

Youth Arts Fest packs center

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — With the beautiful spring weather in Wallowa County on May 2, the weather didn't give many reasons for locals to be indoors. That is, unless you wanted to experience the art of local youth at the 26th annual Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival housed at the Joseph Community Center. The festival received a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, according to Leah Johnson, co-chair of the Youth Arts Festival with Will Roundy.

The event is open to all the county's students and is sponsored by the Wallowa Valley Arts Council. Johnson said the festival received over 900 art entries from students, approximately 300 pieces more than last year's festival.

Joseph Charter School sophomore Haven Johnson won the Judges' Award (Best in Show), while JCS senior Amanda Blessing won the People's Choice award for her painting, "Winter Solitude."



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Third-grader Ariana Samples, 9, stands next to her 1st place "Taj Mahal" picture at the Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival on May 2.

Both awards included a \$50 prize.

Haven Johnson expressed her pleasure in the ribbon and award for her encaustic painting. Encaustic painting is three-dimensional and entails using beeswax mixed with pigment as the medium. Amazingly, Johnson only put about four hours into the work. "I only worked in short periods.

You paint down the wax, then carve into it, put oil paint into the cracks, so you can build up layers. I just spent time building up layers." Johnson said she learned the technique from her mother, Leah Johnson.

The record number of pieces submitted this year pleased Leah Johnson. "The number of pieces submitted along with the great turnout today was just re-

ally amazing. Since each child is only allowed to submit three pieces, nearly every child in the county must have entered," Johnson said.

The quality of the submitted pieces also made an impression on Johnson. She also praised musicians Casey Kiger and Janis Carper who supplied music for the event. Volunteers play a large part in the event and Johnson singled out their work as well. "Our volunteers really helped, especially with the extra art work we had. We have the best volunteers," Johnson said.

Prize winners included: **Artistic Merit Awards** (decided by judges): Kaylee Eaves, "Nature", 1st Grade, Enterprise; Tori Suto, "Still Life", 8th Grade, Joseph; and Dylan Jennings, "Smokey Mountain", 5th Grade, Wallowa.

Directors' Honorable Mention (decided by event co-chairs): Alternative Education Collaboration, tape/packing material people. Ben Lopez, "Scorpion", 10th Grade, Joseph, and Sarah Thiel, sculpture, 12th Grade, Joseph.

ODOT announces construction zones ahead for summer

Travelers can expect to see orange traffic cones and construction workers throughout eastern Oregon this summer as about 30 Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) projects get underway. A half-dozen road and bridge projects have already begun and drivers are reminded that traffic fines are double the amount in all work zones, regardless of the presence of construction workers.

Wallowa County projects include the Deer Creek Road project which includes the replacement of Deer Creek Bridge and relocation of the old structure to Wallowa. Flaggers will be on site and drivers should expect up to 20-minute delays and detours. Work is expected to start in late summer or fall but may be delayed until 2016.

The Wallowa Lake Highway (82) will also receive a pavement chip seal between

Wallowa and Joseph from milepost 46 through milepost 71.5. Travelers should expect lane closures, reduced speeds, day and night flaggers, pilot cars, loose rock on the roadway and delays up to 20 minutes. Work is expected to start the first week in June and take about three weeks to complete.

ODOT has also announced upgrades of traffic signals in La Grande will be made; there will be some work on OR 82 (Island Ave.); and travelers should expect lane restrictions, occasional flaggers and minor delays on U.S. 30 between mileposts 1.5 and 2.7 in spring and summer.

Intersection improvements and signal installation at U.S. 30 and McAlister Road (railroad crossing) east of La Grande at milepost 4.9 will result in lane closures, flaggers and delays up to 20 minutes. That work is expected to start in July.

Community Health Workers are there for you

By Kathleen Ellyn

Wallowa County Chieftain

After the debacle of Cover Oregon, Community Health Workers (CHWs) are still helping residents untangle the details of their health insurance. However, there's good news, said Vixen Radford, a CHW with Northeast Oregon Network (NEON).

