

SPRING FLING

EAGLE CAP SHOOTERS HOST FAMILY FUN EVENT WITH GAMES AND PRIZES JUNE 15 AT THEIR RANGE ON ANT FLAT ROAD | A9



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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EPA to remove toxic herbicide barrels from Wallowa Lake

A Blue Mountain Divers SCUBA diver examines a 55-gallon drum labeled 2,4-D found in waters off the Marina at Wallowa Lake State Park. The EPA is planning to remove the barrels, including a number of 100 gallon drums with similar labels, from the lake later this year. To date, no traces of the herbicide have been detected in the water of Wallowa Lake, or in Joseph's drinking water, which comes from the lake.



By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

In August of 2018, Lisa Anderson and William Lambert were SCUBA diving in the south end Wallowa Lake just off the Marina where the water deepens abruptly. They are members of Blue Mountain Divers, a non-profit SCUBA diving organization that seeks to find, recover, and preserve historic and archeological objects that are now at the bottoms of lakes and rivers. Working at depths of 50-120 feet, where the water deepens abruptly just north of the marina, they found a metal milk jug, and a couple of other

things. Then they saw the barrels. They bore labels that said '2,4-D or 2,4,5-T WEED KILLER.' "There were about twenty-five 55 gallon drums, and a dozen bigger 100 gallon barrels," said Blue Mountain Divers diver Lisa Anderson. "It looked as though they had been there for awhile—ten, 20 years or more. The smaller drums were corroded, and whatever was in them had probably already leaked out. But the big ones were sturdier. They seemed to be intact." Lambert and Anderson ended their dive,

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GRADUATION 2019

HATS OFF!



Steve Tool

Joseph Charter School seniors fling hats in the air to celebrate their graduation.

JOSEPH CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATES 15 SENIORS

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

Fifteen seniors tossed their caps in the air on Friday evening, May 31, to celebrate their graduation from Joseph Charter School. "It is an outstanding class," said principal Sherri Kilgore. "Three valedictorians, each with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Our Salutatorian had a 3.91 GPA. And the top ten students all had GPAs above 3.71" The Class of 2019's remarkable records extend to things beyond academic brilliance. The 15 students amassed a cumulative total of only 5 (five) referrals to the office in their entire four years of high school. "It was mostly for things like being tardy in the morning," Kilgore said. "Throughout their years here, all

the kids in this class were just great people."

Virtually all of the students will move on to the next level of education. The class of 2019 garnered more than \$595,000 in scholarships and academic awards. Some examples include: Valedictorian Natalie Gorham earned a four-year scholarship of \$24,800 per year to Gonzaga University. Co-Valedictorian Kana Oliver was awarded a four-year scholarship for \$31,000 per year to the College of Idaho, and co-valedictorian and golf sensation Victoria Suto is headed for the college of St. Mary on athletic and academic scholarships totalling \$18,000 per year.



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Ellen Morris Bishop

Happy Wallowa High School graduates lead the class of 2019 into the world that awaits.

WALLOWA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 19 SENIORS

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

Two-by-two, a total of nineteen seniors walked to their graduation stage on Saturday morning, as a bevy of local musicians played the traditional Pomp and Circumstance march. After the ceremony they would be bound for diverse futures, including heavy equipment operator, security and protective services, rangeland management, agriculture, civil engineering, medical school, and teaching. The talented Class of 2019 earned a total of 295 credit hours of college credits while still in high school, and garnered \$321,500 in scholarships, financial assistance, and awards to support their future plans. "Local scholar-

ships and sources provided most of those funds," said school counselor Dr. Dawn Crow. "The seniors and all of us are very grateful for the Wallowa County community."

High School principal David Howe offered parting words to the seniors: "Think about what you deserve. 'Deserves' has everything to do with your future. Life does not respond to what you need or want. It responds to what you deserve through effort, hard work, thought and thoughtfulness, and how you navigate obstacles."

Co-Valedictorians Riley Ferre' and Rylee Goller reminisced about the best, funniest, and most interesting times experienced throughout

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The other farmer's market

Lower Valley Farmer's Market in Wallowa offers local produce, meats, and many other things

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

There is another Farmer's Market in Wallowa County. Tucked away in Wallowa's Telephone Building you'll find fresh, locally grown produce and a treasure-trove of local foods, art, and beautiful, handcrafted items from local artisans. Run by a core group of eight dedicated vol-

unteers, the Lower Valley Farmer's Market is open on Friday, noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Deb Reth started the Lower Valley Farmer's Market as a traditional outdoor market, replete with kiosks and canopies, about six years ago. "I remembered

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Ellen Morris Bishop

Volunteer Cathy Mullins arranges flowers in the Lower Valley Farmer's Market. The market offers a wide variety of locally produced foods and artisan wares.



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