



Ellen Morris Bishop

Let there be light! Electrician apprentice Cole Grantz installs LED lights in the Chieftain offices on Monday.

Wallowa County businesses amp up on energy savings

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

During February, Enterprise Electric has been busy installing new LED lighting in business offices and community buildings throughout Wallowa County.

The program is funded by an Energy Trust grant that amounts to about \$400,000. Installation of the energy-saving lighting is free and covered by the grant. So far, 118 county businesses have been outfitted with the new lights, which provide a more natural light, and are free from the buzz of the fluorescent lights they replace.

Installation, or rather changing out the old

“bulbs” and ballasts is a quick process, requiring only a few minutes per tube.

Journeyman electrician Jeffery Weeks, whose crew changed out the lights in the Chieftain on Monday said that so far they had installed exactly 11,768 LED replacements in the county, including in Cloverleaf Hall, Community Connections, Dollar Stretcher, Enterprise City Hall, Joseph City Hall, the Joseph fire hall, U.S. Forest Service offices, and the Joseph Fly Shop and businesses in that mall. Later this week the crew will head for Wallowa to install the energy-efficient lighting in a number of businesses and public offices there.



Clark Upton and his Troy Elementary School class prepare to bury the time capsule on Feb. 29, 2000

Troy to unearth time capsule on Leap Day, Feb. 29

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

There's a ticking time bomb buried near the Troy School. Well, actually it's a time capsule, buried on Leap Day 2000 at the dawn of a new millennium, and planned for opening on Leap Day, twenty years later. So on Feb 29, former Troy students, teachers, and their friends and admirers, will gather on the school grounds, unearth the capsule and reveal its contents.

“I can't really remember what we put into it” said former Troy teacher Clark Upton, whose students carried out the project 20 years ago. “I think maybe there were some tapes, and maybe a book, and other things that we thought represented the dawn of the 21st century.” A year after burying the time capsule, Upton moved from Troy to Ohio

and then to Virginia before going back to Hillsboro, OR.

The plan is to retrieve and open the “Millennium Time Capsule” at noon on the 29th, exactly two decades after its interment. The opening ceremony will be followed by a chili and cornbread feast, and a lot of memories.

“We (students and teachers) have been able to stay connected via social media, including a Troy School Group page on Facebook, and we plan on having most if not all of the students and parents present at the ceremony,” Upton said. “We are also inviting others in the community to join us including past students and teachers who have a connection with the Troy School. Current Troy School teacher, Fred Byers and several members of the Troy School Board will be a part of the ceremony.”

Members, guests, and sponsors flock to annual Ducks Unlimited dinner

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The always entertaining and productive Ducks Unlimited dinner and auction Feb. 15 saw a record number of more than 100 conservation and waterfowl enthusiasts turn out for Diana Wortman's Chuck Wagon Sisters fare that included Stangel's bison as a popular menu item. The conservation group boasted a total of 46 “Green Wings”—youngsters under age 18 who participated in drawings and the always fun duck-call contest, as well as the duck decoy painting event. In addition some 15 sponsors who donated an extra \$250 to the cause beyond the price of a dinner ticket attended the gala affair. The local Ducks Unlimited chapter also was recognized with a gold banner by the national organization for putting on an outstanding banquet event last year.

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other



Marge Bieraugel

Sometimes the duck decoys take on a more fanciful appearance. This young Green Wing also sports a Lion King item that she chose from among the many prizes and free items for youngsters at the Ducks Unlimited dinner.



Marge Bieraugel

Painting duck decoys to resemble actual species of wild ducks is a favorite activity for the younger set and their parents.

wildlife and people.

Ducks Unlimited's conservation programs have always had a strong biological foundation. That science and research tradition continues today with hundreds of studies to address

the habitat needs of waterfowl. Although a great deal of work has been done and many important questions answered, there is still much to learn about how the birds respond to landscape, habitat and environmental changes.

While the organization's conservation efforts have been limited in Wallowa County because this area is not part of a major flyway, it does fund and support projects elsewhere in the region, including Ladd Marsh.

UMATILLA RIVER FLOODING

Pendleton soldiers decorated for search and rescue

By Alex Castle
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — National Guard soldiers from Pendleton's 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation of the Oregon Army National Guard were on a standard training mission when the news first broke of rising floodwaters along the Umatilla River last week.

The crew were told to go recon in an area over the river when they witnessed the disaster that was unfolding on the ground.

“Once you get up there and realize how much devastation and damage there was, you see that it's pretty significant,” Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ray Talkington said Friday.

After seeing the devastation below, the crew went into rescue mode for the next four days as floodwaters left people stranded throughout Umatilla County. Between Feb. 6-9, three helicopters from the Oregon Army National Guard rescued 54 people, 10 dogs, one cat and one rabbit from floods.

“These Oregon National Guard Members took part in the largest search and rescue operation in Oregon's history,” said Stephen Bomar, director of public affairs with the Oregon Military Department. “They did an amazing job supporting the community and saving lives.”

Gov. Kate Brown landed at the Pendleton National Guard Aviation Facility on Friday morning and promptly presented Talkington, and six others based in Pendleton, the Oregon Meritorious Service Medal. Three others were also presented with Oregon Commendation Medals.

“It's always nice to get a pat on the back,” Staff Sgt.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Gov. Kate Brown shakes hands with Sgt. Marcus Hickman of Pendleton's 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation of the Oregon Army National Guard after presenting him with the Oregon Meritorious Service Medal during a ceremony on Friday morning.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Oregon Meritorious Service Medals, top row, and Oregon Commendation Medals are held by a member of the Oregon Army National Guard.

Steven Kirkpatrick said.

The meritorious medals are awarded to those who show outstanding individual performance in support of the state of Oregon, while the commendation medals are awarded to those who provide an act or series of acts in support of the Oregon Army National Guard.

Talkington's perfor-

mance during last week's rescues wasn't just for the state of Oregon, though, it was for the community he was raised in.

“Being able to go out and help the community you live in is nice,” he said. “It's very rewarding. That's the part we look forward to, not the recognition of what we get doing these interviews or

getting these awards. Being able to go out and help people, that's the important part.”

Kirkpatrick, who also received a meritorious medal Friday and grew up in Pendleton, was proud of how he and the rest of the crew were able to respond when they were needed most.

“You always want to be there, and that's what we're here for,” he said. “A life is a life. There's not one better than the other.”

Though successful, the rescue missions weren't easy.

A combination of windy weather, trees, wires and the waters constantly encroaching on any viable landing spots for the crew's helicopter made Talkington's job as pilot even more challenging.

“That was the hardest part, to actually find somewhere to land,” Talkington said. “It's not the smallest helicopter in the world.”

WALLOWA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Pet of the Week

MEET JACK & TODD!

Jack (left) and Todd (right) are 2 1/2 year old brothers. They both are neutered and get along well with cats, other dogs and older children. These boys are very friendly and have very loving personalities. Adoptions through the Wallowa County Humane Society will come with vet checks and current vaccinations.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PAUL STANGEL

This week's athlete of the week honor goes to Paul Stangel. The former Enterprise High School student is a regular fixture at Quinn Court, keeping the floor clean for Outlaws basketball games. Stangel never falters with keeping a ready smile for fans and players alike while flawlessly performing his duties.

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