

School:

Continued from Page A1

“There was rain, rain and more rain,” she said.

In a sign-in book for guests, she noted, one person’s comment was simply, “Wet!”

But that didn’t stop people from traditionally wet regions. Another signed in as having come from the United Kingdom.

Fundraiser for school

Some of the events served as a fundraiser, Thompson said. A chili cook-off, a chicken luncheon overseen by her husband, Dan, and complete with spoonbread made by Thompson. Various items also were for sale that raised \$1,875 for the day. She said that money will go toward a variety of projects, including the restoration of the school building — built in 1915 — as well as programs at the Flora School Education Center and general operating funds.

“That will go toward whatever it needs to go to,” she said of the money raised.

Board members also are looking at a new paint job for the building. Thompson said it was last painted about 20 years ago, largely paid for with a grant and about \$5,000 worth of paint donated by the Sherwin-Williams Co. But now it needs a new paint job.

“The weather just beats on that west side,” Thompson said.

Indeed, Flora is laid out on a fairly exposed knoll at one of the highest points — short of the Wallowa Mountains — in Wallowa County. The town is listed at 4,350 feet above sea level, about 600 feet higher than Enterprise.

Although the proceeds were less than hoped for, Thompson said she was pleased.

One of the highlights of the day was a tour in a wagon drawn by a three-mule team driven by Brian



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Nathan Thompson of Walla Walla, Washington, forges a trivet during the blacksmith contest Saturday, June 4, 2022, at Flora School Days.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Vanessa Thew Thompson stokes a wood cookstove in preparation to make spoonbread at Flora School Days on Saturday, June 4, 2022.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
An antique pickup and two antique motor cars added to the authenticity of Flora School Days on Saturday, June 4, 2022.

Cook of Irrigon. During the tour, longtime Flora resident David Curry pointed out historic structures in what

is now largely a ghost town and told of his memories of going to school at Flora. “I was in the last eighth-

grade class,” he said, noting that the school closed in 1975.

“They basically go through the whole history of the town,” Thompson said of the tour, discussing the various buildings that remain, when they were built and what they were used for.

The chili cook-off was won by Sarah Thompson of Walla Walla, Washington, who also serves on the school board.

“She has an interest in old-time skills and making sure they don’t die,” Thompson said.

In addition to the chili cook-off, a blacksmithing contest also was held. Justin Riley, also of Walla Walla, won that and was judged people’s choice winner, as well.

Other old-time skills were demonstrated, such as weaving, spinning, wood cookstove use, sewing on hand- and treadle-powered sewing machines and more. One additional item was the restoration of antique cane chairs by Marc and Teena Stauffer of Stauffer’s Refinishing of Enterprise.

Thompson said many of the board members don’t live in the Flora area now, but have strong ties to it either because they once lived here or had family who did. She said they’re interested in continuing to raise money to keep the school building and its education center alive. Annual fundraisers, as well as grants they seek, go toward that, but she’s not sure what the total cost will be.

“I’ve never done the whole budget, and I won’t,” she said.

But they’re not worried about the soundness of the building.

“It’s a rock,” said Dan Hahn of Flora, who served as emcee for the day.

To avoid competition with other events in Wallowa County, the school board has agreed to hold the School Days on June 17, 2023, Thompson said.



Brandy Bronson/Contributed Photo

Wallowa students work on picking up and planting a garden they will monitor over the summer and pick this fall.

Helping:

Continued from Page A1

Bronson said working on projects is an important way students can give back to the community, but it also strengthens the bond the community feels with the school. It often leads to new partnerships and benefits for both sides.

The work being done highlights the theme of community and service that has been the focus of the last month of classes. The theme at the beginning and end of each school year incorporates all the students at Wallowa. Students are broken into family groups and have readings and activities that highlight the theme.

“Family groups consist of a couple of adults and then a cross group of different aged students,” Bronson said. “Our sixth-graders usually become the leaders, and we are trying to build a community within our school so

the kids are familiarizing themselves with other students from other grades.”

It instills leadership qualities in the older students and you see how some of the younger students who may not be as confident can lean on them, Bronson said.

Wallowa Middle School conducts monthly assemblies bringing together students in kindergarten through sixth grade where students are honored for exemplifying the characteristics that are being promoted each month. Other themes during the school year included respect and friendship, teamwork and responsibility and welcoming and acceptance.

Staff select the themes at the beginning of each school year so it allows for instruction to incorporate the ideas and adjust as events dictate.

“These are things we are hoping to instill in our students,” Bronson said. “It also has created a sense of school spirit and family at Wallowa.”

Honoring All Who Served

Veterans Appreciation Dinners

Brought to you by

Wallowa County Veterans Services & Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness

We are hosting Veterans Appreciation Dinners in each town throughout May and June.

May 5, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Imnaha Christain Fellowship

May 19, 6:00- 7:30 PM
Troy School

June 2, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise

June 16, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Senior Center in Wallowa

June 30, 6:00-7:30 PM
Joseph Community Center

Please RSVP to help us plan.

scan me to RSVP or call 541-426-0539.

Open for dining 7 days a week!

Full bar

Live music
Fridays and Saturdays

Lecture series every Thursday
in the lobby

Events are free and open to the public

wallowalake.com
@wallowalake

100 Years Later the Tradition Continues