

Familiar face turns up at county chamber



By Bill Bradshaw

ENTERPRISE — There's a new face at the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce that belongs to someone quite familiar in the business community — Deena McFetridge started there May 3 as the new administrative assistant.

She replaces Diane Knox, who retires at the end of the month after 12 years in the post.

But McFetridge isn't new to such work. For the past two and a half years, she's been president of the Joseph Chamber of Commerce, a volunteer position.

"It was all volunteer," she said in an interview Friday, May 13. "Now I'm getting paid to do what I love."

Chamber work seems to be McFetridge's passion.

"I love helping the community out, I love representing the community, telling information about the community," she said.

In fact, she's hoping to help the county chamber grow. She says her primary responsibility in the new job is "to promote Wallowa County and to get members."

She said there are about 325 members in the chamber from all over the county, although not all businesses are members.

Longtime county resident

McFetridge has lived in Wallowa County since 1985, having moved here from La Grande. She said her father moved here to work as a meat cutter at Safeway, a job he held for several decades.

"We moved here when I was in junior high," she said.

Her husband, Carl McFetridge, is a county native who works for the county road department. They



Deena McFetridge, left, the new administrative assistant for the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, looks at her computer as chamber Executive Director Jennifer Piper looks on Friday, May 13, 2022.

raised a son and a daughter here.

"They grew up farming" and went onto careers that reflect that background.

Their son is now diesel mechanic in La Grande and their daughter is the agriculture and welding teacher at Burns High School.

Deena and Carl also have strong ties to the county's ag community.

"We're the beef superintendents at the Wallowa County Fair and we're highly involved in the Enterprise FFA alumni," she said.

McFetridge said she also has personal experience working with businesses. She worked for the Sports Corral in Joseph for 13 years and nearby Mad Mary's for 12 years.

But she's hoping her new job will be her last.

"I'm hoping this is my last job, ever, in my life," she said.

Plenty of support

Both the county chamber and the Joseph Chamber expressed enthusiasm for McFetridge in her new job.

Jude Graham, with whom McFetridge worked closely at the Joseph Chamber, said she has high hopes for the new situation.

"I think she'll enjoy that and do well," Graham said.

She said the board of the Joseph Chamber has yet to designate a new chamber president, so as vice president, Graham is serving as interim president.

Jennifer Piper, executive director of the county chamber, was excited to have McFetridge in the post.

"She has some wonderful, very relevant experience," Piper said.

"Obviously, I like her a lot or I wouldn't have hired her. We're excited to have Deena and her experience in the county, the vol-

unteer work that she's done, the professional work she's done. Her work with the Joseph Chamber is a really good tie-in to what this role is going to be."

And McFetridge is just as excited.

"I love volunteering. I love helping the community. I love helping the kids. I think the kids are a huge part of what our future is going to be," she said. "I took this job because I loved volunteering for the Joseph Chamber and my kids said, 'Mom, why don't you do something that you get paid for that you love.' ... I'm excited to work with Jennifer. She's got some great ideas."

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.

IN BRIEF

Workshop to teach better photography for business

ENTERPRISE — A workshop is planned to help businesses and artisans learn the intricacies of mobile phone photography so that they can take great photos to promote their products, according to a press release.

The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District has teamed up with DDRC Marketing to conduct the workshop June 1 in La Grande and June 2 in Enterprise. Both workshops begin at 6 p.m. and last for about 2 hours.

The La Grande workshop will take place at the Ignite Center for Entrepreneurship. The Enterprise workshop will take place at Toma's Conference Room.

Participants will learn about how to use their mobile phone camera, composition, what to look for, what to avoid, how to edit photos, recommended equipment and how to use that equipment. Live demonstrations will be shown and participants will practice with their own phones to make sure they're showcasing their businesses in the best possible way.

This workshop will be led by Nicholas Duffy and Colten Alldredge of DDRC Marketing. Participants are urged to bring their phones and products to practice taking photographs and get feedback from the instructors.

Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/photobizworkshop>. For more information, call 541-426-3598 ext. 1.

