

AMY HAFTER RACE FOR CANCER AWARENESS



Photos by Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Bayden Morton (1567) leads the pack early in the Amy Hafter Race for Cancer Awareness 5K division Saturday. Morton finished the race in 18:56. To Morton's left is Isabelle Tingelstad, who turned in the top time in the 10K division 43:15. Also pictured are Maia Vandervlugt of La Grande (1499) and Elyse Tingelstad (1521). The event is named after Hafter, a 1989 Wallowa High graduate who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2007. [More photos online at Wallowa.com](#)

JAIL

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The efforts have removed a number of felons from the street or forced them to flee the county.

The effort began to reap results about the time Wallowa County discovered it would be losing nearly \$1 million in Secure Rural Schools funding. The county has been scrambling to find options to make up the deficit, including cutting the sheriff's budget.

Depending on the final budget numbers when it is adopted later this month, Rogers says he may be forced to make a difficult choice: Delay hiring a much-needed deputy or curtail the number of criminals that law enforcement sends into the jail system.

"I'm not going to cut the damn jail; these people need

to be there," the sheriff said. "I would 10 times rather explain to the commissioners that I'm over budget from doing my job than answer to a bunch of angry citizens because I didn't do my job."

Until February 2016, Union County housed Wallowa County inmates. The sheriff's office, which handles all of the prisoners taken into custody, changed gears and selected Umatilla County for prisoner housing services. Rogers offered a variety of reasons for the move that included costs and a lack of space in Union County.

"We knew when we started the Street Crimes Team to clean things up around here, it was going to be a tough year — that we were going to be well over budget on jail space, and we were. But now we're starting to see the fruits of our labors because our jail population is

dropping," Rogers said.

To keep costs down, no one taken into custody is transported to the Umatilla jail without the express permission of either Rogers, chief deputy Fred Steen or community corrections officer Kyle Hacker. "There's certain people I am not going to release. I just won't do it," Rogers said.

Steen also cited the effectiveness of the county's community corrections (parole and probation) force as a factor in the temporary prisoner glut. He said that the county once contracted with an adjacent county to run parole and probation, and it didn't take criminals long to figure out they weren't being held accountable, and they returned to criminal behavior.

"That's not happening any more, and that's one of the main reasons you see a spike in people going to jail," Steen said. "They're being held

accountable for the first time in decades, and that costs money. There is a tremendous number of criminals, mostly small-time criminals, but there are some larger ones, living here and frequenting here."

The county's community corrections department currently supervises around 130 people.

Housing criminals in Wallowa County is problematic.

The county has a six-cell jail that functions as a temporary holding station in the justice center, 104 W. Greenwood St., Enterprise. The facility can't hold prisoners for more than 96 hours at a time, and it would take more than a million dollars to upgrade to allow longer-term stays.

The county would also get soaked for the five additional personnel needed to operate the jail as a full-time institution. A number of other cost-prohibi-

WEED

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Flanagan can legally allow anyone over the age of 18 into his store, but he demands identification from customers and doesn't allow anyone under the age of 21 to remain.

"I don't want some 18 year-old kid coming into our place to buy accessories for their 15-year-old high school friends," he said. "I don't want their parents mad at me. We have kids, and we don't want them partaking before they're of legal age."

Others are likely to be concerned that a dispensary will attract a criminal element.

"Many of the people who come in here to buy accessories are veterans with PTSD and elderly people who use it for their aches and pains," he said. "Others are hard-working people who simply use it for recreational purposes."

The building where his shop is located is being sold, and Flanagan said that he'd prefer to have the dis-

pensary elsewhere anyway. With the help of an investor, it's possible they would purchase property and build a dispensary.

He also doesn't plan to grow cannabis himself, although he would market locally grown marijuana from a licensed grower.

The state has collected \$75 million revenue since 2016, although it has yet to distribute the funds. Flanagan noted. State law allows dispensaries to pay the local share directly to the city, an option Flanagan said he would utilize.

As to how much Joseph would stand to gain, Flanagan said tax revenue of more than \$100,000 annually is anticipated in Huntington, one of the few eastern Oregon towns with a recreational dispensary. Besides employing several local residents full-time, Flanagan also sees a dispensary as a draw for tourists, which he said would benefit many businesses besides his own, particularly in the wintertime.

"All I see are paved streets and full businesses," he said.

old Wallowa County only has one, two or three crooks in it from time to time, but it's just not true. We have people living here who are a continuous problem to the community." He added that he believes without the legitimate threat of jail, the county's recidivism rate would skyrocket.

Umatilla County provides seven prisoner beds to the county at a cost of about \$140,000 a year. The county pays for the beds regardless whether they are occupied. The jail supplies additional beds as needed at a higher rate.

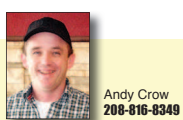
Over the past year Umatilla has simultaneously housed as many 17 Wallowa County prisoners. Statistics provided by the Umatilla jail show usage peaked in July 2016 and April of this year.

Last week, Umatilla was hosting four of the county's inmates.

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<p>\$6,500</p> <p>2004 SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK AWP</p> <p>Stock # 10553</p> <p>145,314 MI.</p> <p>AWD, A/C, PS, PW, Pwr Locks</p>	<p>\$4,999</p> <p>1976 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE BUG</p> <p>Stock # 10480</p> <p>2,309 MI.</p> <p>RWD</p>	<p>\$22,500</p> <p>2001 FORD ECONOLINE E450 SUPER DUTY CUTAWAY VAN</p> <p>Stock # 10554</p> <p>43,272 MI.</p> <p>RWD</p>	<p>\$25,750</p> <p>2014 DUTCHMEN DENALI 261BH</p> <p>Stock # 10527A</p> <p>1 MI.</p>	<p>\$5,900</p> <p>1984 GMC M66500 C7D064</p> <p>Stock # 10234</p> <p>RWD, 40' Boom, Diesel</p>
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