

Ground broken for bike playground

Plans made for Aug. 20 grand opening

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Ground was officially broken Monday, June 27, for the bicycle playground to be built behind Wallowa Schools and plans are well underway for an Aug. 20 grand opening, project leader Ron Pickens said.

Pickens, a prevention coordinator and alternative school teacher with Building Healthy Families in Enterprise, spearheaded last year's project to refurbish the Enterprise Skate Park. Since then, he became interested in seeing a similar project built in Wallowa.

He said in an email Monday, June 27, that the project — which is expected to cost \$329,500 — has received pledges of \$12,000 from the Reser Family Foundation and \$10,000 from the Roundhouse Foundation to match \$22,000 raised locally. The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners pitched in \$7,000 and they have since received additional support totaling \$2,000. Early on in the project, the Wallowa City Council pledged \$2,000 and the Wallowa School District agreed to have the project built on its property.

Pickens said plans for the grand opening of the playground are coming together. Tony Hoffman is scheduled as a guest speaker. Hoffman is a former BMX Elite Pro and placed second at the 2016 World Championships in Medellin, Colombia, in the Masters Pro Class. Hoffman also coached Women's Elite Pro Brooke Crain, to a fourth-place finish at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games in Brazil.

"His story is full of



Ground was officially broken Monday, June 27, 2022, for the new bicycle playground to be constructed behind Wallowa Schools.



The latest concept plan for the new bicycle playground to be built at the Wallowa Schools. Ground was broken for the project Monday, June 27, 2022.

redemption as he has seen some of the highest highs and the lowest lows," Pickens said.

Hoffman is the founder and director of the Free-wheel Project, a nonprofit organization that mentors thousands of youths through action sports. Today, he is one of the most requested substance-abuse speakers in

the country, traveling over 200 days a year to share his inspiring story with various audiences.

Pickens also said he is ordering and seeking raffle donations for the day of the event for those attending and is in the process of lining up food and beverage vendors.

He said there will be community partners, such

as the Mountain Works Bike Shop from La Grande, Dusty's Board Shop out of Walla Walla, Washington, and the Oregon Department of Transportation set up with booths the day of the opening. Building Healthy Families will have its fleet of mountain bikes and helmets for kids to ride the new facility.

'Spring Fling' to be revamped in Joseph

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — A series of concerts will take place in downtown Joseph most Wednesdays from July 6 through Aug. 24, headlined by "Americana" musician Jimmy Bivens and sponsored by the Joseph Chamber of Commerce.

The concerts will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the courtyard across Main Street from Embers Brew-house, Bivens said. There will be no performance July

27 — the week of Chief Joseph Days.

He said he's been asked by the chamber to revise the "Spring Fling" concert series that usually takes place downtown.

The guitarist plays Western swing, blues, rock and more. In a band situation, he often does lead vocals and serves as the front man.

"It's mostly any kind of music you can think of in a troubadour style," he said.

A 10-year resident of Enterprise, Bivens hopes

to draw more musicians to the area, particularly those who are touring and likely to stop in Wallowa County.

"I want to support those touring artists while mixing in some local acts," he said.

Bivens said the concert series is being done in honor and memory of Henry Kinsley, who owned and operated a shop in the courtyard where it will take place.

He often draws from the audience to participate in his performance.

"One of my fortes has

been to get someone from audience to come up and play," he said. "My first goal is to entertain people, to put smiles on people's faces."

But the main goal is to simply bring enjoyment.

"Bring your chairs and coolers and enjoy some music on Wednesday nights," Bivens said.

For a sample of Bivens' work and to learn more, visit jimmybivenspromotion-alvideo.com on YouTube or <http://www.jimmybivens.com>.

Summer Fishtrap returns to lake in July

Events planned at Wallowa Lake Lodge

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA LAKE — After two years online, Summer Fishtrap finally returns to Wallowa Lake in July.

The 35th Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers takes place July 11-16 at the historic Wallowa Lake Lodge. In a tradition going back to 1988, the public is encouraged to come up to the lake each evening to hear some of the finest writers in the American West.

Monday, July 11, is the first day of Summer Fishtrap. The opening-night kickoff will be with Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNeerney. Also on the schedule are Tim Z. Hernandez and Sharma Shields.

