

District victories send FFA members to state

Annual convention is at Redmond this year

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA COUNTY — FFA members from Wallowa County are taking their district victories to state this week, as they head to the convention at the Deschutes Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, from Thursday-Sunday, March 17-20.

One of the top honors an FFA member can receive is the State Degree. From Joseph Charter School degree recipients include Corin Armentrout, Bayden Menton, Mary Thiel, Maggie Miller, Molly Curry, Katie Hoffman, McKenzie Keffer, Dakota DeLyria and Storm Lynch.

Two Wallowa High School members will receive their degrees, adviser Jeremy McCulloch said. They are Haley Brockamp and Abby Tippet, although neither will be able to attend.

From Enterprise High School, recipients include Maci Marr, Eva Anderson, Maclane Melville, Emily Love, Cody Fent, Chase Duncan, Josi Coggins, Lane Rouse, Sydney Hopkins, Bri Rouse, Jordyn Stonebrink, Nevin Goldsmith, Harlie Stein, Caden Fent, Spencer Decker, Jackson Decker, Morgan Cameron, and Mason McDowell. This is the largest number of students from any one chapter in the state to receive their state degrees, adviser Stephanie Schofield said. A total of 23 students will attend the convention this year, she said.

Proficiency Awards also will be presented. Enterprise has five candidates who won in that category in February and will be interviewed and compete at state. They are Destiny Weeks in agriculture communications,



Members of the Enterprise High School FFA Chapter show off their district awards. The chapter joins others this week at the state FFA Convention in Deschutes.

Enterprise FFA/Contributed Photo



Joseph Charter School's state-qualifying Parliamentary Procedure Team is seen at districts in Imbler where they placed first and went on to place first at sectionals. From left, they are Mary Thiel, Cooper Nave, Kane Johnson, Andrew Beachy, Owen Gorham and McKenzie Keffer.

Ian Goodrich/Contributed Photo

Mason McDowell in equine placement, Lannie Stonebrink in diversified agriculture production, Maclane Melville in fiber and oil crop production and Addie Royes in equine entrepreneurship.

Chelsea Mansfield, the adviser from Joseph, said her school's state Proficiency Award candidates are

Bayden Menton in agricultural sales, Katie Hoffman in beef production placement, Trace Collier in forestry management and Mary Thiel in vegetable production.

McCulloch said his team of 10 who are going also will be doing proficiency

projects, although he didn't have the names of those who are candidates during an interview Monday.

He said Wallowa has one of the highest participation rates and usually about 25 FFA members attend state. But this year, with the "ongoing pandemic

conditions" and the state's recent relaxation of masking requirements, students weren't able to prepare soon enough.

"I look forward to having lot more kids next year," McCulloch said.

Juniors Makayla Miles and Emma Durning, both of whom are chapter officers, have been selected as state delegates to vote for state officers.

The school will receive a state Superior Chapter Award and several members will receive state-level scholarships, though the latter won't be known for sure until after the event. The team also will do some agriculture-related field trips while they're away, he said.

Mansfield said that when students aren't competing or helping with committees, they have the opportunity to attend a multitude of workshops put on by state FFA officers from around the nation or industry professionals teaching

skills for their particular area. Students can also engage in the college and career fair with many different booths, watch finals rounds for many different competitions, watch a talent show or see artwork on display from FFA members.

Joseph's McKenzie Keffer will enter one of her pieces in this event.

Others who expect to fare well after succeeding at the February district competition include Enterprise's Advanced Parliamentary Procedure Team, consisting of Tanner Kesceker, Cody Fent, Maclane Melville, Alona Yost, Bailey Vernam and Alexandria Rowley.

Joseph's Parliamentary Procedure Team of Mary Thiel, Cooper Nave, Kane Johnson, Andrew Beachy, Owen Gorham and McKenzie Keffer also will be competing this week. The team placed first at district and went on to place first at sectionals.

This week's featured book

One Italian Summer

by Rebecca Serle

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IN BRIEF

Playwright to be spring Writer-in-Residence

ENTERPRISE — Playwriting and theater are coming to Wallowa County this spring as playwright E.M. (Ellen) Lewis is Fishtrap's Writer-in-Residence for the season, according to a press release.

The award-winning dramatist, teacher and opera librettist will be in local schools, teaching students her craft for five weeks.

During that time, Lewis also will be a special guest at the April 1 Fishtrap Fireside, lead a Saturday morning adult playwriting workshop on April 16 and give a public reading of one of her recent plays with actors from Wallowa County's MidValley Theatre Co.

"Ellen provides those skills in spades, along with an understanding of life in rural Oregon," Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNeerney said. "We couldn't be happier to have

her join us this spring."

The Writer-in-Residence program invites experienced writers and educators to spend 4-6 weeks in the county and includes a stipend, travel allowance and lodging. During their time here, the writer-in-residence devotes up to eight hours a week teaching in county schools, leads an adult writing workshop and gives a public reading.

Lewis lives in Oregon's Willamette Valley on her family's farm. More about her can be found on her website, www.emlewisplaywright.com.

To learn more about the Writer-in-Residence program, contact McNeerney at shannon@fishtrap.org or 541-426-3623 or visit fishtrap.org.

Luncheon to kick off Wild Landscape Exhibit

JOSEPH — Submissions for the annual Wild Landscape Exhibit at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture are due June 19 by midnight, according to a press release.

This year, the exhibit

focuses on the Imnaha terrain and what makes it wild. Artists are invited to a noon lunch and lecture Saturday, April 30, to kick off the event at the Imnaha Tavern.

Speakers to discuss the history and science behind the terrain will be at the event. Artists are not required to attend to participate in the exhibit.

The exhibit will celebrate Imnaha's diverse and wild lands, which means the landscape is the focal point, no human-made objects or structures should be visible in the artworks.

Each submission is \$5 and up to three pieces can be submitted. All media are welcome. Cash prizes will be awarded.

The exhibit runs July 29 through Sept. 9.

RSVP by emailing exhibits@josephy.org. To apply to the Imnaha Exhibit, visit https://josephy.org/imnaha-submission-form?blm_aid=15724.

For more information, contact Dawn Norman, Josephy Center program director at programs@josephy.org or call 541-432-0505 ext. 1111.

— Chieftain staff

SHADOW DAY

THANK YOU

The Rotary Club of Wallowa County wishes to thank the following businesses, agencies and individuals for their help in making the March 8, 2022 Job Shadow Day another huge success. Through their cooperative efforts, 41 high school juniors were able to explore a local career in an area of interest.

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Enterprise High School, Joseph Charter School, Wallowa High School, Alternative Education School

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