



THREE
minutes with ...



MICHAEL COOLER

Alt Ed Classroom Instructor

Michael Cooler and his wife, Sara, moved to Wallowa County four years ago and bought a house in Enterprise last summer. He was born in Bend, grew up in Lakeview and attended Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif.

"Throughout our 20s, my wife and I were able to work remotely for a small tech company based in Taos, N.M.," said Coller, 34. "We could live and work anywhere as long as we had Internet access. We spent five years in the Eugene area before moving to Yachats and then Tidewater on the Oregon Coast. The Internet work was slowing down, so we decided to move to the 'big city' of Enterprise to change things up."

Cooler has worked at Building Healthy Families for four years but says he's never figured out an appropriate job title.

"I spend my mornings in the Alt Ed high school classroom where I teach Spanish and computer apps," he said. "I help people with computer issues, manage our Facebook page and do odd jobs like dishes. The BHF leadership and my coworkers are uniformly awesome. The students are (99.9 percent of the time) really wonderful, and are kind enough to laugh at my lousy jokes."

Q. How did you "discover" Wallowa County and what brought you here?

A. My wife and I are native Oregonians and we'd never heard of Wallowa County until six or seven years ago. We were watching PBS and a program came on which featured the Wallowa Lake Lodge, the tram, and the hiking to be found in the Wallowa Mountains. I think the words "Little Switzerland" were mentioned. Sara and I are avid hikers and backpackers. Since coming here, I have been abso-

lutely blown away by the rugged beauty and relative solitude of the Eagle Cap Wilderness and Hells Canyon. I'm excited to spend many more years exploring and experiencing this unique place.

Q. What is your impression of the county and its people?

A. Wallowa County is one of the best places I've ever been. I feel very comfortable here. It's so off the beaten path, and some of the nicest and most interesting people live here. For such a small area there is a good mix of all types — people who know how to get along and get things done.

Q. You and your wife are cat people?

A. We have two older cats, Sal and Penny. Sal never stops meowing, and Penny is scared of her own shadow. At some point I started pretending to be cat-obsessed with the students at school, and then at some later point, I couldn't remember if I was still pretending. Now I am known as the cat guy, and students bring me cat figurines and t-shirts. I own more than one ugly cat sweater. The thing I like about cats is that they know how to relax and take it easy.

Q. What is the first book you remember checking out at the library?

A. I can't say for sure. One I remember reading early on was "Devil on My Back" by Monica Hughes, which was kind of eye-opening and disturbing if I recall it correctly. Growing up I spent a lot of time in the library with my mom because she was the librarian at the grade school.

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This year our office and garbage routes will **NOT** be operating Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2017. This will mean all Monday schedules will be picked up on Tuesday. There will be no other changes to the rest of the week.

Our office and garbage routes **WILL** operate our normal collection routes on New Years Day and the remainder of the week.

We are again, offering a one month discount if you pay for the entire 2018 calendar year. This offer is for can service accounts only. Payments must be made by the end of January

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- * If you know you will be missing a pick-up, you must call in ahead to receive credit. *
- * For those who dispose of kitty litter, please bag it up. *
- * Our trucks leave the office a 5am, have cans out the night before or by 5am. *
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- * We ask that can weights do not exceed 50 lbs, as we still "throw cans" manually. *
- * When calling for services after hours, please leave your name, address & phone number. *



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Happy New Year!



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