



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Mary Harris performs the Shawl Dance at the 2016 Tamkaliks Celebration. This year's Tamkaliks will be July 22-24.

## Tamkaliks returns, celebrates 30 years

By ANN BLOOM  
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Tamkaliks is back.

After a hiatus of two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration of Native American culture will return to its Nez Perce Homeland location in Wallowa to commemorate 30 years of friendship and homecoming.

Tamkaliks begins Friday, July 22, at 9 a.m. with a memorial ceremony and continues until Sunday, July 24. Important ceremonies include a veterans' ceremony and dance, events acknowledging murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, and an event acknowledging the abuses of Native children at residential boarding schools. In between there will be social and contest dancing, vendors selling food, a horse parade and other fun contests.

Nancy Crenshaw, a board member of the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland project and a founding member of the Tamkaliks event, said it is very significant.

"It shows the homecoming and learning about the culture. It's a chance for people to come and make new friends," she said.

During the two years Tamkaliks was not held, Crenshaw said she was very sad and missed it.

"I made a lot of friends. I missed the spiritual joy I felt during the celebration," she said.

The whole point of Tamkaliks, Crenshaw stressed, is that it is a joining of cultures.

"Sunday is the friendship feast with buffalo, salmon and elk," she said. "People are totally encouraged to come. It's truly a celebration."

People are asked to bring a dish to share at the friendship feast.

Crenshaw wants people to come out and support the vendors and watch the dancing which is supported with sponsorships. The sponsors present the prize money following the competition. There is also a raffle with prizes donated

by local businesses.

Tamkaliks is an inter-tribal celebration, Crenshaw said.

"Any tribes that want to come can," she said. "It's a homecoming. One year some guys from Kansas came. It was fun."

For first-time attendees of Tamkaliks, some things to remember include awareness of Native culture and practices. During the memorial ceremony, pictures are not allowed. The master of ceremonies will announce this beforehand. Observers are asked to sit quietly. At other times, Crenshaw said, pictures are welcome, but it is always polite to ask first.

"They are proud of their regalia," she said.

Tamkaliks began in 1990 when a coalition of tribal people, community leaders and interested people in Wallowa decided to do a powwow. Crenshaw and her husband, Terry, a high school history teacher, were two of those people. She said at the heart of it was wanting to welcome the Nez Perce back to the Homeland.

The current location of Tamkaliks is approximately 320 acres and includes a farmhouse that is in the process of renovations where Native people can come and stay. It is also available for workshops. Camping is free during Tamkaliks, but certain areas are traditionally used by regular attendees, so Crenshaw asks potential campers to check-in with the Tamkaliks office — located on the grounds during the celebration — before choosing a camping spot.

The Tamkaliks celebration is alcohol- and drug-free, and guns are prohibited at the celebration or on the grounds.

"Everybody's welcome," Crenshaw said. "Bring your best self. Come out of this pandemic. Have some fun and come together. There is a lot of fun stuff to do."

For more information on Tamkaliks, contact the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland office in Wallowa at 541-886-3101 or visit the website at [info@nezpercewallowa.org](mailto:info@nezpercewallowa.org).

## Joseph tables proposed UGB ordinance

Numerous people speak out against plan

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — A proposed "land swap" of property out of and into Joseph's urban growth boundary was put on hold Thursday, July 7, as the City Council awaits a second public hearing in August and additional advice from legal counsel.

More than 100 people crowded into the Joseph Community Events Center, most of whom were there for the UGB hearing. About 20 people signed up to speak and another half-dozen or so letters were submitted and read into the record.

No one was in favor of the land swap and a number said it was not within the law.

Interim Administrator Brock Eckstein advised the council to refrain from responding to concerns expressed over the issue during a public hearing on it held during Thursday's council meeting.

Eckstein made his recommendation after the city received several items of correspondence from attorneys on the UGB.

"It is my recommendation that the council does not answer any questions tonight and table the matter until the city attorney can further review the correspondence," he said.

The issue before the council was a plan to modify the urban growth boundary of the city. According to Oregon.gov, each city in the state has an urban growth boundary that is used to designate where a city expects to grow over the next 20 years. Cities may amend their UGB as needed to accommodate city growth. The use of UGBs, and the review process for UGB



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Leon Werdinger gives his reasons for opposing a planned "land swap" to alter Joseph's urban growth boundary during a public hearing on the matter Thursday, July 7, 2022, before the Joseph City Council. A second hearing and possible decision will take place Aug. 4.

expansion, helps to preserve Oregon's agriculture, forest and open space and control the sprawl of each city.

In this case, the city intends to "swap" 69.9 acres of the Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site currently zoned for residential use and within the UGB for 73.4 acres nearby on the city's southwest side. Since state law governing UGBs requires land to be available for residential use, the land in Iwetemlaykin cannot be used for residential, as it has become part of a state park.

In reading the notice for the hearing, Mayor Lisa Collier emphasized that the council would not make any decision after the hearing. This was just the first reading of the proposed ordinance. The second reading and another hearing will take place at the council's Aug. 4 meeting. A vote on the ordinance could take place at that time.

