



J.R. COLLIER
Wallowa Lake State Park Manager

J.R. Collier is the new State Park Manager for the Wallowa Lake Unit and its 212 campsites. He’s only been on the job a bit more than a

month, but he has had a jump-start on fitting into Wallowa County because he’s a local boy who graduated from Joseph High School (as did his wife Lisa) in 1998.

He spent his summers working at the park while he was in college and then began his professional life at the Beverly Beach Park in Newport, moved on to Klamath County, and most recently, ended up back at the coast as manager of the Central Coast District.

He says the bathrooms at the park are scheduled to be completed June 1, and the campsites are all booked for the eclipse.

Why come back to Wallowa County?

We have roots and family in this area. This position came open and it was an opportunity to get back to this area. We’ve always loved this area and missed living here and it was an opportunity to be back to this area and bring our kids (six children ages nine to 18) to this area and be closer to family.

I like this park and I like the work — it’s a great unit. It’s a really dynamic unit with a lot going on. There are a lot of partnership capabilities coming up with trail connections and we’re just starting to revise the Master Plan.

We’ll be announcing public meetings on that

within a few weeks.

What are you looking forward to in the coming years?

Revising the Master Plan and taking into account all the potential things coming up (proposed Upper Wallowa River work, potential repair and refilling of the dam, seven acres recently purchased near trail head). We’ll be looking at the whole system, Minam Camp and both waysides, Iwetemlaykin, Wallowa Lake and South Day Use.

What has Wallowa County taught you?

I’ve been back just a month, and I’ve talked to a lot of people about partnership. That’s one of the things I’ve been excited to hear about since I’ve been back — how much people are talking partnerships and how closely everyone has been working.

I think we’re in a really good position to be a partner and a community partner and have really good communication with each other. It’s been refreshing and exciting how much community involvement I’ve picked up already. I haven’t heard a lot of different groups talking about a lot of different subjects — we all seem to be on the same page.”

Area scholars
earn honors

Kacie Melville, a senior at EHS, is one of 12 \$1,000 scholarship winners from the Oregon Wheat Foundation. Students were judged on their community involvement, academic achievement and an essay on a wheat industry topic. She will study agronomy at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D. She is the daughter of Kevin and Kerrie Melville.

Stacy Douglass, a junior at WHS, has been elected president of the school’s Interact Club, a service club for teens sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wallowa County. Douglass will lead the club through the remainder of the school year as it produces service projects.

Three local students have made the honor roll at Blue Mountain Community College for the winter term: school year: **Terri Flores** of Enterprise, **Jessica Skillings** of Wallowa and **Emma Carlsen** of Lostine.

Wallowa FFA takes two wins

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa FFA students cleaned up in two tests at the Eastern Oregon District competition for Dairy, Meat Evaluation and Tractor Driving at the Baker County Fairgrounds April 19.

Eighth-grader Ella Moeller took 1st place in meat evaluation as an individual. Then, the top placing individuals on Wallowa’s team took the team first in meat evaluation.

“I studied a presentation of all different cuts for a very long time,” said Moeller, explaining her winning tactics. “I also had to practice using a formula and math to get the quality grade and yield grade. I’m good at math. I love this competition.”

“Meat evaluation is one of the most industry-based contests FFA does,” Jeremy McCullogh, Wallowa Schools ag teacher, said. “They’re pretty darn good. They’re a really talented group of students and they are motivating each other.”

Students judge yield grade, quality grade, hanging carcass and then identify 30 randomly selected cuts from beef, pork and lamb in both primal and retail cuts.

In all, seven of the top 15 students in the meat evaluation class were from Wallowa: Ella Moeller taking 1st; Jordan Ferre, a senior, 2nd; Teagan Miller, a junior, 5th; Zeb Ramsden taking 6th; Riley Ferre, a sophomore, 7th; Samantha Wightman, 8th grade taking 9th; and Rylee Goller, a sophomore, 15th. Ethan Burns, Grace Pendavaris and Chance Goebel were also on the team.

“I don’t want to hurt anyone’s feelings, but we



The Wallowa FFA Tractor Team, which took Third Place with a tractor lent to them by Wallowa County Grain Growers at the Eastern Oregon FFA District competition, (L to R), Wyatt Prince, 16; Michael Diggins, 16; Zane Mallory, 16; and Ryan Hafer, 16.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

won by a mile,” said McCullogh.

Wallowa FFA also came home with a 3rd in Tractor Driving with a team of sophomores: Wyatt Prince, Zane Mallory, Ryan Hafer and Michael Diggins.

4-Hers judge
equine classes

Twenty 4-H members judged four equine classes during the 2017 annual horse judging tour.

The members judged a Reining Performance class, a class of reining mares, mules and a class of yearlings at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds April 9. A total of 350 points in the judging contest was possible. Addie Royes, an intermediate, was the overall high point judge with a score of 331.

This was the first horse judging contest of the year. Members will have the opportunity to judge again at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show and at the Wallowa County Fair. Their scores will be compiled and the top intermediate and senior judges will qualify to represent Wallowa County at the state competition.

In the senior division (ages 15-19), Deidre Schreiber placed first (328) and Maddie Tracy, second (324). In the intermediate division (ages 12-14), Addie Royes placed first (331), Rosie Movich-Fields second (327) and Destiny Barney, third (327).

Other intermediates judging were Brianna Micka, Casidee Harrod, Rylee Wilcox, Chance Arbogast, Maggie Zacharia, Bailey Vernam and Carrin Yaw. Juniors (ages 9-11) included Libby Fisher, first (326); Lily Royes, second (314); Eva Anderson third (310).

Other juniors judging included Harlie Stein, Devin Schreiber and Quincee Zacharias. First-year juniors included Kimber Stein first (312), and Carisa Yaw second (288).

Dr. Davis is in the house!

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Win money for your cause and support the OK Theatre renovation

It's the Rotary Club's riotous fundraiser, The Letter Bee community spelling bee, Tuesday, May 2, 6 p.m. at the OK Theatre

Three-person teams of adults or high school students will compete. Proceeds will be shared by the winning teams' causes or projects and Rotary, which will donate to the OK Theatre's 100th-year renovation project.

To enter your team, contact Jolene Cox at jcox@beobank.com or go to tinyurl.com/zl23gb6. Entry fee: \$75 (We'll help find a sponsor if necessary).

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Rotary

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