



Darvin (Butch) Tanzey of Tanzey Forest Improvement Inc. inspects a treated area on sheep rancher Sky Krebs land outside of Enterprise. Tanzey manages 21 forests on private land in the county.

Wallowa County Ag Today
First in a multi-part series

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Butch Tanzey of Wallowa watches his son, Brandon, turning logging slash into mulch. He’s smiling. He points to a three-foot seedling a few feet from the equipment Brandon is using. “See that little tree?” he said. “Brandon’s going to preserve that.” That kind of delicate work is why Tanzey and his two grown sons, Brandon and Nick, have all the timber management work they can handle. Tanzey Forest Improvement Inc. manages land for 21 property owners in Wallowa County. The emphasis is on sustainable harvest and resource preservation. The knowledge needed for the work comes from a lifetime of experience and a ton of education. Tanzey, 66, is an OSU

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Brandon Tanzey demonstrates the precision of the work done by Tanzey Forest Improvement Inc. as he grinds slash into fertilizer while carefully preserving a tiny tree nearby.

“
See that little tree? [My son] Brandon’s going to preserve that.”
— Butch Tanzey
Tanzey Forest Improvement Inc.

Tough challenges face ‘new agrarians’

Winter Fishtrap spends three days considering the issues at hand

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Caleb Howard is young, full of ideas and ready to be a rancher. The only thing standing in his way is land. Howard was one of a number of panelists who were part of the discussion of issues in Winter Fishtrap’s Young Agrarians event Feb. 16-18. Some have access to family land and can avoid the cost of having to purchase property. Howard is not one of them. He painted a frustrating picture for potential ranchers who do not have the luxury of leasing smaller acreage for their agricultural dreams. “My parents are not going to be ready to release management for another 20-30 years,” he said. “Retirement begins with a six-foot hole in the ground.” Howard would like to have several hundred acres and a grazing allotment. “I’ve looked into buying land,” he said. “It’s not hard to get a loan — but it’s hard paying it back,” he said. In the meantime, he is managing land with a “side hustle” of marketing 1,000 head of cattle per year — for others. He also keeps 20 cows of his own. “I probably ought to just sell them — but I enjoy them,” he said. Despite his success as a manager, his goal is to be ranching his own land.

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Plans unveiled for Enterprise city buildings

New lighting approved for Enterprise Airport

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The new city hall and fire hall in Enterprise might not be bigger than previous digs, but they will be a significant upgrade. City council members poured over the new plans for a \$2.2 million pre-fabricated steel building submitted by City Engineer Brett Moore of Anderson Perry Associates at the Feb. 15 meeting and quickly approved moving forward. The fire hall, which will measure 128x90-feet, will feature seven fire truck bays along East North Street. The fire hall previously had two bays and a door entrance on the short end of the hall on SE First Street.

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Criminals and addiction Treatment Court

FIRST IN A TWO-PART SERIES
By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

One of the ways the court system deals with those going through drug or alcohol addiction is Treatment Court. Started in the mid-90s and adopted by Wallowa County in the late ‘90s, Treatment Court provides a chance to work on sobriety and change their lives with a team of support people instead of sitting in jail cells or going back to their old lifestyles after completing their sentences. The program is largely funded by grants, and participants have to pay a fee to enroll. The min-

imum time for participation is 18 months. The Treatment Court team in the county consists of a representative of the district attorney’s office, the county juvenile and probation departments, both circuit court judges and counselors from Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Building Healthy Families, Department of Human Services and Community Corrections. A representative of circuit court personnel serves as facilitator of the program. It is one of 3,142 such programs nationwide. “It’s a collective group of people who can provide a service to support these people and also hold them accountable,” Wallowa County Deputy District Attorney Rebecca Frolander said. She added that the Treatment Court team decides who participates after going through applications — not everyone is eligible. For example, those guilty of drug delivery charges are not accepted unless it’s a one-time delivery crime to support their habit. People guilty of committing property crimes can qualify if it can be shown addiction was a motivating factor.

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