

## OUTLAW GIRLS BRING THE HEAT

Wallowa Valley softball opens league play on a high note with a pair of away victories versus Burns/Crane | **A8**



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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## Legal victory over grazing fees on eve of family's 100th anniversary

By **KATY NESBITT**  
For the Capital Press

A federal judge has ruled that grazing should be allowed to continue on four allotments in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan on March 22 released her findings on a lawsuit brought by

the Greater Hells Canyon Council of La Grande claiming cattle grazing on the Hells Canyon allotments were imperiling the Spalding's catchfly, a rare wildflower found only in the inland Northwest.

Sullivan granted a motion for summary judgment to the Forest Service and the interveners in the case, the McClaran family, which

holds permits to the allotments, and Wallowa County.

"We are really pleased the magistrate supported our National Environmental Policy Act planning efforts, and we feel it is a good decision," said District Ranger Kris Stein.

In her findings, Sullivan disagreed with the plaintiff's assertions that the Forest Service

lacked sufficient baseline monitoring data for the catchfly and that the agency was required to consider an alternative that would eliminate grazing in all areas where catchfly grow.

Sullivan's findings also denied the plaintiff's claim that the Forest Service violated the

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### OPEN RANGE

#### FISH HAVE WAY BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN COMPETITION WITH CATTLE

Ranchers are burdened with restrictions thought up by people with no regard for the practicalities of ranching.

Opinion, **A4**



Barrie Qualle

# A REASON TO BE PROUD



Christopher Nobles signs letter of intent to play basketball at Corban College. Behind him are his parents Darell and Amy. To his right is Gus Ramsden with parents Mark and Amy; next is Austin Brockcamp with parents Kristen and Matt. Gus and Austin will be playing football at George Fox University.



Wallowa High School shop students (left to right) Michael Diggins, Ryan Hafer, Zane Mallory and Zeb Ramsden excel at welding. They have already passed the proficiency tests in metal inert gas (MIG) and/or arc welding given at the end of college-level training.

Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop

## Wallowa High School finds pride and purpose in athletic, academic success

Christian Ambrosion  
Wallowa County Chieftain

On Wednesday, April 3, the students, teachers and administrators of the Wallowa School District had good reason to be proud as both Superintendent Jay Hummell and Principal David Howe stood by with a confident disposition and unmistakable expression of pride as their teachers corralled the student body into the Wallowa Gym shortly after 3 p.m.

The confident mood extended beyond the administrators. Even though the weatherman apparently missed the memo — with snow still piled around the school yard — there was an energy in the atmosphere.

With three of four quarters of classes behind them, students and faculty alike seemed to be able to see light at the end of the tunnel. More than the coming advent of summer, the Wallowa School District had much to be proud about.

Propped up by seemingly sound guidance of the district educators, administrators and coaches, the young people of the district seem to be thriving in across an

array of subject matter.

Mr. Howe initiated the event as the afternoon's emcee, during which he credited the academic and athletic accomplish-

throughout the remainder of the assembly.

Everyone knew what was coming, and so Howe wasted little time getting to what felt like the headline event: "Now I

**'I GUESS I'M TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO THE REST OF YOU: YOU CAN DO THIS. THIS OPPORTUNITY IS GOING TO BE OPEN TO YOU. AND THIS IS LIKE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET. COMING TO SCHOOL PAYS!'**

Principal David Howe

ments of the Wallowa students. It was no secret that the assembly had a rare and special purpose on April 3, but before getting to that agenda, Howe noted the critical roles of the teachers, parents and community members who each played a part in the education of the district's students.

And with that the proud principal began laying the foundation of an important theme that would continue to unfold

want to recognize three athletes and their parents."

As the principal called the athletes by name the honorees took their seats front and center and surrounded by the support of their parents as each athlete prepared to sign a letter of intent to continue developing their abilities at the college level.

Christopher Nobles will play basketball at Corban College, while Austin

Brockcamp and Gus Ramsden will remain teammates on the George Fox University football team.

"So it's kind of unusual to have a student from any school recognized for their athletic ability to play at the next level," said Howe, eluding to the rarity of any Wallowa County athlete playing sports beyond high school.

Noting Wallowa High School's approximately 60 students, the principal expressed gratitude "to have three extremely good athletes who are going to play at the next level." More than the three offers to play college level athletics, the three also defied any sense of probability as they each at one point or another earned "Player of the Year" honors from the Old Oregon League.

And keeping his focus on the underlying theme of the assembly, Howe reminded his audience that many athletes — even great ones — won't have this same opportunity. All three of the athletes were also good students with good grades.

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Sei Mee Tea's ambitious group of travelers dressed up in traditional kimono for a tea ceremony demonstration.

Photos courtesy of Sei Mee Tea

### SEI MEE TEA

## A taste of Japan in Wallowa County

By **Kana Oliver**  
For Wallowa County Chieftain

Kiyomi Koike, owner of local business, Sei Mee Tea, came to the United States 25 years ago from Japan and now is a United States Citizen and proud Wallowa County resident.

"In Japanese, Sei Mee means 'Pure Beauty,' which reflects our desire to provide our customers with pure, beautiful, and authentic tea," Koike explained. "We want to encourage a healthy lifestyle through the products and information we provide."

With Koike leading the way,

nine adventurous travelers from all over the United States embarked on a week-long journey to Japan along with Koike's business, Sei Mee Tea. Although each was diverse and unique, the travelers came together through their love for and appreciation of Japanese tea.

Sei Mee Tea was honored to have Tea Master Bruce Richardson from Kentucky join their exploration. Richardson has authored a dozen books on tea culture. Also,

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