

Kokanee derby planned at lake

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA LAKE — The first of what promises to be an annual fishing derby to benefit veterans will take place June 10-11 on Wallowa Lake with the Cross the Divide Kokanee Derby, according to a press release.

The prize for first place is \$1,000. The angler who reels in the biggest fish wins \$500. Gear packages go to those judged in second through fifth place.

Entry fees include a \$60 boat fee, \$40 each for adults and \$25 each for those aged 12-17. Children 11 and younger compete for free. There is a maximum of five people allowed per boat.

Check-in begins at 6 a.m. June 10 and 11 at the north



An angler shows his catch during the 2013 Wallowa Lake Kokanee Festival. A new kokanee derby will begin in June.

Wallowa County Chieftain/File Photo

and south boat ramps at the lake. The derby runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Winners will be announced at 4 p.m. June 11.

The entry fee includes a June 10 fundraiser dinner at 5 p.m. at Enterprise Christian Church and five raffle tickets. More than 40 items

will be up for raffle and auction, including a guided salmon-fishing trip for four at Buoy 10 in Astoria.

Proceeds benefit Cross the Divide's outdoor program to help pay for veterans and their families to travel and take part in hunting and fishing activities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Cross the Divide's mission is to help veterans and their families navigate the challenging terrain of life, promote healing, hope, strength and growth by the application of God's truths in the venue of God's creation, the release stated.

To enter or purchase dinner tickets visit www.cross-the-divide.us.

For more information, call Andy Marcum at 541-263-1053.

IN BRIEF

'Word Gobblers' slideshow planned

JOSEPH — A slideshow about Irlen Syndrome, which causes difficulties in reading, will be presented Friday, May 20, at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture by Catherine Matthias and Joan Gilbert, according to a press release.

Matthias has written and Gilbert illustrated a book called "The Word Gobblers" about the perceptual disorder caused by the brain's inability to process specific wavelengths of light, as Matthias described it in a Feb. 26, 2021, Chieftain story.

The slideshow will be accompanied by handouts and other visual aids that present simple solutions to ease the symptoms of the syndrome.

The event will begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Matthias at 541-398-0636.

Budget meeting planned in Joseph

JOSEPH — An online budget meeting will be held by the Joseph City Council at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 24. The public is welcome to attend via Zoom or by telephone.

To join the Zoom meeting, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88138754137?pwd=Z3c4WEFkUzdWLT3RqdzhSbkFpSFRodz09>.

wd=Z3c4WEFkUzdWLT3RqdzhSbkFpSFRodz09. The webinar ID is 881 3875 4137 and the passcode is 269827.

To attend by phone, dial 253 215 8782.

Another budget meeting was held for May 17. The City Council must approve the budget by the end of June.

Ceramics classes planned at Joseph Center

JOSEPH — Two classes on ceramics will be held later this month taught by longtime ceramic instructor Pamela Beach at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, according to a press release.

Beginning ceramics will run from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays from May 25 to July 13. In this class, students will learn the basics of handbuilding with lessons in pinch pots, coils and slab forms.

Intermediate ceramics will run from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays from May 26 to July 14. In this class, students will be guided on taking their clay-making to the next level with handbuilding lessons in design, form and texture.

Clay, glazes and firing are included in both classes.

Preregistration is required. Call 541-432-0505 or email artdirector@josephy.org.

— Chieftain staff

Joseph council readies budget, OK's dragon boats

'Awakening' ceremony planned for boats

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph City Council is preparing to pass its budget for 2022-23 and hopes to have it ready for the June 2 meeting, Protem Administrator Brock Eckstein said Thursday, May 12.

The council had scheduled budget meetings for May 17 and May 24 to prepare the budget. The city must have the new fiscal year's budget in place before the year starts July 1, he said.

At the council's last meeting, May 5, it also approved the closure of East First Street between Main and Lake streets from noon to 8 p.m. June 10 for the Dragon Boat Awakening Ceremony. That will allow the public to view the refurbished boats.

The dragon boats are being refurbished by the

Dragons on the Lake Paddle Club. The boats, with their uniquely Chinese decorations, regularly raced on Wallowa Lake until the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been mothballed for two years.

"They're really excited about it. It's a pretty positive thing," Eckstein said. "It's the first one they've done since before COVID, so it'll be nice to re-do that."

