

# Wallowa Band Interpretive Center gets \$20,000 grant

**Roundhouse Foundation distributes over \$1.2M in fall grant cycle**  
Chieftain staff

**SISTERS** — Four Wallowa County beneficiaries were recipients of the Sisters-based Roundhouse Foundation's more than \$1.2 million distributed to over 70 rural nonprofits during its fall grant cycle, according to a press release.

Since 2002, the Roundhouse Foundation has worked with local and regional organizations to support creative problem solving.

Grants during the 2021 Fall Open Cycle were made to organizations across Oregon in four different program focus areas including arts and culture, education, social services and environmental stewardship.

The Wallowa Band Nez Perce Interpretive Center in Wallowa received a \$20,000 grant to expand capacity for planning, hosting and improving new and existing place-based tribal youth educational programming and to establish and renew partnerships with reservation-based youth programming.

This grant will build upon



**J.R. Rymut looks over the 3D map of the Wallowa Band Nez Perce territory that she fabricated, while Ron Cameron traces the route on the Wallowa Band's flight toward refuge in Canada. The center recently received a grant to expand its programs.**

Wallowa County Chieftain, File

the success of the 2021 pilot outdoor education program, the Snake River School tribal youth float trip and establish and renew partnerships with reservation-based youth programming.

**The center**

Angela Bombaci, executive director of the interpretive center, said Monday, Dec. 6, the youth programming the grant will help support includes youths from the Lapwai, Idaho-based Nez Perce Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation based near Pendleton and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in

Northeast Washington where the Wallowa Band is located.

She said the interpretive center in Wallowa serves as a place to put on programs planned by the tribes, as well as programs that take place at other locations such as the Homeland Project outside of town or float trips. Other programs include "traditional skill-building" events such as a meat-cutting camp for tribal youths to learn from their elders the traditional ways to break down game that have always been a source of food for the tribes. Exploration of the tribal areas in the county also are programs the center provides.

The center also serves as a

place to educate non-Indians about the tribes.

"It's a starting point for learning about the Nez Perce people," she said.

Events stemming from that have included a workshop on drumming presented at Joseph Charter School where students not only learned about tribal drumming, they made drum sticks, Bombaci said.

**Getting the grant**

She said the grant was no surprise, as the Roundhouse Foundation approached her seeking information on the center's activities to determine if a grant would be appropriate.

**IN BRIEF**

**November warmer than average**

**JOSEPH** — Temperatures in Wallowa County were slightly above average during the month of November, according to the National Weather Service.

The overall average temperature for the month was 1.6 degrees above normal at 36.3 degrees. Highs averaged out to 45.8 degrees, or 1.9 degrees above normal, while lows were 1.3 degrees above normal at an average of 26.8 degrees.

Twice the high temperature surpassed 60 degrees, with the highest mark being 64 degrees on the 14th. The high temperature was above average on 14 days and below average on 14 days. Twice the temperature matched the daily average.

The low temperature dipped below 20 on five days, with the lowest temperature being 16 degrees on the 17th, 22nd and 24th. Low temperatures were above the daily average 15 times, and above the daily average 15 times. The highest low temperature was 47 degrees on the 14th, with that number at or above the high of 20 different days.

November was one of the wetter months of 2021 with a total of 0.91 inches of precipitation falling. That number, though, still is 0.27 inches below normal. More than 1/3 of an inch of precipitation — 0.34 inches — fell on the 5th, making it the wettest day of the month.

For the year, there has been 6.77 inches of precipitation, which is 9.20 inches below normal.

**Low COVID-19 cases again last week**

**ENTERPRISE** — Wallowa County had another low weekly count of new COVID-19 cases.

The Oregon Health Authority reported no new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, Dec. 13, in its report from the weekend, and in the last week reported cases on Tuesday, Dec. 7 (two cases) and Thursday, Dec. 9 (one case).

The three cases in the week would move the county's total from 763 to 766, but OHA currently shows 767 cases in the county.

Regardless, the county remains at a low total so far in December, which just six cases reported so far during the month.

There were 55 cases reported during the month of November.

There are no new COVID-19 deaths, with the total staying at 13.

On Dec. 13, the number of COVID-19 patients in Region 9 hospitals was at 10, and that number ranged between nine and 12 in the last week.

The vaccination rate in Wallowa County has reached 69.7% of adults, and 24.6% of residents 18 and older have received an additional or booster dose.

**True Tails returns in time for Christmas**

**ENTERPRISE** — The Wallowa County Humane Society announced its book, True Tails, is coming out for a second printing. The 122-page book is expected to hit stores in Enterprise and Joseph on or before Monday, Dec. 20, the Humane Society said in a press release late last week.

The book, written by local writer and photographer Ellen Morris Bishop, "recounts the uplifting true stories of dogs, cats, and other animals, including a wild goose and a hermit crab, that have enriched the lives of their human partners," the release

states. "All live in or have a close connection with Wallowa County."

"Especially now, these stories and photos provide a much needed reminder of hope and love," WCHS President Carol Vencill said in the release. "The stories are short, but they are true, and remind us of how important and rewarding our relationships with animals and each other are."

Proceeds from the sale of the book help fund WCHS programs and work, including spay and neuter, adoptions, medical needs, food,

education and more.

"Pawtographed" books, personally pawtographed by two dogs in the book, as well as autographed by Bishop, will be available at the Humane Society's Re-Tail Boutique from 2-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 22.

True Tails will be available in Enterprise at WCHS's Re-Tail Boutique, 119 E. Main St. or The Bookloft, 107 E. Main St. In Joseph, the book is available at Copper Creek Mercantile, 15 S. Main St. or The Dog Spot, 19 S. Main St.

— Chieftain staff

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"They were really wonderful. ... They reached out to us," she said. "They said tell us about the work you do and" encouraged her to apply.

That there was a group eager to support the center, was "really exciting," she said. "They're more than a group that just wants to write a check."

Bombaci said the center has a year to spend the grant and report on it, so she doesn't expect to apply for another grant in the next round of funding in the spring.

However, she said, "We're certainly hopeful for a long-term relationship with them."

Also receiving grants were:

• Fishtrap, which received \$30,000 to support its year-round programming that includes the Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers, The NEA Big Read, Winter Fishtrap, reading events and school residencies that benefit 2,000 readers and writers from across the West and in the rural local community.

• The Josophy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph received \$10,000 to support arts and culture in Wallowa County. The center is a hub of arts and cultural activity, a place of celebration and learning and home to a treasure trove of Nez Perce and

Western history. This grant will support arts and culture in Wallowa County.

• Wallowa Resources in Enterprise received \$20,000 to support its capacity to lead local shared learning experiences for high school youths from five counties in Northeast Oregon, carry out important restoration monitoring efforts with multiple partners across public and private lands in the area and begin the development of a regional online map that could be used to share successful projects and partnerships relating to the stewardship economy.

The Roundhouse Foundation is a private, family foundation, based in Sisters since 2002. The foundation believes that solutions to the unique challenges of Oregon's rural communities can be found through creative thinking and problem-solving, innovation and collaboration, the release stated. It partners with community organizations to develop, implement and sustain creative, place-based approaches and programs that strengthen and celebrate rural Oregon.

For more information about the foundation visit [www.RoundhouseFoundation.org](http://www.RoundhouseFoundation.org) or email [media@roundhousefoundation.org](mailto:media@roundhousefoundation.org).

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