### Public comments

Leon Werdinger, who wrote a column on the UGB issue that appeared in the June 29 Chieftain, largely allowed that column to be his statement. But he still was opposed to the UGB

modification and said he thinks the details need to be worked out by a planning commission.

"Just deny it and start from scratch and have your planning commission go for it," he said.

Others agreed that the city needs a planning commission. Collier was one most in agreement, but said it's been difficult getting residents to step up and take part.

"We need people who will serve on it," she said.

While the need for a planning commission appeared to be one of the most concerning issues necessary before the UGB modification can move forward, other issues expressed by residents were mentioned.

David Berkey, a retired attorney, said he's been doing legal research on the issue.

"I don't see how you can do what you're proposing because this ain't a swap," he said.

He cited an Oregon law on the definition of "buildable land" that is suitable, available and necessary for residential uses. And of course, there is none. Iwetemlaykin land is not due to

its status as a heritage site. That's nobody's fault, but that's the fact. I don't see how you can exchange a nonexistent right to a different area."

Todd Turner, who moved to Joseph from Bend three years ago, said in Bend he served on the planning commission and saw the UGB expand there.

"In my time as a planning commissioner, I've never heard the term 'land swap' as it relates to UGB issues," he said, adding that what Joseph plans is not a swap, but an expansion or "rerouting."

He emphasized that the city needs an inventory of residential housing. Others agreed, saying many homes in Joseph are either unoccupied or occupied only a portion of the year. Turner said he believes it would be likely the state would ask for such an inventory.

Turner's experience as a planning commissioner again brought Collier to bring up the issue.

"You touched on something we want to do and you might be someone to consider for a planning commission," the mayor said.

Other issues brought up include the need for affordable housing particularly for workers, the undesirability of turning riparian areas on the southeast side of town into residential areas and the overall quality of life in Joseph.

Collier closed the hearing by thanking the public for its respectful attitude and not being an "angry mob," since the council members all are volunteers and just trying to do their best.

She directed the council to plan a work session to discuss a planning commission and other issues, but she came back to the need for volunteers on the commission.

"We need people to step up," she said.

## Maxville, history center win parks grants

Sites among 14 statewide to receive grants

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Two sites in Wallowa County are soon to be the recipients of grants from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, it was announced Friday, July 1.

The Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center in Joseph requested and received a \$10,000 grant, with \$10,000 matching in in-kind support and funds raised to get the Maxville site east of Wallowa on the National Register of Historic Places. The money will help cover the cost of the nomination process.

Gwendolyn Trice, executive director of the center, said Wednesday, July 6, that the grant should arrive any day. It will pay for the writer of the nomination to the national register, she said.

The center has finally purchased the 240-acre site that includes Maxville. Trice said the center closed on the site June 10.

Maxville, which existed as a company logging town from 1923-33, was at one time the largest town in Wallowa County, according to the Maxville website. It was home to African American loggers at a time when Oregon's constitution included a



Wallowa County Chieftain File Photo

A building at the Maxville townsite in northern Wallowa County is observed by teachers and students in 2015. The building has been dismantled and will be reconstructed in the spring, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the former logging town.

provision excluding Blacks from the state. Maxville had a population of about 400 residents, 40 to 60 of them African American, the website says.

Trice's father, grandfather, uncles and cousins came from Arkansas to work as loggers in Maxville.

She said the main lodge has been dismantled and will be rebuilt at the site in the spring, which will be the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Maxville.

"We've been working on it and now it's a reality," she said.

Trice said archaeological students from around the

region have been working on the site before any reconstruction work is done.

"We're making sure we're doing the due diligence before we rebuild," she said. "We want to honor all the (archaeological) processes before we turn any soil."

In addition to the residents of the logging town, archaeology connected to the Nez Perce and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, which were the original inhabitants of the area, also is being considered.

In addition to Maxville, the Wallowa History Center in Wallowa requested and received a \$20,000 grant to

repair the exterior of the old ranger's office at the historical Bear-Sleds Ranger Station in Wallowa. The office now hosts the history center. The center also will have \$22,250 in matching funds.

No one was available at the center to discuss the grant.

The two were among 14 applicants from across the state that combined requested \$215,466, received \$200,000 and had \$366,830 in matching funds.

For more about the grant program, visit [www.oregon-heritage.org](http://www.oregon-heritage.org) or contact Kuri Gill at [Kuri.gill@oprds.oregon.gov](mailto:Kuri.gill@oprds.oregon.gov) or 503-986-0685.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:  
[www.Wallowa.com](http://www.Wallowa.com)

Wallowa County  
**CHIEFTAIN**



Contact Jennifer Cooney TODAY  
to Advertise in the Wallowa County Chieftain

JAC's Innovative Sales and Marketing Solutions  
**Jennifer Cooney**  
541-805-9630 [jacs.isms@gmail.com](mailto:jacs.isms@gmail.com)

**Independent  
Sales Contractor**

