

Food projects get FEAST funding

A plan by Winding Waters Clinic in Enterprise to provide a free healthy-eating-on-a-budget class was one of five projects selected to receive funding support through a mini-grant program offered by Food Education Agriculture Solutions Together.

Winding Waters received \$500 for supplies.

The other four projects:

- Joseph United Methodist Church, \$500 for food purchases to pilot a week-long low-cost Magic Garden day camp in Joseph;
- Enterprise Head Start, \$500 for materials and supplies needed to create outdoor gardens for year-long use with preschoolers;
- Prairie Mountain Folk School, \$1,300 for teaching stipends, scholarships and supplies to provide four food processing and preservation classes;
- Wallowa County Farmers' Market: \$1,200 for equipment, supplies and coordination costs needed to develop a Community Co-op Booth for local growers and gardeners who want to sell excess produce on a drop-in basis at the market in Joseph.

Projects will take place this summer and fall.

The granting entity is a community organizing workshop developed by the Oregon Food Bank. The Wallowa County Food System Council received the funds, hosted a public FEAST event in March, and awarded funds to projects at the end of April.

The Wallowa County Food System Council is an ad hoc group open to anyone interested in working to improve the local food system. Current members include representa-

tives of health care, hunger and food access, Oregon State University Extension, economic development, faith-based organizations, public and nonprofit schools, farmers, ranchers, food product manufacturers and processors and interested citizens.

In addition to the projects receiving funds, other ideas are under development, including a steering committee for a food hub feasibility study led by Kristy Athens of Northeast Oregon Economic Development District.

"The study will allow us to explore options that could increase access to locally grown food crops, and also add value to crops before they leave the area, which could boost the local economy," said Athens.

A survey will be distributed in June to collect input from growers, restaurants and other businesses that produce, purchase or sell food. More volunteers are needed for the steering committee and anyone interested can contact Athens at 541-426-3598.

Other ideas under development include a group interested in establishing a community garden in Enterprise and a group interested in engaging youth in designing and hosting a kid-centered news show featuring topics such as kids gardening, kids cooking or other activities.

Another group is looking into better strategies for shared communication of local food resources, such as gleaned opportunities, food and nutrition education opportunities, requests for shared equipment or other needs and resources.

Anyone interested should contact Sara Miller 541-426-3598.

LADIES OF THE COURT



Contributed photo

The 2017 Chief Joseph Rays Court recently received commission checks for their efforts in raising funds for the organization. A total of \$8 381.12 was awarded to, from left, Princess Maddi Tracy-Mallory Queen Haley Miller and Princess Caitlin Robb.

NEWS in brief

Wallowa Lake feted on show

Michael Lockhart, president of both the Wallowa Lake Tram and the Wallowa Lake Tourist Committee, was interviewed last week by John Kruse of Northwestern Outdoors Radio. The show airs on 62 stations in five states throughout the northwest.

Lockhart was able to talk about the Tramway, the "wonders" of the region including Mount Howard and Wallowa Lake, dragon boat races and more.

"This was a great opportunity to get the news out about what we have to offer here in Wallowa County," Lockhart said. "Kruse keeps in touch with us and does a professional job."

The Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce is a sponsor of program.

Bunco tourney rolls into Grange

A bunco tournament featuring a baked potato bar for lunch is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 19, at the Hurricane Creek Grange in Joseph.

Bunco is a parlor game generally played with 12 or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three dice.

Entry fee is \$10. Bring yard sale items for a Dutch auction. Info: 541-426-8015.

Planting fest coming May 27

Wallowa County Farmers Market Spring Planting Fest is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 27 in downtown Joseph. Plants and fresh vegetables will be featured, as well as live music, children's activities and a plethora of vendors.

Music by Em and Kailey is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There'll be planting seeds for beginner gardeners, arts and crafts, produce from Backyard Gardens and fresh kettle korn. A petting zoo will be open.

Organizers are seeking more produce vendors, gardeners and growers to participate.

Farmers Market runs 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, in downtown Joseph through Oct. 14.

Info: 541-398-8435 or wallowacountyfarmersmarket.com.

LETTERS

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Weigh the anger against the deed

I did not attend the Walden Town Hall in Wallowa, but I have heard about it. I heard that some people spoke eloquently about the need for adequate and affordable health care, and I heard of a few people who expressed themselves in angry voices.

My experiences in Wallowa County have led me to believe that public expression of anger or disappointment are deemed unacceptable, especially when an important person is present. I have also learned that trying to be diplomatic may or may not work in getting one's point across. But then, discourteous behavior is always counter-productive.

I want to add that many of us

believe that Rep. Walden's work is counter to the needs of many people in his district. He was instrumental in constructing the recent bill and getting it approved by the House of Representatives.

Its content takes healthcare away from millions of people who are now receiving it. It provides generous subsidies for corporations and wealthy people who have no need of them, in my estimation.

So, to those who believe that someone whose loud and critical expression at the town hall was rude to the representative, I would ask them to weigh the rude behavior of the constituent against the damage being done in Congress by our own representative to citizens of Oregon and most of the United States.

Acting against the needs of thousands of Oregonians versus the discourteous behavior of a few does not balance.

Evelyn Swart
Joseph

LOGGING

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However, the Forest Service's decision to apply this type of management to canyon lands that "do not contain forest roads" and with "no history of harvest" will unfortunately create significant impacts to soils, watersheds and wildlife.

Hells Canyon Preservation Council worked hard to forge a consensus on this project with the Forest Service and other diverse members of the community. Broad agreement was established for active management in previously logged forests within the historic road system.

However, agreement was not reached about authorizing logging of undeveloped lands or about how to manage the forest road system.

And despite years of analysis, the final decision does not deal with the problems created by an excessive and unmaintained road system. The Forest Service decision allows road densities to exceed the agency's own standards in seven sub-watersheds. These road-density standards exist to protect clean water, fish and wildlife. Elk and steelhead are of particular concern.

The next time you travel to the Joseph Canyon Viewpoint and look across the canyons, you'll get a sense of why this wild landscape is so important. Joseph Canyon is a magnificent place and it deserves the best stewardship and protection that we humans are able to provide.

Brian Kelly is Restoration Director of Hells Canyon Preservation Council.



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