



## Schools roll budget dice again City still mulling police report



By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) issue has been settled in a new direction and schools are again gambling on potential outcomes.

On April 30 the Oregon Supreme Court overturned a 2013 legislative decision that reduced public employee retirees' cost of living adjustments from 2 to 1.25 percent.

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By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise Police Officers George Kohlhepp and T.J. Miller are still working overtime, carrying a department that hasn't been overseen by a chief

or supported by a sergeant for two months.

The Enterprise department normally has four full-time officers, including the chief, when at full strength. Former chief Wes Kilgore resigned in March, and Sgt. Michelle

Bloker is currently on medical leave.

Other law enforcement is helping out, but only on emergency calls, said Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers.

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# FIREFIGHTERS PAY IT FORWARD



Courtesy photo

The old and the (relatively) new Enterprise fire trucks sit side by side for comparison. The 1993 Pierce (left) is Enterprise's "new" truck. The 1974 La France (right) is now the "new" truck for Greater Bowen Valley FD.

## ENTERPRISE GETS 'NEW' 1993 TRUCK AT A DISCOUNT FROM PENNSYLVANIA, SENDS OLD TRUCK TO GREATER BOWEN VALLEY

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Talk about getting your money's worth. Enterprise Fire Department decided that 41

years of service was enough for their 1974 La France fire engine and finally replaced it.

With a 1993 Pierce custom pumper.

The new(er) engine comes from Pennsylvania where a fire

department with plenty of money was simply replacing what they considered "older" engines with brand new ones, said Paul Karvoski, Enterprise fire chief.

The new-to-Enterprise engine is "immaculate, spotless," said

Karvoski. "It has low miles and low engine hours and we paid \$50,000 for it. Replacement for this engine is easily \$550,000 and this particular truck could have brought (the Pennsylvania department) \$125,000 for sure."

Enterprise didn't pay the top price, because fire departments like to pay it forward and help a brother firefighter, Karvoski said.

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## Festival of Arts opens Friday

**FESTIVAL OF ARTS  
June 5-7  
Joseph Community Center**

JOSEPH — Twenty-one Wallowa County artists will participate in the 33rd annual Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts, the weekend of June 5-7 at the Joseph Community Center.

In all, this year's show will feature 201 pieces of art from 88 artists, working in widely varying media, including everything from bronze and oil paint, to glass, photography and fiber. All of the art is for sale.

Wallowa County artists taking part in the weekend festival include Tom Clevenger, Sam Collett, Robert Dawson, Mary Edwards, Jean Falbo, C. Rene Fleming, Jennifer Hawlins-Connolly, Teresa Henke, David Jensen, Shelly Johnson, Aimee Jungman, Keith Kirts, Michael Koloski, Mark Kortnik, Leslie LeViner, David Martin, Kendrick Moholt, Tim Norman, Malcolm Phinney, Dennis Reinke, and Kirk Skovlin.

The weekend begins with a special artist and patron's reception on Friday evening, June 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door, but a limited number are available in advance for \$20. Tickets are available via the Web at www.wallowavalleyarts.org.



Courtesy photo

Opening night at the 2014 Festival of Arts. The 2015 fest opens at 7 p.m. Friday, June 5, with the artist and patron's reception.

Admission includes the opportunity to preview the art before the public viewing days as well as a hand-painted wine glass, free wine bar, and hors d'oeuvres. Award winning artists will be honored as well as the festival judge, Paul Hoelscher, professional artist and art instructor from Baker City who was a featured artist on OPB's "Oregon Art Beat."

The show continues on Saturday and Sunday. Admission on those days is free. On Saturday there will be art demonstrations and music from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival's popular "Night of Quick Draw" is slated Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) with silent auction, live music, food and no-host bar. Admission is \$5 and artists will complete a work of art from start to finish within 1½ hours.

The festival concludes with Sunday's free viewing hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Established in 1981 to showcase the bronze sculpture for which Joseph is noted, the festival has grown to include art of all media.

## JCS super retiring

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — She led the school through such changes as consolidating the elementary school into the junior high and high school complex and gaining charter school status for Joseph.

But now Joseph Charter School Superintendent Rhonda Shirley is retiring, even though her associates believe she's still at the top of her game.

"Mrs. Shirley is a visionary who will be missed at Joseph Charter School. Luckily, the programs and infrastructure she has implemented are established and will be valued by many to come," said JCS teacher Laurie Altringer.

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