

CONTRACT: Rotary Club revisiting gazebo

Committee will review budget

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

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The budget committee looks at the WCSO contract proposal before making its recommendation to the city council, which has the final say.

Sands said he generally negotiates directly with Sheriff Steve Rogers. "Steve's a good guy and really good to work with," the mayor said.

Sheriff Rogers said his office has a cordial relationship with Joseph, and the contract between Joseph and his office started long before his arrival in Wallowa County in 1995.

As for the deputies assigned to patrol in Joseph, Rogers said they take turns. "We all take turns patrolling Joseph - including me," Rogers said. Each deputy patrolling Joseph turns in his or her hours to Rogers, who submits them to the Joseph City Council each month.

Rogers said that during events such as Chief Joseph Days or the Bronze Blues & Brews festival, as many as three deputies patrol the Joseph streets.

Rogers, who has also been a deputy during his

long career with WCSO, said every sheriff he's worked with has been very protective of the Joseph contract.

"We know where the importance lies with keeping Joseph. It's a good deal for Joseph if you compare it with similar contracts around the state, but I'm determined to keep it down as much as I can because no one has money anymore," Rogers said.

Joseph's size does present its challenges to patrolling deputies, however. "Patrolling a two-square-mile town is very hard on you - especially in the middle of the night. It's an exercise in self-control not to run into parked cars," Rogers said.

A different contract will apply to Enterprise if WCSO replaces EPD. "It will be a different contract. No ifs, and, or buts. It has to be, because there's no choice but to operate that way," Rogers said.

The sheriff declared satisfaction with the relationship between WCSO and Joseph. "The Joseph contract is very good for us and very good for Joseph. It works," Rogers said.

One only need to take a close look at the Wallowa County Courthouse gazebo to realize the structure is due for a little TLC. Rotary Club of Wallowa County has volunteered for the task.

The club's president-elect, Chuck Anderson, volunteered the club for the project. Anderson said the Rotary year runs from July to June, so each year the Rotary gets a new president. Anderson takes over the post in July.

"We have a tradition that the new president can have a 'president's project' that the club can be involved in," Anderson said. The Rotary Club actually initiated the gazebo's construction. "It was our project back in 1987, and we had a contractor by the name of Charlie Kissinger build it," Anderson said. A plaque on the gazebo has additional information.

"You can tell after this much time, the gazebo needs new paint and a new roof. The roof is in pretty poor condition," Anderson said, pointing to the crumbling wood shingles and flaking paint.

Anderson already created what he calls a nine-member "steering committee" for the gazebo restoration as well as three consultants for the project. "At minimum, we'll repaint it and get a new roof, but what we'd also like to do is get rid of two posts (in the southwest corner) so that the



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Chuck Anderson, president-elect of Rotary Club of Wallowa County, stands on the courthouse gazebo to publicize the club's upcoming restoration project.

band in the gazebo can actually face the audience," Anderson said. The gazebo currently faces the courthouse. The stairs will remain in the same place.

Because Anderson doesn't

become president until July, work won't start until summer. He hopes to start fundraising soon and try to get materials donated or at a discount. Club member Ralph Swinehart, an engineer, will

advise on the project as will Joseph contractor John McColgan.

"I just figure that since it was our project to begin with, that the least we can do is keep it maintained," Anderson said.

AWARDS: Spring cycle disappointing

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The good news is the fall awards are yet to come, and after a summer of tourists filling motels, City Manager Michele Young expects that awards fund to be richer. The shortfall

in the spring awards fund is the result of the city continuing to play catchup after the 11-month closure of the Best Western in 2012-2013.

"We thought we'd be caught up by now, but it's taking longer than expected," Young said.

Broncs and Bulls Director Wup Winn took the disappointment well. "We're thankful for anything we can get to help," he said. "We'll continue to expand what we're able to offer the competitors so that we can put on a better show for the public."

Hells Canyon Mule Days organizer Sondra Lozier was less philosophical. "We just won't be able to make up the shortfall," she said. "We put an average of \$10,000 into advertising every year. We'll make the event happen, but this concerns me."

WELDERS: Vo-ag team brings home awards

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Wallowa High's advanced team of Robert Delancey, Gabe Burns, Brice Melville and Patrick Rithaler took 6th and Delancey additionally took 11th High Individual.

Last spring an ODE grant of \$250,000 upgraded the industrial arts manufacturing and engineering department at Enterprise High and that upgrade is showing in the students' skill levels, according to vo-ag instructor Stephanie Schofield. She praised the citizen mentors who volunteer with the students: Zane Anderson of Stangel Industries on welding skills and Marc Christman on wiring.

Zane Anderson was fit to be tied after the showing at Treasure Valley. "I got kids who can do anything," Anderson raved. "Those freshmen, oh man, I've been welding 25 years and those boys and their skills . . . they start out on that new virtual welding program and when they come to the actual welding they are smooooth."

"We'll be meeting with bridge industry pros in Astoria and again meeting pros at


the School of Engineering at Oregon State and going to the Wave Lab, the Construction Lab there," said Schofield. "We'll tour the Steffen Steven Hay Press Manufacturing build and design facilities -- we're taking our third field trip May 3 through 7. What we're trying to do is build knowledge and skills as to what career are out there."

WHS also received a grant to upgrade their Vo-Ag program, a \$480,000 CTE Revitalization

Grant. The improvements the school district was able to make as a result of that grant are too many to list, which is why the Agricultural Sciences and Technology Program held an Open House April 16. A few of the features include 20 new computers loaded with AutoCAD, two 3D printers, brand new welders and plasma cutters, milling machine, and infrastructure remodel, expansion and outfitting. McCulloch couldn't thank enough

people for their help in supporting the program. "Rob Burns, Kevin Burns and Kelly Guentert of Kni-Co Manufacturing, Matt Brockamp from Timberline Surveys are all providing internships," he said. "Tanzy Forest Improvement, Norco out of La Grande and a dozen more. I've got a list so long of people who are helping here."


Student of the Week



John Stein
Joseph Charter School

John Stein is the son of Mike and Katia Stein. He is actively involved in FFA where he holds the office of Sentinel and is also a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 3.96. John also played football and basketball for JHS. His plans is to study mechanical engineering in college and has prepped himself by taking upper division classes such as advanced Biology, Pre-Calculus, Calculus and Writing 121. Ultimately, he is a student who anyone would be proud to call their son. The staff and administration wants to congratulate John on being an exceptional role-model, citizen, and student/athlete.

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