Not only are more CHWs being trained to assist Wallowa County residents in navigating their insurance applications, but the process is being simplified over the next few months.

"Hopefully by the next open enrollment period (November 2015), the process will be less confusing," Radford said.

Open enrollment is for individuals who will have to pay for their insurance. Some Wallowa County residents qualify for free coverage, can enroll at any time, and still haven't availed themselves of the benefit.

"We still have people who are uninsured and we don't know why they are uninsured," Radford said. "Knowing if you qualify for OHP is better than not knowing."

Many Wallowa County children will qualify for free Oregon Health Plan insurance, through the Healthy Kids program. Income requirements to obtain free health insurance for children stretch from an annual income of \$47,997 for a family of two to an income of \$97,509 for a family of six.

Adults may also find their income within the qualifying brackets. A couple making \$21,707 a year may qualify and adults in a family of six that makes just \$44,119 may qualify.

Another problem that CHWs are addressing is the difficulty most face in understanding the plan once a family has been enrolled.

The Oregon Health Plan handbook is 56 pages long, so it's no surprise that people can't figure how to use the plan, Radford said. But there's no need to remain confused.

Wallowa County residents can contact a CHW through many organizations such

as Community Connection, Building Healthy Families, Winding Waters, Center for Wellness, Bennett Insurance or NEON. A trained CHW will either help them navigate the thicket of information or refer them to someone who will.

"Community Health Workers look at the whole person or family and then help community members connect with whatever agencies they need," Radford said.

One bit of information adults and parents with Oregon Health Plan insurance will be pleased to know is that OHP does have a dental plan provider in Wallowa County: Chief Joseph Dental Clinic. For children under 18 years old, OHP covers routine exams, x-rays, cleanings and fluoride treatments every six months and emergency exams and x-rays any time and as many times as needed. Children under 16 are also provided with sealants if needed. Adults on the plan can get routine exams, x-rays, and cleanings once a year and emergency exams and x-rays

as needed.

Other benefits may include fillings, root canals, extractions, stainless steel crowns, dentures and more. Prior authorization from OHP may be required for these services.

For those with OHP who would like more information, contact either Advantage Dental at 866-268-9631 or ODS Dental Plan at 800-342-0526. To get assistance in enrolling in OHP, or for more information contact Vixen at 541-398-

2539 or email at vradford@neonoregon.org.

AROUND ENTERPRISE

THE BOWLBY BASH SOAPBOX DERBY

is quickly approaching. If you are interested in glory and eternal admiration (and some fun), please find a way to build yourself a ride and prepare for race day - Saturday July 11, 2015. Guidelines and entry forms can be picked up at Wild Carrot Herbs

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WITH FONDEST MEMORIES



We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Wednesday, May 20 we will publish a special section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten. The names will be placed in alphabetical order and will be similar to the sample below:

SAMPLE

Judy Andrews
June 27, 1951 – May 23, 2013

May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.

Always in our hearts,
John and Monda Andrews
and Family

If you wish, select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute:

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in God's heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.
9. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
10. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
11. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
12. May God's grace shine over you for all time.
13. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
14. We send this message with a loving kiss and eternal rest and happiness.
15. May the Lord bless you with His grace and warm, loving heart.
16. Write Your Own!

To remember your loved one in this special way, please fill out the form below and mail to:

Wallowa County Chieftain
209 NW First St., Enterprise, OR 97828
or stop by the office
Deadline: Friday, May 13, 2015



Please publish my tribute in the special Memorial Section in May

Wallowa County Chieftain

Cost: \$21.00 Make checks payable to Wallowa County Chieftain

E-mail photos to: cjenkins@wallowa.com

Questions: Call Cheryl at 541-426-4567

Name of deceased _____
Relationship to me _____
Date of birth _____ Date of passing _____
Verse # or special message (Limit 25 words) _____

Who the message is from _____
Print your name here _____
Address _____ Phone Number _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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