

TIME FOR STEM



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — took center stage at Building Healthy Families Friday afternoon. Lily Weer, left, and Linden Arentsen used an on-line sculpting program, one of four stations available to participating children.

BRIDGE

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their lifespan. The cost of the project is \$68,702. Wallowa-Whitman requested \$13,200. The ranchers who hold grazing permits in the areas identified will do the labor.

Third on the list was the improvement of 150 miles of trails with the assistance of 3,700 hours of volunteer time over the next two years. The plan calls for installation of check dams, water bars, turnpikes and other tread improvement structures so as to reduce soil erosion and stream sedimentation.

The David Wheeler Memorial footbridge at the Boy Scout Camp would also be moved northward to allow hikers to cross BC Creek. The structure became a “bridge to nowhere” after a 2002 mud-

slide. It would restore year-round access to the popular Chief Joseph Trail. The cost of the project is \$82,380. The Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trails Association asked for and was granted \$11,000.

Commissioner Susan Roberts was pleased to find the project on the list.

“We have a lot of visitors who like to go out there. This is a good project,” Roberts said. “There is also a lot of volunteer work involved in completing the project, and we certainly appreciate those folks.”

Other Title II projects on the list included fencing to protect riparian areas and waterways, hand and machine thinning in forest areas to reduce understory and improve forest health, weed treatment on back-country airstrips and noxious weed management.

200 flock to candidate forum

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

More than 200 found seats at Cloverleaf Hall for a candidate’s forum sponsored by Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce and The Chieftain Oct. 10.

Here is a sample of what was said at the forum.

State Rep.

Second-term incumbent Greg Barreto of Cove, candidate for Oregon State Representative for District 58, described his position as “an unending job to try to make our lives a little bit better and to bring a little bit better opportunity for local governments to really do the governing.”

Two projects he’s particularly proud to have worked on are wolf delisting, and his ongoing work to make land use decisions local decisions.

Newcomer Skye Farnam of Summerville said he was running because politicians on both sides of the aisle “knowingly exploit our fears, (while) we are the freest, most secure, people in history — that we are assembled here, with all our differences, is proof enough of that.”

In answer to an audience question on developing labor-force housing, Barreto explained rising costs of building, limited land available and regulations that, according to him, took up 42 percent of building costs, were a factor.

“Is the government trying to do something for the low income? They are. Is it working? No it’s not,” said Barreto.

Farnam countered with strong support of Measure 102 — aimed at helping more hard-working Oregonians access safe, affordable housing — and accused Barreto of hyperbole in claiming regulations were such a large factor.

“I know it doesn’t take 40



Farnam



Barreto



percent of a project’s cost in administration in any realm of imagination — it’s just hyperbole. Greg isn’t really offering a solution when he offers hyperbole,” Farnam said.

Circuit Court judge

Wallowa County native Mona K. Williams is currently serving as Wallowa County Circuit Court Judge by appointment. Wes Williams is an attorney from La Grande.

“My role now, as a judge, is not to seek justice for or advocate for any particular individual, my job now is to ... make sure everyone has a level playing field. What I do is listen and ... referee ... and make sure everyone has the same ability to be heard,” Mona Williams said.

Wes Williams said he’s done everything from drafting wills, to civil litigation, to criminal defense representing people from all walks of life as far as the Oregon State Court of Appeals and Oregon Supreme Court.

“You as Oregonians have a constitutional right to elect your judge,” he said. “The last three judges in our circuit have been selected by our governor.”

Wes Williams, who has a history of representing people who could not afford an attorney, said the greatest obstacle to justice is “the expense in attorney fees and court costs for the average citizen to be able to seek justice.” He said he has taken on big banks, insurance companies and the U.S. Government including taking a pro bono case all the way to the Oregon Supreme Court where he prevailed.

Mona Williams agreed the cost of legal fees was an issue and highlighted the work of treatment court in both Union

and Wallowa County.

“We are looking at the possibility of mental health treatment courts. That is a big problem with justice ... nationwide. We have people in jail who don’t belong there. That would be one of my goals, to see if we can get mental health treatment goals up in Wallowa County,” she said.

County Commission

Diane Daggett began the presentation with a clear campaign platform — maintaining Wallowa County’s rural identity.

“You can feel it: our rural character is at risk,” she said. “We’re fighting battles right now to protect our future. Battles to thin our forests and graze our lands. Fights to keep our forests open. Struggles to adequately support medical expansion and lack of housing for our working people.”

