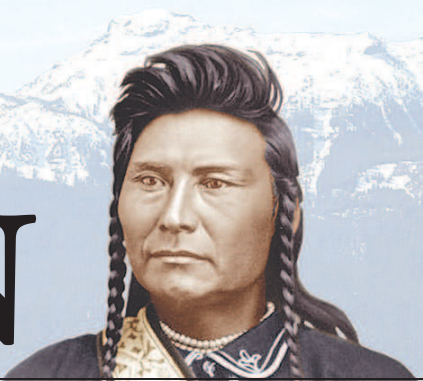




KIDS AND CANDY. A PERFECT MATCH FOR OCT. 31 See Page 6

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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STITCHING FOR VETERANS



Guild aims to present 1,000 quilts

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Every veteran upon induction receives a military-style wool blanket. It comes in handy for a variety of uses, mostly keeping warm.

Wallowa Mountain Quilters Guild is working hard to make sure every veteran in the county has an opportunity to relive that experience. This time the blanket is a finely appointed quilt made by guild members.

Ten quilts were distributed during a ceremony and dinner Oct. 15 at the VFW Hall in Enterprise. Around 60 quilts have been awarded under what the guild calls its Quilts of Honor program. The group opted not to participate in the national Quilts of Valor program because of rules as to who qualified.

"We want every veteran to receive a quilt," said Linda Koloski, chairwoman of the project, who serves along with Barbara McCormack and Bobbie Thomson. By one estimate, there are 1,000 veterans in the county.

"We have our work cut out for us," Koloski quipped.

In addition to honoring vets, the program is designed to raise the profile of the guild and the art of quilting.

Around 30 women regularly participate in guild projects, but numbers can swell to 50 for special events. The organization recently held its 25th annual Quilt Show.

Koloski points out there are many more quilters in the county, but not all of them want to meet on a regular basis.

The guild also contributes awards for quilters at the county fair, provides quilt books for public libraries, offers

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Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Veteran Jim Stivers accepts his quilt from Barbara McCormack of the Wallowa Mountain Quilters Guild during the most recent Quilts of Honor award program Oct. 15 at the VFW Hall in Enterprise. The guild's goal is to place into the hand of every veteran in the county a patriotic-themed quilt "made with love."



Support key to raising \$7 million for integrated health clinic

Progress report on fundraising for new clinic forthcoming

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Michael Wilson has never lived in Wallowa County, but he knows many of its people well.

Wilson has spent the past few months spearheading the economic



Michael Wilson

feasibility study for a new clinic building planned by Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Winding Waters Clinic.

A large portion of his time has been spent across the table from community leaders and potential donors to the \$7 million, 17,000-square-foot project on 3.2 acres in Enterprise.

Wilson, a senior associate with

Westby Associates Inc. in Vancouver, Wash., performed nearly 80 interviews to determine how much funding could be raised locally as part of a larger plan to finance the project.

"People care about Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness," Wilson said. "They are one of the larger employers and have been in the community for a very long time and haven't asked for much over the years."

A request for \$1.5 million from state lottery funds will be made in

the state legislature, and a variety of foundations are being targeted for grants. Most of those require a strong local fundraising effort, the heart of Wilson's efforts.

"With the lottery funds, the idea has been don't ask us to do what you're not willing to do yourself," Wilson said. "That local support is a key to making the lottery bonds request competitive."

Another key to state funding is

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PAC forms to push 'yes' vote on new library district

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa Valley Library Foundation continues to work at a furious pace to meet deadlines to get its Library District proposal on the May ballot.

The newly drawn Wallowa County Library District economic feasibility report has been completed, reflecting the opt-out of Lostine. Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph have all opted "in" allowing their citizens to vote on the proposal.

The district tax proposal of 65 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation is still the recommendation. Leadership of the foundation has shuffled again with Autumn Wilburn of Enterprise stepping "across" from board chairwoman to campaign chairwoman for a Political Action Committee to educate voters about the library district.

The IRS requires that a nonprofit foundation form a nonpartisan PAC to do that work.

Board member Kirsten Rohla of Joseph will replace Wilburn as foundation chairwoman. Although the leadership changed several times, it has not resulted in a loss of direction or commitment, according to Rohla.

"We knew that Autumn planned to step down as chair as the PAC was getting started," she said. "Everyone on the board is definitely as committed as they have been from the beginning."

Mike Crawford of Troy was the first temporary chairperson for the foundation, and was replaced by Kim Witherite of Imnaha who had to step down due to health and family responsibility, to be replaced by Wilburn. Crawford is also back in a leadership position in the foundation as vice chair.

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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

A nonpartisan Political Action Committee that will carry out the advocacy efforts necessary to approve a library district in the May 2018 election will convene 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 in the basement of the Enterprise Public Library, 101 NE 1st, Enterprise.

Volunteers are needed to serve in leadership roles, fundraising to support a public education campaign and to help with graphic design, messaging and media, such as radio, newspaper, mail pieces and yard signs.

Others will coordinate coffee klatches and other gatherings to educate voters, speak to groups and organizations, make calls and door-knock and write letters to the editor.

SPORTS SUCCESS



Enterprise Outlaws runners doing their part to help win the school's first girls cross-country state championship Saturday included Ashley Wilson, Ella Coughlan and Eliza Irish with an unidentified Union runner. The three placed 19th, 18th and 24th, respectively, in the 2A state cross-country championships held in Eugene.

Courtesy Photo/Karre Tingelstad

INSIDE

- Wallowa football advances
- Joseph volleyball finishes third in state
- Enterprise football bows out in first round

