

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

A chance to exercise an American privilege

On Saturday, Oct. 12, beginning at 1:30 p.m., Wallowa County will have an opportunity to listen to and talk with Oregon's senior U.S. Senator, Ron Wyden, at a town hall meeting in the Senior Center at Community Connection in Enterprise. Wyden last visited the county in late May 2018. His principal concerns include natural resources, rural economies, and health care, especially for older Americans.

The opportunity to speak directly to our elected representatives is important. But, especially for U.S. senators, it is rare. We are fortunate that for the past two years, Senator Wyden has held more town halls than ANY other U.S. senator.

Wyden, elected to the Senate in 1996, is the ranking member on the Senate Committee on Finance (which oversees the subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastruc-

ture), the ranking member of the Joint Committee on Taxation, and serves on the Intelligence, Energy and Natural Resources, and Budget committees—all subjects of interest to Wallowa County.

Wyden's work and legislation includes concern about drug prices, health care, and wildfires, including support for thinning and management projects in a bipartisan bill co-sponsored with senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, both Idaho Republicans.

His most recent legislation is a bipartisan bill to improve financial stability and prosperity for rural counties. Co-sponsored with Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., Jim Risch, R-Idaho, Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Cory Gardner, R-Colo., the bill would reauthorize the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for ten years. The proposed program provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states.

Counties have used these payments for more than 40 years to fund law enforcement, firefighting, emergency response and other essential county services. Wyden and his colleagues believe it is time to reinstate them.

Perhaps you think that Wyden is not "your" senator. Perhaps you think he is too liberal, or too conservative, or too urban for your views. Maybe you are trying really, really hard to avoid politics. But this opportunity to listen and to participate directly in government is what America is all about. This is what men and women have fought and died for: a democracy, where not only can we freely express our opinions, but also we may express them directly to our government and our elected representatives.

As President Dwight Eisenhower



Sen. Ron Wyden

said, "Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage."

At every football game, every volleyball game, every rodeo, Rotary or Lions Club meeting we all stand, hats off, hands over hearts, and pledge allegiance to the flag. What we are really pledging allegiance to is the Constitution, and our revered history of participatory democracy that so many have fought and died for. If we stand up for the pledge, for liberty and justice for all, then we should participate in all that it stands for, including getting to know, and talking with, our U.S. senator, up front and personal.

It's an American privilege. And Saturday, at 1:30 at the Community Connection Senior Center, is a great place to exercise it.

Fall has arrived: Of cows, China, and naps

It's been a rather sudden change of weather and I guess that's to be expected this time of year. A lot of people hate to see summer end but I welcome it. There are far too many things to do in summer and it can be exhausting. Fall brings a lot of good things with it such as really good napping weather.

I used to nap for about half an hour and then get up and go do something. Since I have gone pro, I have increased my time to about an hour. The biggest problem with fall is that flies invade the house and can be a serious problem to the dedicated napper. They buzz around and land on your face and walk around till you wake up and swat them. Being a professional and having a clear conscience I can usually get back to sleep but it is still annoying.

One thing that can make napping difficult is too much caffeine in the morning. I usually go downtown and have coffee with some of the leading citizens, many of whom share the same mental disorders as I



do. By limiting myself to one cup of coffee and eating a big lunch I can usually drift off quickly. Kind of a mini-vacation.

Another good thing about fall is irrigation ceases and the grass quits growing so in my case that means whatever cattle I bought this spring get shipped and I don't have to worry about them. I ride over to my neighbor Todd Nash's field and gather a few that have strayed and, in most cases done well. I sent my gluten free, organic heifers to the sale and hit a home run. Made pretty good money in a bad market. Very unusual, probably a trick to cause me to expand and go big next year so they get all the profit

back along with a loss on all the extra cattle I stupidly bought.

Due to the strained trade relations with China a lot of growers are eligible for aid from the government. I checked in with the USDA Farm Service Agency to see how big my check would be and was informed that corn, soybeans, wheat, hogs, damn near every commodity was going to get relief except beef. Beef tariffs dropped from 38% to 26.6% and then eventually to 9%. Meanwhile cars stay at 2.5%. Clearly something is unfair.

Cattlemen don't have the necessary resources to pay off the necessary politicians. Let's face it, lobbying and campaign contributions are basically bribes and unfortunately most ranchers are encumbered with debt, pride and honesty. They only represent about 1.5% of the vote so are not a minority to be catered to by senators. We have the best politicians money can buy. Too bad we don't have more statesmen and fewer politicians.