She said she has dedicated herself to representing all the economic sectors that support Wallowa County, an open government process, and engagement of citizens in the process.

Former commissioner Dan DeBoie proclaimed he had always “had a heart for Wallowa County.” His time away from the commission position gave him new perspective and new ideas, he said, and he promised to efficiently and effectively provide county services, work within the bounds of his authority and always use open and fair processes to balance the rights of all citizens.

He called for all to have creativity and enthusiasm while building relationships.

Candidate John Hillock said his last 40 years, during which he had brought millions of dollars in tax credits and state and federal grants into the county as a businessman,

proved his ability to see a project from conception through finance and construction to completion.

“I am the unique candidate, the one that has a clear vision of where the county is and should be in the future. The one that can bring a businessman’s point of view to county government, the one that’s in tune with all the people of the county.”

His plan includes maintaining access to the forests, supporting the development of value-added timber products, cultivating the tourism industry, supporting the health care industry and assisting the cities when needed.

County Treasurer

Treasurer candidates Carolyn Doherty, Ginger Goebel-Burns and Velda Bales are all experienced office managers proficient in bookkeeping and experienced at customer service. Doherty was former assistant to the Wallowa County Treasurer and Ginger Goebel-Burns is current interim treasurer.

Velda Bales emphasized her desire to be part of “the Wallowa County team that continues to work toward a stable community to raise families and advance business growth.”

“Accuracy, experience, dedication and knowledge qualify me for this position,” she said.

Carolyn Doherty considered her deep roots in the community, extending five generations back, as standing her in good stead with regard to knowing the public she would serve. She emphasized that her previous experience in the department provided her with the appropriate training for the job (preparing more than 8,500 tax statements) and proved her attention to detail (knowing every line item).

Ginger Goebel-Burns, who currently works for both the roads department and as interim treasurer, recalled her years of answering the call for temporary help at the courthouse.

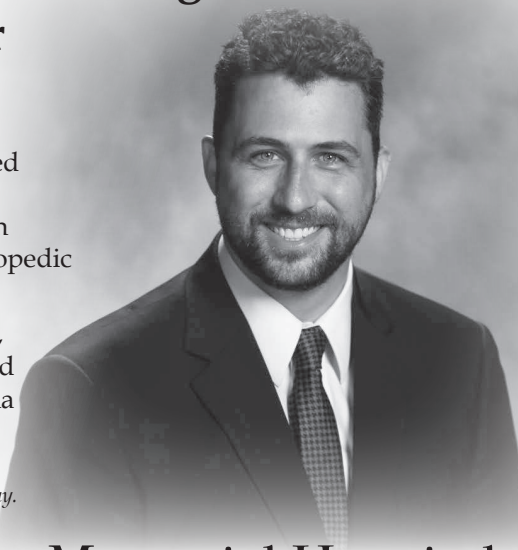
The treasurer’s position was not something she initially considered doing on a permanent basis she said, — until she tried it.

“I absolutely fell in love with this job,” she said.

Introducing Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Adam Heisinger

- Doctor of Osteopathy, Des Moines University, Iowa
- Internship and Residency completed in orthopedic surgery at Affinity Medical Center, Ohio; Fellowship in sports medicine completed at Orthopedic Research of Virginia, Richmond
- Served four years as flight surgeon, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina

Dr. Heisinger will be seeing patients at Wallowa Memorial Hospital regularly for clinic visits and surgery. Ask your physician for a referral today.



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VOTE 'YES' ON MEASURE 104

Oregon’s Constitution requires a 3/5ths majority in both state houses to pass legislation that raises revenue, a threshold designed to encourage a bipartisan approach to raising taxes. Recent interpretations of this law have created new loopholes allowing the legislature to get around this important constitutional provision.

This means the legislature can, by a simple majority vote, eliminate important deductions for things like federal income taxes, mortgage interest, property taxes, or charitable contributions, in addition to other beneficial tax treatments Oregonians have supported in the past. Each of these changes would directly impact the taxes you pay.

THIS IS NOT RIGHT!

We join with our neighbors, customers, and local communities to close these loop holes and end easy tax increases that hurt families and small businesses.

YES ON 104

We urge you to protect every Oregonian’s constitutional right for fair taxation.

VOTE YES on Measure 104.



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Diane Daggett
for County Commissioner

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