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# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

Enterprise, Oregon

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## Daggett seeks county commission seat

**By Steve Tool**

Wallowa County Chieftain

“Thirty years I’ve been thinking about it,” said fourth-generation rancher and Wallowa County native Diane Daggett from her office at Wallowa Mountain Properties in Enterprise.

A real estate broker, Daggett is testing the political waters of Wallowa County, filing to run for the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners seat cur-

rently held by Paul Castilleja. He plans to step down at the end of his term in 2018.

After graduating from Joseph High School, Daggett approached Oregon representative Bob Brogotti in the hopes of landing a job with him upon graduation from business school. Instead, he asked if she’d like to interview immediately, and Daggett went to work in Oregon House of Representatives. She worked her way up to committee adminis-



**Diane Daggett**

trator where she worked with the committee chair to prioritize bills and work to get them on the floor. Her work there led to an award for being the youngest committee administrator in the state’s history. She was 20.

“I was able at a very young age to get a bird’s-eye view of how state politics works.” She

added that although she values education and has taken occasional college courses, she never earned a degree.

“I have a degree in hard knocks, and sometimes, practical experience is really beneficial,” she said.

Daggett married and left the area in 1980 but returned in 1988, working a stint as a bank teller before lassoing the job of administrative assistant to the county’s board of commissioners. She eventually

became the planning director.

“I have this ability to see how state government works and then to see how county government works,” Daggett said. “Because I was there with them, I have a very good sense of what the job is.”

Daggett’s sense of connection to the county, through her family heritage and three children and three grandchildren was a driving force in her decision to help create Wallowa Resources and take on a

community development role.

“It has everything to do with my love of this place and our community, and to sustain the good that is here,” she said.

As a commissioner, Daggett would like to work on tackling the continuing constrained budgets.

“Thinking outside the box on what we’re going to do with county services and county needs,” she said.

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## COATS FOR KIDS



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Marilyn Dalton, financial officer for Building Healthy Families, helps Cedar Haney find a warm coat for the winter Nov. 16 at Wallowa County Headstart in Enterprise. Cedar was one of 20 children to receive a coat, as well as hats and mittens, through a cooperative program funded by the Rotary Club of Wallowa County. The giveaway is part of a broader program to equip as many as 75 children annually with winter wear. Individual Wallowa County Rotarians and local benefactors donate roughly \$2,000 each year to purchase the coats.

## 16-year-old student charged with rape

**By Steve Tool**

Wallowa County Chieftain

A 16-year-old Wallowa County student was arrested at his school Nov. 13 on a charge of first-degree rape, a Measure 11 offense. He was taken to juvenile detention at Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities in The Dalles.

Although the name of the alleged offender is public information, the Chieftain is choosing not to publish it at this time.

The defendant, who is being charged as an adult because of his age, was arraigned in Wallowa County District Court Nov. 14. Judge Russell B. West presided over the hearing via conference call.

West explained the defendant’s rights and the fact he could spend 100 months in prison. He asked deputy district attorney for her bail recommendation. Frolander recommended the minimum for the crime, \$50,000, as well as a hearing prior to release. The defendant’s mother said she could post the bail.

The court scheduled the release hearing for the next day, and the defendant’s mother arrived at the hearing with \$5,000 to post bail

for her son. Judge Thomas Powers presided over those proceedings.

Powers essentially followed the terms of release recommendations of Frolander and the county’s juvenile department. Those terms included a no-contact order, curfew and wearing a GPS bracelet. He will not be allowed to attend the same school as the alleged victim.

The family was not represented by an attorney, but the defendant’s mother said she planned to file for a court-appointed attorney. The father of the accused, who was in The Dalles at the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities where his son was incarcerated, said over telecom that the release agreement’s curfew stipulations were unclear as to whether his son could continue to compete on the school’s wrestling team.

Amanda Decker of the county’s juvenile department said that issue would be addressed while working with the school to form an education plan. The defendant was released into his father’s custody from the detention facility with a preliminary hearing scheduled Nov. 24.



Courtesy photo

Bluegrass legend Del McCoury will perform at OK Theatre in downtown Enterprise Nov. 30.

## Bluegrass legend McCoury to appear at OK Theatre

**By Steve Tool**

Wallowa County Chieftain

When it comes to the time-honored tradition of bluegrass music, you won’t find many stars that shine brighter than Del McCoury. The bluegrass luminary and Grand Ol’ Opry member is making an appearance with his band at the OK Theatre on Nov. 30.

Theater owner Darrell Brann said landing a living legend is a dream come true.

“I didn’t think it would be possible,” Brann said, “But once we had the O’ Connor band (band of famed violinist Mark O’Connor) and they were with the same booking agency at the time, it opened the door for us.”

Brann added this show has been in the works since

April and he expects a sellout.

McCoury, 79, a Pennsylvania native, has tried and true bluegrass roots going back to the ‘50s. While others pursued Elvis, McCoury found himself captivated by the sounds of Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys. Monroe is considered the father of bluegrass.

McCoury was able to join his idol’s band in 1963, replacing guitarist Jimmy Martin, which meant musicianship changes for McCoury as he had formerly played banjo.

McCoury and the fiddle player left Monroe’s band for California when he received an invitation to join The Golden Gate Boys, who also

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## PAC to support ‘yes’ vote on library district launches

**By Kathleen Ellyn**

Wallowa County Chieftain

The political action committee formed to support a “yes” vote on the formation of a library district next May began work with a small group of individuals in the Enterprise Library basement.

Angela Bombaci of Lostine volunteered to take on the job of volunteer coordinator and to begin forming a group to call the 800 or so who originally signed the petition to preserve the county library.

The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners voted this spring to defund the library to help fill a budget gap, prompting the ideas of forming a district.

Autumn Wilburn, who has been leading much of the

effort, said she is stepping aside but volunteered to act as treasurer.

Jill Dougherty will begin collecting endorsements for the measure; Kim Witherrite will be working on developing a media campaign; county librarian Susan Polumsky and city librarian Denine Rautenstrauch will help condense 11 pages of information into talking points. Several others volunteered for positions that will “firm up” in the coming week.

With Wilburn’s resignation, the group has no chairman. However, the group has been advised their “chairman” can be a “to do list,” if no individual steps up.

That advice and more came from “Every Library,” a national nonprofit dedi-

### VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Anyone interested in volunteering to help is invited to contact Autumn Wilburn at autumnwilburn@hotmail.com and attend the next PAC meeting, 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Building Healthy Families,

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cated exclusively to political action at the local level to preserve libraries. They train, coach and consult with library communities for free.

Feasibility researcher and budget officer Ruth Metz, who worked on a contract basis, also continues to work pro bono with the group.