Wyden to hold Town Hall Meeting in Enterprise Oct. 12

PORTLAND — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will hold town halls in Wheeler, Grant, Harney and Wallowa counties.

In Wallowa County, Wyden will hold his Town Hall meeting Saturday, Oct. 12, at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, Community Connection, 702 NW First St., Enterprise.

In fulfillment of his pledge to hold at least one town hall each year in each of the state's 36 counties, Wyden has held 950

town halls statewide — including 37 so far this year.

"I believe strongly that open-to-all town halls provide essential opportunities to get ideas from Oregonians on reducing prescription drug prices, building on rural Oregon's strengths and any other topic," said Wyden, who this year won a second straight MVP award from the Town Hall Project for holding the most town halls of any senator in 2018.

WYDEN'S EASTERN OREGON TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

Sunday, Oct. 6

Wheeler County: 2:30 pm, Mitchell School, 340 SE High St, Mitchell

Monday, Oct. 7

Grant County: 9 am, Prairie City School new gym, 740 Overholt, Prairie City

Harney County: 1:30 pm, Burns High School, 1100 Oregon Ave, Burns

Saturday, Oct. 12

Wallowa County: 1:30 pm, Senior Center Community Connection, 702 NW First St., Enterprise

Wallowa County Cultural Trust Coalition seeks grant applications

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa County Cultural Trust Coalition (WCCTC) offers grants of up to \$1000 each year that support individual artists, musicians, writers, cultural historians and the non-profit organizations that support them in Wallowa County. This year, applications for the grants are due no later than October 31.

In past years, the grants have funded the Tuesday Courthouse Concerts in Enterprise, Fish-trap's Big Read for The Wizard of Earthsea last year, and other events that connect Wallowa County people through arts and culture. "We view those kinds of events as important," said WCCTC coordinator Asch Humphrey. "But we'd also love to see applications that involve culture, or a meaningful, evocative piece of art that would be displayed in a public place."

The WCCTC supports local, cultural endeavors and promotes participation in arts, heritage and



Ellen Morris Bishop

A Wallowa County Cultural Trust Coalition grant funded the Thursday Courthouse Concert series this summer.

humanities through disseminating Oregon Cultural Trust grant money.

Eligible grant applicants must be Wallowa County residents

and have a public component of their project that increases access to local culture. Successful grant applicants make access to culture more avail-

able; recover and preserve historic assets and achievements; support development of artists and cultural experiences; and/or strengthen the capacity of cultural organizations in Wallowa County.

Applications are currently available online at wallowavalleyarts.org or can be requested by email at WCCTCoalition@gmail.com. The applications are due October 31, 2019. WCCTC grants are typically awarded in amounts from \$250-\$1,000. The WCCTC board will meet in November to review applications, make decisions and notify applicants.

The Oregon Cultural Trust was created under the direction of the Oregon State Legislature with the purpose of awarding grant funds to Oregon counties and Confederated Tribes to support endeavors that promote arts, humanities and local heritage. For more information about the Oregon Cultural Trust, or to donate, visit CulturalTrust.org.

Public welcome to address Enterprise ATV ordinance

Town hall to be held Nov. 6

Wallowa County Chieftain

Should ATVs be permitted to run on Enterprise city streets? A town hall-type forum will be held Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. in Enterprise's city council chambers in to discuss a possible ordinance that would govern the use of all-terrain vehicles within the Enterprise city limits.

The town hall to obtain public input was proposed at the Sept. 9 council meeting. Council members said they want to make sure ATV-users are complying with the law, but they don't want to be so restrictive as to not have exceptions for unlicensed drivers — such youths younger than 16 — to be able to operate an ATV-type vehicle for work purposes, such as plowing snow or mowing lawns.

Continued discussion of the proposed ordinance will be on the agenda for Monday's regular monthly council meeting.

Also on the agenda, although not complete at press time, will be event permits for the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race vet checks and this month's Trunk or Treat.

The public has until 4 p.m. today to request additions to the agenda.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Flu vaccine saves lives

As a follow-up to Dr. Kelsey Allen's Mountain Medicine column of last week regarding influenza vaccine, this was reported in the Sunday (October 6) New York Times.

Dr. Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases president-elect, described standing in an intensive care unit last winter with the mother of a 9-month-old child with severe flu who was sedated and on a ventilator for seven days.

"This mother did not believe in vaccinating, because she felt that the flu vaccine was not effective and she was concerned about vaccine safety," Dr. Whitley-Williams said. "She looked at me and said, 'You mean I could have prevented this?'"

Ron Polk
Lostine, OR

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