

'FEED THE PIG' MONEY LESSONS



Courtesy photo

Last month, the Enterprise High School Family & Consumer Sciences class worked with Enterprise Elementary's 5th grade students to teach them about money management. They creatively titled this four-day curriculum "Feed the Pig." The high schoolers designed lessons and taught about money facts, counting change, savings, and spending wisely. The EHS students involved were Autumn Landowski, Tiffanie George, Kacie Melville, Dustin Johnston, Trent Bales, Dillon Thompson, Sofi Putruele, and Gotro Thanadkit.

'Tall Cop' teaches pros about drug awareness

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Jermaine Galloway, or "Tall Cop," gave a day-long educational workshop April 3 on drug and alcohol awareness and prevention at Building Healthy Families.

Galloway is an ex-Division One basketball player and gained his moniker from his six-foot nine-inch height. He is currently an Idaho police officer, serving since 1997, and has over 11 years of service in underage drinking and drug enforcement.

The event attracted scores of professionals involved in law enforcement, schools and social agencies from Baker, Wallowa and Union counties.

Galloway said he often visits rural communities. "A lot of times I'll do training like this for professionals, or I'll do community nights also. With my schedule, we couldn't get a community night," Galloway said.

Drug problems in rural communities aren't so dif-

ferent from cities, according to Galloway. "You find differences in cities, but it's not based so much on size, but on the region."

Galloway said drug availability often determines popularity in a region, as well as state laws. "What's available to you over the counter? What would you get in trouble for if you did get caught? Whether it's a serious offense or a minor offense plays into this too."

Galloway said he thought he'd like to see drug offenses handled consistently throughout the state so problems don't get pushed to certain areas viewed as more lax on enforcement.

The amount of revenue received by drug prevention and treatment programs will dictate the future of drug use, according to Galloway. "We're seeing prevention dollars get cut in some ways, and we're seeing people who are wanting and needing to get into treatment who can't because of a lack of beds and

facilities. A lot will depend on grants and financial support we get to help people," Galloway said.

Education, not scare tactics, are the key to curb drug use, Galloway said. "We all know someone who uses drugs and has not been in jail or crashed their car. We need to educate them on the facts. Not just what we believe, but what are the actual costs, the actual harms."

Jason Wilcox, Wallowa County prevention coordinator, said of the event, "We were very excited to be able to provide the opportunity for Tall Cop, Jermaine Galloway, to come to Wallowa County and provide an educational opportunity for professionals in our region. Part of prevention is creating awareness and educating partners in current and upcoming drug trends. If awareness is created, it allows teachers, law enforcement, first responders and other professionals to better respond to and handle potentially harmful situations in the future."

Locals attend reinvestment summit

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

How to invest monetary savings realized since the Oregon Legislature's passage of HB 3194 in 2013 was the primary topic of the first annual Justice Reinvestment Summit held in Salem Monday, April 6. Five persons from Wallowa County attended the summit.

HB 3194, implemented with a goal of flat-lining prison populations and reducing recidivism, decreased the harshness of penalties for many legal violations in Oregon. For example, it provides probation and not prison sentences for some felony marijuana charges, and for charges of driving while suspended or revoked. It also shortens prison sentences for such offenses as robbery in the third degree and identity theft.

Attending the all-day event in the Salem Convention Center from Wallowa County were County Commissioner Susan Roberts; Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness Executive Director Steve Kliever; Wallowa County Juvenile Officer John

Lawrence; Wallowa County Parole & Probation Officer Kyle Hacker; and Neal Isley, owner of privately owned Point of Connection, under consideration for possible transition housing for persons relocating into the community following stints in prison or jail.

Wallowa County District Attorney Mona Williams, a member of the Oregon District Attorneys board of directors, says that agency went on record in 2013 in support of HB 3194 on the understanding that money saved by implementing the bill would be invested into communities to pay added expenses for supervision and more when former criminals return to civilian life.

However, Williams expresses displeasure about certain ways those savings might be spent.

According to Williams, the governor's budget, released four months ago in December 2014, stated that \$58 million — according to Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon Public Safety Commission calculations — already had been saved courtesy of cost reductions included in HB 3194. However, she said, when

the Joint Ways and Means Committee released its budget in mid-January 2015, the amount of money from the \$58 million total to be set aside for reinvestment into public safety had been reduced to \$20 million.

Although not certain on the matter, the local district attorney is of the opinion the \$38 million discrepancy is budgeted for education.

"I have nothing against education," Williams says, "but that deal ought to be honored."

Although a grant format has been selected to determine future allocations from HB 3194 cost reductions, whatever that amount will be, final pieces of that Request for Proposal process just now are being put in place. When launched in 2013, each county in Oregon was given a minimum of \$50,000 to flat-line prison growth and promote recidivism. Wallowa County's supervised work crew program was launched thanks to that money.

The stated end goal of the April 6 Justice Reinvestment Summit in Salem was to reduce prison populations, reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and increase offender accountability.

Wallowology hosts EOU prof

Wallowology, located at 508 N. Main St. in Joseph is hosting Eastern Oregon University geology professor Jay Van Tassel who is presenting a slideshow about the Wallowa River on April 17 at 7

p.m. During the presentation, Tassel will discuss reasons for the change of course in the Wallowa River that occurred some two million years ago.

Light refreshments will be served.

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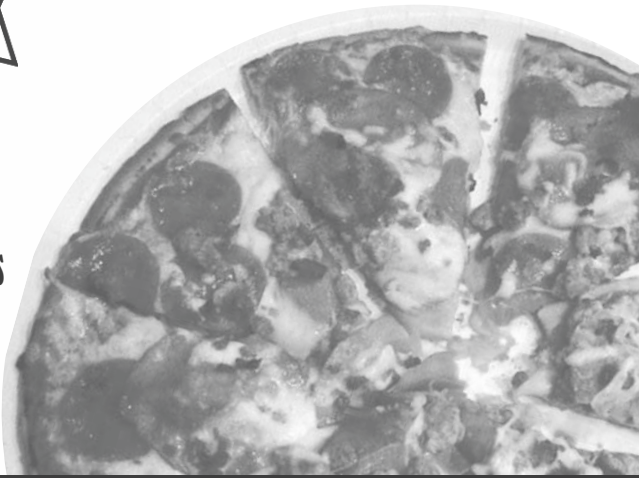
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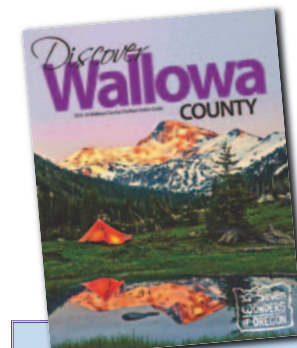
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Cheryl Jenkins  
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The Crew @ The Chieftain

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