

FOR THE RECORD

May 1

10:51 a.m. — Dalton Daniel McKay, 23, of Adams was arrested my Umatilla Tribal Police Department on a Wallowa County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear, original charge of furnishing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age. He was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

1:31 p.m. — Custody dispute in Wallowa.

2:25 p.m. — Josie Jordan Makens, 28, of Lostine arrested in Wallowa for Violation of Release Agreement; Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle; Criminal Trespass II. Transported to Umatilla County Jail.

May 2

3:52 p.m. — Assault in the city of Wallowa.

May 3

1:20 p.m. — 911 calls reporting three calves that fell out of a stock trailer on Hwy 82.

May 4

1:24 p.m. — Entered State Wide Misdemeanor probation warrant on Darrell Wayne May, 48, of Lostine for Probation Violation, original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance Meth.

6:15 p.m. — 911 reporting a motorboat traveling the Minam River in an area that is restricted from motorized boats.

8:24 a.m. — Identity theft reported in Wallowa.

2:40 p.m. — After receiving a 911 call for a domestic in rural Wallowa, Joseph Troy Johnson, 31, from Wallowa was arrested on charges of Strangulation Domestic Violence; Assault IV Domestic Violence, Menacing Domestic Violence, Harassment Domestic Violence; Harassment to Police Officer; and Criminal Mischief. Johnson was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

May 5

1:50 p.m. — Dog as public nuisance complaint in Joseph.

2:34 p.m. — Report of hit and run property damage in Enterprise.

May 6

10:19 p.m. — 911 calls requesting a welfare check on a subject in Joseph. WCO arrested Thomas Bryan Harrington, 61, of Imnaha for Disorderly Conduct II.

12:43 p.m. — Report of lost kayak on the Imnaha River at Imnaha River Woods.

May 7

7:36 p.m. — Tree blocking one lane of Imnaha Highway.

Liberty Grange making a comeback, growing

New and old faces revitalizing an old tradition

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Grange halls signifying America’s transition from an agrarian to urban society may seem like a thing of the past to some. In Wallowa County, the halls are experiencing a popularity surge.

Liberty Grange on Liberty Road four miles northeast of Joseph is the oldest of the four similar community based fraternal organizations in Wallowa County chartered in 1923. It is also the largest in terms of building size.

Grange members Brinda Stanley, Jane Harshman and Betty McMullen have been at the forefront of restoring the Liberty Grange to its former status in the community. Stanley and Harshman are officers and McMullen is the treasurer. Harshman called the group’s efforts a “reactivation” of the Grange.

Stanley grew active the Grange, but other community involvement led to stepping away from the master’s position she had held.

“The Grange was foundering, so I stepped back in,” she said.

She has logged 44 years of involvement as a third-generation Grange member.

Harshman, who has been a Grange member for around a year, is happy with Stanley’s decision.

“We really needed leadership, so she agreed to come back and be the master,” Harshman said. “With five new members who are really excited, new things are happening. I’ve had so many people come up to me and say, ‘I’ve never been to the Liberty Grange’ or, ‘I haven’t visited the Grange in 30 years.’”

Stanley said that the Grange is one of the oldest service organizations in America, dating back to 1867. Run democratically from the start, women have always had equal rights



Steve Tool/Chieftain
Grange Riders, members of the Liberty Grange (L to R) Betty McMullen, Master Brinda Stanley, Overseer Jane Harshman. The Liberty Grange is seeing an uptick in membership as well as a thorough refurbishing.

and even 16-year-old subordinate members can vote on Grange issues.

“In Wallowa County, they started Grain Growers,” Stanley said. “I have the seal from my granddad that says ‘Wallowa County Grange Grain Growers.’”

She added that Granges started Future Farmers of America and lobbies legislators for issues important to rural communities.

It also funds scholarships, but mostly it’s designed for fellowship.

For example, Stanley can remember a time when Hurricane Creek and Liberty Granges took turns hosting community dances.

“We’d really like to revive that and get it going again,” Stanley said.

Also, Grange members once sewed quilts for families in need, or who had suffered disasters such as home fires. That tradition will return beginning next winter. As a boost, the South Fork Grange in Lostine donated two quilt frames to its Joseph neighbors.

“All the Granges get together

to help each other,” Harshman said.

