

# Conservation learning exchange hosts Kyrgyz ag delegation

Wallowa County residents will have an opportunity to meet with livestock producers and pasture specialists from the Kyrgyzstan during a community presentation.

The event is 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Tomas Conference Room, 309 South River Street, Enterprise. The event is open to the public.

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country in Central Asia with a pastoral culture and a long tradition of nomad herds-men and horsemen. The delegation of 20 Kyrgyz pastoralists is in Wallowa County as part of a community-based conservation learning exchange.

During their stay, the visitors will meet with Wallowa County ranchers, rangeland specialists and government representatives; tour public and private grazing leases; and learn about current rangeland research and management. The culmination of the visit will be a public presentation by the Kyrgyz delegation on efforts to improve community-based pasture and livestock management in their homeland.

The presentation will provide opportunities to exchange ideas about conservation practices, marketing strategies and to share experiences between cultures.

The learning exchange is organized by the International Center for Advancement of Pastoral Systems and The Nature Conservancy with support from Wallowa Resources.

ICAPS works internationally with individuals, communities and institutions to improve the sustainability of pastoral systems and improve



Kazakhstan is located in Central Asia and is a former republic of the USSR. It is bound by Russia to the north, the Caspian Sea to the west and southwest, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to the south and China to the southeast.

the livelihood of pastoralists. The Nature Conservancy works to conserve the lands and waters. It owns a part of the Zumwalt Prairie in Wallowa County that it manages as part of the larger working landscapes. Wallowa Resources' mission is to empower rural communities to create strong economies and healthy landscapes.

Michael Hale, Nature Conservancy rangeland specialist and ICAPS member, is leading efforts to bring the Kyrgyz delegation to Wallowa County.

Hale, who is also a local rancher, has been working in the Kyrgyzstan as a consultant for the Food and Agricul-

“Livestock herding cultures have much in common around the world, facing similar challenges...”

Michael Hale  
Nature Conservancy  
rangeland specialist

ture Organization of the United Nations helping develop com-

munity-based pasture and livestock management plans and training pasture managers and users.

“Livestock herding cultures have much in common around the world, facing similar challenges and sharing similar motivations to care for the land, their animals and their communities,” he said. “Learning from each other across cultures is beneficial for everyone involved.”

During the exchange the Kyrgyz delegates will also learn about Nez Perce indigenous grazing rights and help monitor pastures on The Nature Conservancy Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.



Ellen Bishop/For the Chieftain

Seth Kinzie will be the guest speaker at the opening event marking World Peace Day noon Sept. 12 in Enterprise.

## Kinzie kicks off Peace Day celebrations

Three events are being planned in observance of International Day of Peace in Wallowa County.

• **Wednesday, Sept. 12** — Rotary Club of Wallowa County will host international peace ambassador Seth Kinzie noon at St. Katherine's Church Parish Hall in Enterprise.

Kinzie has actively worked for peace within cultures in most troubled areas of the world. He will speak about different perspectives on pacifism and of his interfaith friendships abroad.

The program is part of the regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club.

• **Sunday, Sept. 23** — A program, “Tools for Peace for Our Community,” will be 4 p.m. at Joseph Center in Joseph. The evening begins with a social time and music.

The video, “Better Angels,” will be shown at 4:30 p.m. followed by a demonstration inspired by nonviolent communication.

“Better Angels” reveals how violence has been in decline for long stretches of

time, and the world may be living in the most peaceful era in our species existence. Harvard psychology professor Steven Pinker presents the data supporting this surprising conclusion, and explains the trends by showing how changing historical circumstances have engaged different components of human nature.

A potluck dinner will be served 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share.

The evening closes with another video, “Tools for the Future.” Music follows. Free and open to the public.

• **Friday, Sept. 28** — Haitian peacemaker Fabienne Jean will speak 7 p.m. at The Place adjacent to the Joseph United Methodist Church.

She is coordinator of Hands Together Foundation in Haiti, a national network of 11 organizations working to remove the causes of endemic poverty in that country.

The event is sponsored by Rotary Club of Wallowa County, Bank of Eastern Oregon and Community Bank.

## Business Foundations workshops planned

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District will offer a free six-week workshop series to help entrepreneurs and small-business owners build the basis for a successful enterprise.

The courses will be taught Thursdays at Wallowa Resources, 401 NE First St., Enterprise, 6-9 p.m. Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25 and Nov. 1. Another set of courses will be taught in Baker City and La Grande.

Registration closes Sept. 21. Class sizes are limited.

Call 541-426-3598 or 800-645-9454 or email



Dawson

kristyathens@neoedd.org. Preference is made to people with low to moderate incomes; income verification is required.

Lisa Dawson has taught the Business Foundations program for more than 10 years, and her students — existing and aspiring entrepreneurs in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties — continue to give her rave reviews.

This hands-on class cov-

ers the basics of running a successful business: overhead and inventory costs, goal-setting and sales projections, marketing, taxes and licensing, and other considerations and brings it all together in a business plan.

Thanks to a Community Development Block Grant from city of La Grande, the classes are offered free.

Workshop topics include the following:

- **Gaining Perspective:** Consider your business concept.
- **Laying the Foundation:** Define line of business and analyze financial essentials

from overhead costs to break-even point.

• **Getting into the Flow:** Cover the financial essentials of cash flow, sales forecasting, and financial documents.

• **Mission and Markets:** Revisit mission, discuss market research, and identify competitors in order to align with target markets.

• **Get the Word Out:** Discuss creative marketing strategies and give peer feedback on marketing materials.

• **Goodbye and Good Luck:** Present business plans, share final pitch and plan for next steps.

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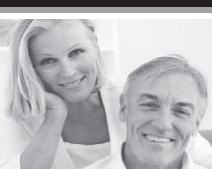
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