The club has stated that it hopes to launch the boats soon after they are "awakened." Awakening involves painting the eye on the bow of each boat.

In another matter, the council tabled a request by the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance for \$1,000 to host the Joseph Mountain Jubilee, to be held Saturday, July 2. This festival falls between Dulcimer Week in the Wallows and Wallowa Fiddle Tunes Camp, and draws talent and audiences from these two long-run-

ning music camps.

Eckstein said the council didn't know what its donation budget was so the matter was tabled until the June meeting.

The financial request is intended to keep the event free to the public and to cover any associated costs, according to founder and event organizer Tammy Kruger.

Also at the May 5 meeting, the council:

- Held an executive session to discuss the hiring of a permanent city administrator. After the session, Eckstein said the city, which has posted the opening online, has received a couple of applications. The council will likely begin interviewing candidates in mid-to-late-June, Eckstein said.

"My goal is to get them through the new budget process and get software installed then hopefully I can hand over the reins to a permanent person," he said.

Eckstein has served as

the pro-tem administrator since April 2021, when his predecessor, Larry Braden, resigned alleging harassment by council members that prevented him from doing his job. The allegations were never publicly settled.

In other business, the council:

- Scheduled a public hearing for the June 2 meeting on a zone change from residential to commercial and a partition for land owned by Andy McKee near the Joseph Community Events Center to "match up the land with the potential use of the lot," Eckstein said.

- Heard a presentation by city engineer Anderson Perry updating the council on public works projects and the urban growth boundary.

- Heard a local resident's request for a dog park in the city. Eckstein said the matter is too "far down the road" for any action to have been taken.

- Heard the various department reports.

- Scheduled the next council meeting for June 2.

Bike playground gets PP&L donation

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA — The bicycle playground planned for Wallowa received another financial boost when Pacific Power and Light announced Thursday, May 12, that it will donate to the project, according to a press release.

Ron Pickens, of Building Healthy Families in Enterprise, said PP&L's donation — which was made to BHF — amounted to \$3,000. Pickens, who spearheaded the refurbishment last year of the skate park in Enterprise, has been behind the Wallowa project, too.

He said the donation brings the project to 93% of its funding goal of \$329,500.

Pickens said earlier this month that the final payment to the American Ramp Co., which is building the park, is due in early July.

Pickens said the playground, which will be located across a side street from the Wallowa School, is targeted to open Saturday, Aug. 20.

The PP&L donation for the bicycle playground was one of two made to Eastern Oregon organizations. The other donation went to Made to Thrive to promote mental and physical wellness for low-income youths

in rural Eastern Oregon by providing access to enriching sports, adventure activities, music and art programs, the release stated.

As part of its quarterly grant-giving, the Pacific Power Foundation, a non-profit arm of PP&L, has announced \$314,952 in new funding to directly support community organizations across the three states it serves. These safety and wellness grants are one of four grant cycles offered by the foundation year after year.

"We're proud to collaborate with our communities to build a strong, resilient future together," said Lori Wyman, PP&L's regional business manager for Eastern Oregon. "These organizations are our local heroes — working tirelessly to deliver safety, health and wellness programs to neighbors in our communities, and we're honored to support their work."

Commissioners to hear about bike playground

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — A presentation on the proposed bicycle playground project to be built at the Wallowa School will go before the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners when it meets Wednesday, May 18.

Ron Pickens, of Building Healthy Families, will give the presentation.

At the May 4 meeting, the commissioners expressed interest in the project, but said they wanted more information. Pickens is expected to provide that information at this week's meeting.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Will hear a presentation from the Wallowa County Weed Board.

- Will begin discussing — and possibly make a decision — to establish the Wallowa County Road Service District.

- Will consider a resolution appointing members to

the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District board.

- Will consider an order to approve the cancellation of uncollectible property tax.

- Will consider easements for a new residential driveway on Jim Town Road requested by Tom and Mary Elder and a power line on O.F. Mays Road in Lostine requested by Karen Girod.

- Will consider approval of an agreement with the Department of Revenue to map a maintenance contract.

- Will consider approval of a plan of action under a municipal audit law to prepare financial statements.

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This week's featured book

The Road to Le Papillon

by Wallowa County native, Shannon Ables

Shannon will be doing a book signing with us May 20th at 3 pm

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