due by April 22, 2017. All applicants must have two letters of recommendation, a personal resume not more than 300 words including High School or College GPA, SAT scores or other similar information; voluntary community activities, leadership activities, employment history; education opportunities beyond high school; transcripts of all academic work in high school or post high school; and typewritten answers to the following questions (answers should be no more than 50 words).

Native American questions: In what ways do you benefit from participation in Native American Cultural events? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the educational program for Native Americans in your area? If you are selected for the scholarship, how will it benefit your community?

Questions for the Wallowa County candidates: What does it mean to you to be living in the traditional homeland of Chief Joseph? What benefits do you see in preserving the cultures of the various ethnic groups that make up America? If you are selected for this scholarship, how will it benefit your community?

There will be two additional \$500 scholarships given this year in honor of Duane Heglie. These will be awarded to Native American applicants using the same criteria listed above.

# Enterprise administrator marks 30 years with city

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Michele Young stepped through the doors of Enterprise City Hall 30 years ago this week and hasn’t looked back.

Young celebrated her three decades of service Friday. She has held several positions with the city most recently city administrator.

“I take care of all the financial aspects of the city, land use, economic development, grant projects and oversee all the routine things that happen in the office,” said Young, who moved to the area from Hillsboro with her husband, David.

“We moved here to take over his parents’ ranch,” Young added.

She worked for several years at Wallowa Memorial Hospital prior to moving to

city hall.

Like nearly every job, municipal administration has seen its share of evolution, as has Enterprise. The city’s budget was less than a million dollars in 1987. Today it’s at \$7.5 million.

“The job itself has changed dramatically,” said Young. “The regulations we have to be aware of and know are so much more than they used to be. It was a quite simple job back then ... you had a clean desk.”

Two things that haven’t changed — the city’s population, which continues to hover around 2,000, and the number of city employees, 13.5 full-time equivalents.

“We used to be all about

families,” Young said. “What we have now is more retirees, and the number of families has shrunk.”

Much of Young’s training has been on the job. She said she’s had excellent mentors along the way.

Dawson Neil, former public works director taught about city infrastructure, while former mayor Irv Nuss left a life-long impression.

She has also benefitted from the tutelage of Larry Christman, current city council member, who is also a fan of Young.

“She’s done a great job,” said Christman, who was among the parade of people who stopped by Friday to congratulate Young. “She’s good with the public, and she knows the rules and regulations.”

“What she doesn’t know,

she finds out,” added Christman, who has spent several terms on the council and as mayor.

Newly elected council member Micah Agnew said he has also benefitted from her experience.

“Even as a new resident, one of the things that stood out to me right away is how genuinely nice she was,” he said. “And now that I’m getting to work with her, I’ve discovered my first impression was accurate.”

Looking back over her tenure, Young said she believes the city has done its job well.

“I’m most proud of the fact

that we are proactive and keep our citizens informed,” she said. “The city council here has worked hard over the years in keeping things moving forward.”

She pointed to a large water improvement project completed recently.

“I remember a day when we had to put people on water days because there was not enough water,” she said. “Today we have two reservoirs, we have twice the number of hydrants and good water pressure.”

With a price tag of around \$5 million, the project wasn’t without its controversies. But Young says that’s part of the

territory in municipal government. Coming on the heels of a major sewer plant expansion, Young said the water project had its critics, most of whom were concerned about a hike in rates.

“But we played it out, and I think most people are happy with the result, especially those who had bad water pressure,” she said.

There was even an effort to recall the city council, she said.

Despite the controversies over 30 years, Young said she doesn’t have enemies and plans to keep it that way. “It’s okay to disagree,” she added.

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