On Tuesday, July 12, Fishtrap will feature JaNay Brown-Wood, Beth Piatote and Cameron Scott.

On Wednesday, July 13, Fishtrap will feature Aaron Abeyta, Karen Auvinen and Laura Pritchett.

On Thursday, July 14, Fishtrap will feature Christopher Kondrich, Frank X

Walker and Ellen Waterston.

On Friday, July 15, Fishtrap offers a special event on the theme of "Renewal" with luk'upsimey/North Star Collective. Led by Beth Piatote, this group of Nez Perce artists, writers, and indigenous language activists will speak about their culture and homeland of the Wallows.

Tickets are \$25 and available at fishtrap.org or at Wallowa Lake Lodge the evening of the event.

Saturday, July 16, is Summer Fishtrap's 35th birthday celebration with readings

from Robert Stubblefield and Fishtrap co-founder, Rich Wandschneider. Featured will be a film highlighting Fishtrap's history, plus live music from Jezebel's Mother. Admission is free.

The lodge will serve drinks from 5-7 p.m. and all events begin at 7:30 p.m. outdoors under the big tent.

Admission is free except for the special keynote presentation on Friday, July 15.

Learn more at fishtrap.org.



McNeerney

Births
A daughter, Fae Lucy Schaeffer, was born June 16, 2022 in Enterprise to Trevor Schaeffer and Alexandria Markle of Wallowa. Grandparents are Lori Shane, James Markle, Kellie Randal and Randy Schaeffer.

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IN BRIEF

Public hearing planned at July Joseph council meeting

JOSEPH — A request for a zoning change from commercial to residential and a conditional use permit for a recreational vehicle park at the same address will take place at the next Joseph City Council meeting Thursday, July 7.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Joseph Community Events Center.

The zone change and conditional use permit have been requested by John Zurita for 709 N. Main St. Zurita is listed as the property owner on the application.

The matter will be addressed in a public hearing during the council meeting.

The public is welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.

Strawberry shortcake sale is July 2

JOSEPH — The Wallowa County Farmer's Market Strawberry Shortcake Sale is Saturday, July 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The market is in the parking lot of Stein's distillery in Joseph. Lemonade will also be available. This is a fundraiser for the market.

The market will also have fresh produce available along with jewelry, photos, fresh bread, roasted coffee, fresh eggs, and plant starts.

Leftover hunting tags on sale July 1

SALEM — Leftover tags go on sale July 1 at 10 a.m. Tags can be purchased via ODFW's online licensing system at <https://odfw.huntfishoregon.com/login>. Hunters who drew a controlled hunt must wait until July 2 at 10 a.m. to try to exchange it for a leftover tag.

New this year, starting July 2 at 10 a.m., leftover tags can be purchased through a license agent in addition to the online sale.

An existing tag already purchased or a controlled hunt win for which you haven't yet purchased the tag can be exchanged online or with an agent for \$7 (residents) and \$15 (non-residents).

If you have not yet purchased the controlled hunt tag you won, there is no fee to exchange this tag. These exchanges can be for leftover or general season tags.

A list of leftover tags is available online. Purchasing a leftover tag does not affect your preference points.

Hunters who want to try purchasing one of the more than 7,000 leftover tags (4,599 for 100 buck deer series, 2,648 for 200 elk series) through ODFW's online licensing system must set up their online account with a username and password before the sale date. See MyODFW.com for how to purchase a leftover tag.

Reminder that leftover tags are no longer available as an additional tag, a change enacted in 2020 to distribute hunting opportunities more equitably. That means hunters who have already purchased a controlled or general season deer or elk tag cannot purchase a leftover tag in the same hunt series unless they exchange the existing tag.

Minimum wage to increase July 1

SALEM — Starting July 1, minimum wage workers in Oregon will see an increase in pay.

In 2016, Oregon lawmakers created a three-tiered minimum wage. That means while many of Oregon's minimum wage workers will see a new rate of \$13.50 an hour, employees in the Portland area will get an increase to \$14.75. Those are both increases of 75 cents per hour. Meanwhile, the minimum wage in rural parts of the state will jump by 50 cents to \$12.50 an hour.

— Chieftain staff

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