The two-story Grange building sits on 2.5 acres. It was donated by an area rancher and includes a full kitchen that features two wood-burning cook stoves as well as an electric range. An on-site well was drilled in the ‘70s. Members brought water in cream cans previously. The property also has two outhouses.

McMullen and her husband

David have spent considerable time refurbishing the hall, including painting the kitchen walls and floors, the bathrooms and foyer. The wood heating stove, cook stoves and stovepipes were cleaned and refurbished by a chimney sweep company.

“We have a green light to use all our woodburning stoves,” Harshman said.

Anyone can rent the hall, upstairs, downstairs or both at a cost ranging from \$50 upward.

“It’s probably the oldest preserved building that can hold a crowd of 300 people,” Stanley said. Those interested in renting the hall can contact Harshman at 541-398-2410.

Liberty Grange plans an open house and meet and greet 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 12. Events will include a cake walk as well as coffee, tea and dessert. A sourdough pancake feed is planned next winter and a barbecue and dance event (beer, burgers and band), along with a harvest dinner and a Halloween party.

A Grange membership is \$50 per person per year, \$5 of which is kept by the local operation. Those interested in membership can call Stanley at 541-398-0026.

“I love the ritual and the marching and the reference to being quiet and peaceful citizens and feeding the hungry,” Stanley said. “I think it’s all very important. We want to be known for these old-fashioned things.” Stanley said.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page A4

Both librarians say usage hasn’t been as brisk as they had hoped.

Koloski said it’s mostly his neighbors who stop by and pick out a book.

Bird said someone dutifully shoveled a path through the snow to the Lostine version this winter, but few books were exchanged. Now that the weather is improving so is the library business, she added.

Koloski said he was pleased to discover that despite the awful winter, his library resisted the wind and snow with great aplomb.

Warm summer days are on the horizon. If you’re on of those who enjoys sitting in the sun and reading, check out one of the little free libraries.

Having grown up in a rural part of the world, libraries were a big part of my upbringing. I became a voracious reader early in life. When I was a child, you could send a post card with a book title to the North Dakota State Library and your address and within a few days, your book would arrive. It was as if I had discovered manna.

Today my reading is mostly confined to work-related, although I occasionally snag a book whose topic catches my eye.

Newspaper editors have a vested interest in folks learning how to read. Without readers, there would be no newspapers.

Find your library or one of the little free libraries and enjoy a book this week.

Wahl is the editor of The Chieftain who hopes the novel he is writing will one day be on library shelves.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

For most, ballots for the local elections have arrived at your home.

My name is Polly DeVore and I am running for Wallowa School District #12 – School Board Position #5.

I am passionate in advocating for our students, parents, and supporting the Wallowa School District.

Experience, Advocating and Serving I bring to this position: It has been my honor to serve and advocate for the residents of Wallowa County, previously Chairing the Local Community Advisory Council in addition to serving on the Regional Community Advisory Council working to secure funding, programs and services to deliver solutions to complex community services and needs. It has been my honor providing a voice in Health Care supplementary/secondary fund disbursement testifying before our Oregon State House and Senate, thus resulting in new State and Federal Laws addressing “virtual payments” which had adversely effected many people that pay for Medicare supplements. I also bring previous experience having served as a School Board member for the School of Harper in years past. That experience taught me a great deal regarding the challenges School Districts and their Boards are faced with. Comparatively, from years past to current dealing with tight budgets has always been a challenge for our School Districts. Currently, Oregon is looking at a projected budget shortfall of \$1.6 Billion. School districts will be looking at potential reductions in

funding. I am committed to finding ways to meet the needs of our students and school in possible challenging times. I view this as a great opportunity to support our Wallowa School District to grow in creative and exciting ways!

I am the Director of Olive Branch Family Health, Inc. and fortunate that I have been able to partner my work with supporting our students of Wallowa School District. Olive Branch Family Health has voluntarily provided (free to the students) hundreds of Student Sports Physicals in the past 4 years. This endeavor has been purely to support our students, your children. My husband, Jeff DeVore and I will see our youngest son enter his Freshman year in Wallowa School this fall. As a family, we have a long history of dedicated support of Wallowa School District #12. I look forward to a future of ongoing advocating for our students, parents, and Wallowa School District #12.

I would appreciate your vote in my bid for School Board Position # 5 for Wallowa School District #12. I will bring passion, experience and leadership if you choose to place me in this position.

Thank you, Polly DeVore

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