

# Local stockgrowers to host Lane County group

County votes to help fund agritourism effort

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association plans to host an “exchange” with their counterparts from Lane County next month and the county commissioners voted Wednesday, April 20, to help fund it.

“Twenty years ago, the Lane County cattlemen came up here and had a tour with the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association and they had a good time,” said Commissioner Todd Nash, who is a rancher.

He said he met with a

representative of the Lane County group to discuss the possibility.

“At first blush, he said that probably 80 people would come,” Nash said. “Now he thinks it’s somewhere between 20 and 40. Maybe fuel prices had something to do with that; I’m not sure, but at any rate, they want to come up here again. He’s been coordinating with the stockgrowers leadership there. ... Anyway, they are interested in coming up.”

The commissioners agreed to grant \$1,620 to help pay for bus transportation to take the group — both Lane



Nash



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

**An aging loading chute reminds visitors of the long connection of people and cattle with the Zumwalt Prairie’s working landscape. An exchange the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association will host next month for their Lane County counterparts will focus strongly on the Zumwalt.**

County stockmen and locals who wish to attend — to various sites around the county.

“We’ve encouraged people from this area to come along,” Nash said.

He said the plan is for the

Lane County group to arrive May 20. The next day, there will be a breakfast at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise, sack lunches for the bus tour and a steak dinner that evening at the Cloverleaf.

The tour will visit the Zumwalt Prairie where the discussion will focus on rangeland grazing there. Then, they’ll head for Buckhorn Lookout where they can view the Innaha Canyon lands and hear about ranching there. The tour will conclude with a stop at the Dorrance barn on Crow Creek where they’ll hear from a member of the Dorrance family who will talk about his family and some of their history in the area.

“It should be a really wonderful day,” Nash said. “We’ll have a sack lunch to go on the bus and a steak dinner at the Cloverleaf that night and all for the low-budget price of \$70.”

Commission Chairwoman Susan Roberts recommended the funds come out of the

county’s Economic Development Fund since the tour promotes economic development in the county, as the Lane County group will take advantage of restaurants and motels here.

Nash said providing the funds for the bus transportation falls right in with encouraging local agritourism.

“Agritourism is talked about a lot, but it’s rarely supported, so this is a way to support that, and maybe we can do more in the future,” he said.

Anyone interested in participating in the tour is urged to RSVP by May 15 to OSU Extension/Wallowa County Stockgrowers at 668 NW 1st St., Enterprise, OR 97828, by phone at 541-426-3143 or by email at Peter.Schreder@oregonstate.edu.

# JCS drama troupe returns to the stage

First post-COVID play written by school senior

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph Charter School Drama Club made a return to the stage, Thursday, April 21, with a performance of “Matthews Manor,” written and co-directed by JCS senior Piper Larison.

Danielle Weaver, the JCS teacher who heads the club and the drama program, said the event marks a revival of the program after years without one.

“Although the drama program at Joseph Charter was kickstarted by Weaver and seniors Jacob Gross and Chase Murray in (the fall of) 2020, this play was the first performance for a live audience due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions,” Weaver said in a press release.

Weaver said about 60-70 people turned out for the per-



Danielle Weaver/Contributed Photo

**The cast of “Matthews Manor” performs Thursday, April 21, 2022, at Joseph Charter School. The performance was the school’s first return to the stage since the COVID-19 pandemic.**

formance about a wealthy, dysfunctional family who attend a dinner party put on by a self-centered daughter-in-law who plans to murder her father and mother-in-law for an inheritance. This doesn’t go as planned and the plot fails, but someone else murders the targeted couple.

Weaver said the performance brought out several factors.

“This performance was a great way to not only introduce the new program, but to showcase the talent of young

Wallowa County actors and actresses as well as the clever writing and skilled directing of Larison,” Weaver said.

“This has been such a great opportunity and the community has helped support us from the beginning,” Larison said April 22, regarding the previous night’s turnout.

“I am just in awe of how hard each of these students have worked to put on a great show,” Weaver said.

She said the troupe plans its next performance for this

fall, although no ideas for a script have yet been drafted.

“We want to maintain the course where students and instructors write plays to help keep them original and creative,” Weaver said.

She expressed her pride in and appreciation to all involved and particularly the students being recognized for their work in front of a group.

“I am constantly in tears from laughter; these folks are amazing to work with,” she said. “They have been so patient and resilient throughout the years of obstacles, and it’s all paying off for us now.”

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