Grange event nets \$2,435 for 4-H programs

By Kathleen Ellyn Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County Leaders Association supporters were busy in their kitchens in advance of a lunch box social Feb. 24 at Cloverleaf

When the tables were cleared, 30 boxed lunches and 36 desserts had been

Auctioneer Randall Eschler of Joseph kept the energy high and bid on some goodies for himself. Around \$2,435 was collected to help 4-H leaders finance travel and other expenses related to supporting their 4-H groups

Top bids for lunch boxes went up to \$55 per box. Wallowa County has a sweet tooth, too, and the top bids on desserts topped \$65 — for pretty much anything with huckleberries in it.

Awards were given for the best decorated boxes with



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Alisha Melville packs out one of the fanciest boxes for bidders to see up close as the bidding commences at the lunch box social fundraiser for the Wallowa County 4-H Leaders Association Feb. 24 at Cloverleaf Hall.

the Rusty Spurs 4-H Club Rusty Spurs Club took winning for best 4-H theme another award for the most with a box that looked like a creative box in the shape of horse; and Cammie Hale wina John Deere Tractor; Crazy ning for the funniest box that H Club won for an open baslooked like a dinosaur. ket decorated with real flow-



Who can choose from all this goodness? Thirty-six desserts were donated for the lunch box social fundraiser for the Wallowa 4-H Leader's Association. Attendees pretty much decided to just have it all, with most tables going home with mul-

ers as prettiest; and Judges

Choice went to a Rooster Box

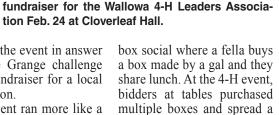
decorated with paper feathers

made by Curt and Heather

Hurricane Creek Grange

produced the event in answer to a state Grange challenge to do a fundraiser for a local organization.

The event ran more like a picnic than a traditional lunch



feast for family and friends.



James Royes, 9, left, of Enterprise, and Vincent

Finlayson, 10, of Enterprise, check out the lunch

boxes prior to the bidding at the lunch box social

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Fishtrap 'New Agrarians' fundraiser dinner brings in \$15,000

Melville.



The Winter Fishtrap "New Agrarians" event not only packed in participants Feb.

16-18 but won big fi support from the comm

The program was by the first-ever Winter Fishtrap fundraiser, a dinner and auction held at Hurricane

Feb. 18, which mately \$15,000 ain the program

Organizers were thrilled to

see how many members of the

agricultural community came to the fundraiser. It was sold

"I heard a lot of talk about agricultural issues and books," said Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNerney. "No topic is a barrier to interacting with Fishtrap. What I love is there was a mixture of people — the level of conversation was high — nobody was dumbing it down."

"New Agrarians" Panel Moderator Nellie McAdams, farm preservation director for Rogue Farm Corps, was impressed by the intersection of literature and agriculture in Wallowa County, and the grasp of both story and policy concerns demonstrated by attendees and organizers.

"I think, given that this is a community of writers and storytellers, it was good to have everyone telling their own story," she said. That storytelling contin-

ued throughout the fundraising dinner with conversation so thick that attendees had to lean across the tables and shout to be heard over the

"It was great," said McNerney. "We saw lots of Fishtrap friends and new friends lots of love. We felt a lot of support from the community."

The fundraiser followed the return of Winter Fishtrap after a seven-year hiatus and the success bodes well for continued programming.

The group auctioned off youth summer and adult win-Fishtrap registrations and books and art created by local artists. Individuals also donated in a paddle race during which attendees began bidding at \$1,500 and little by little got the opportunity to donate down to \$25.

The Paddle race brought in

An anonymous donor had agreed to match funds up to

The dinner, which served 80, was prepared by chefs Lynne Curry and Paula

Austin. Fishtrap is a literary non-

profit centered in Enterprise that encourages "clear thinking and good writing in and about the west." Among the many programs offered by the group are Summer Fishtrap writer's conference, Winter Fishtrap lecture series, the Imnaha Writer's Retreat, Story Lab youth program and The Big Read community-wide examination of a work of literature and the issues revealed through the





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