—EO Media Group

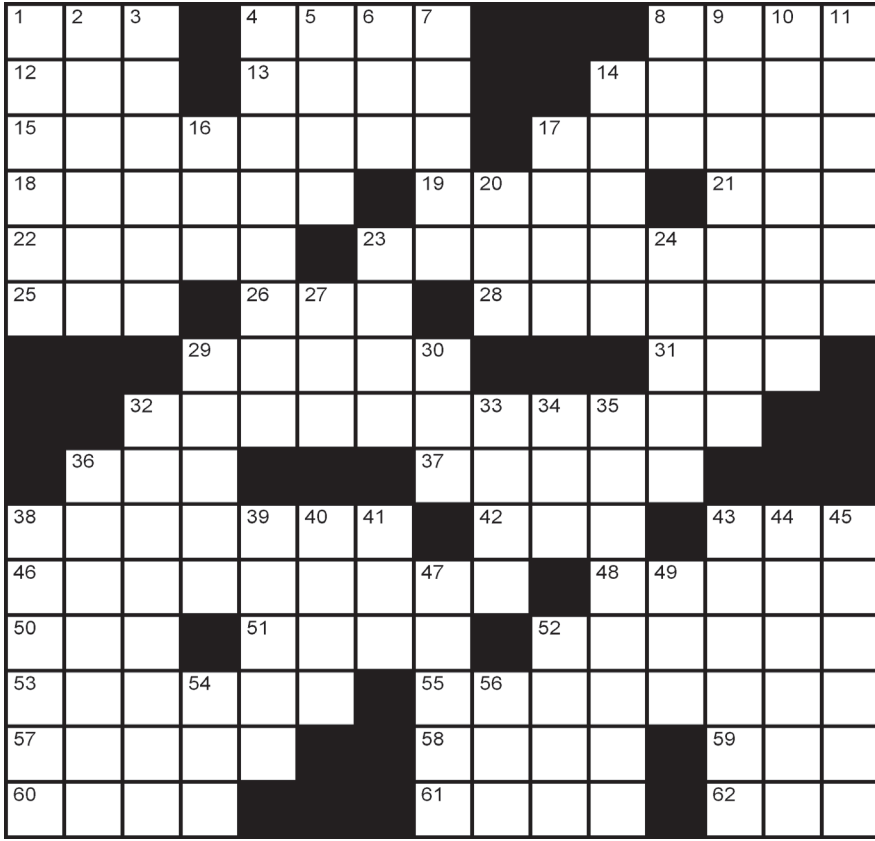


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CLUES ACROSS

- Container for olives
- In ___ (coordinated)
- Summons that may precede a poke
- Beehive State people
- Chase known as the Queen of Creole Cuisine
- Suzy Sheep's friend Pig
- *Second part of a plan (swag, tote)
- Gather together
- Capital of Taiwan
- Admired person
- Diminutive Spanish suffix
- Word before "book" or "paper"
- *What to do with a new baseball glove (Birkin, tea)
- "Ex's & ___" (Elle King hit)
- Brew such as Audrey Hopburn
- Some have ABAB rhyme schemes
- Certain facial spa treatments
- ___ Aviv
- *Dances all night, say (diaper, trash)
- The "L" in UCLA
- Herbivore with a horn, for short
- Mailed off
- Author Tan
- *___! Humbug!
- *State of being current (dirt, money)
- Fuming
- French for "a"
- Spinning studio ride
- Loved a lot
- *Drat!
- Diverse assortment, and one of two anagrammed words combined to make each theme answer
- "Sounds amazing!"
- "Don't go!!" is one
- Suffix with "Japan" or "crossword"
- "Electric Avenue" singer Grant
- Poet Sharon who won a Pulitzer
- Stop sign color



CLUES DOWN

- In this precise way
- Snap on, perhaps
- Puts on TV again
- Less bustling
- Abominable Snowman
- "Uh-uh"
- Group of singers
- The "P" in WPM
- Sprayed water on
- Relating to objects' positions
- Falcon's claws
- Bohemian folk dance
- Phi Beta Kappa stat
- Mascara layer
- ___ Moines, Iowa
- Indonesian island with a Hindu majority
- 101 course
- Cat or dog, e.g.
- Glue alternative
- "To be" in Spanish
- Mused
- "Pretty Little Liars" actress Mitchell
- He/___ pronouns
- "What should we do about it?"
- Two-time NBA Finals MVP Kawhi
- Mascara mishap
- Planetary path
- Syllabus section
- ___Tok
- One making the cut?
- Totally relaxed
- Qualified with disclaimers
- Musical pace
- Curtain holder
- Suddenly canceled
- Aye's counterpart
- "How Far ___ Go" ("Moana" song)



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