



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

Enterprise, Oregon

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## New plan for Joseph streets offered

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — You could almost hear a sigh of relief as Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands presented a possible solution for Joseph's street funding woes to the Joseph City Council and the few attend-

ees of the June 4 city council meeting. On May 19, Joseph voters crushed both ends of a \$1.3 million street repair bond levy.

Measure 32-38 called for the implementation of an \$11-per-month transportation utility tax on sewer and water hookups to finance a \$1.3

million bond. Measure 32-39 allowed for a temporary property tax increase in the event of a revenue shortfall from the transportation utility tax.

Sands lightened the mood for the June 4 discussion. "Trying to get the silver lining from the gray clouds, I

determined that, one, I don't have to worry about the streets anymore, two, that my pay will remain the same," Sands said, bringing a laugh from attendees, who apparently all realized that mayor in Joseph is an unpaid post.

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### OFFER FROM COMMUNITY BANK:

A 20-year loan for the \$1.3 million

### REPAYMENT:

\$13-per-month transportation utility tax



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Robin Sands' skies are looking a little brighter these days, and a trip to Portland for non-medical reasons can only help.

# CABIN FEVER



Steve Tool/Chieftain

The Maxville cabin in its current state, surrounded by teachers and students over the Memorial Day weekend.

## Funds sought to save last Maxville building

### LOG CABIN WAS COWBOY LINE SHACK FOR YEARS

By Steve Tool

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**H**igh up in the mountains to the north of Wallowa, 14 miles up the Promise cutoff road, is the last remaining building of the once-thriving logging town of Maxville. If you don't know the exact road to turn off to, you'll drive right by it. It is unmarked.

Maxville was once a company town for the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company, back in the

days of two-man "misery whip" saws, "donkeys" (steam yarders) and railroad logging — and segregation.

Maxville was established in the early 1920s and once boasted in the neighborhood of 400 residents. As befitting a Southern lumber company, and to a large extent, Oregon citizenry social mores, the town was segregated down to the homes, schools and baseball teams.

Today's remaining building, the only log cabin the town had, served as the main offices of Bowman-Hicks until a lack of logs, changing harvesting practices, and the Great Depression hit. The company pulled up stakes in 1933,

only 10 years after the company built the cabin. Of course, most of the citizenry left as well although a few remained until the '40s for the little logging that remained.

Eighty years later, the log cabin looks less like company offices and more like a cowboy's line shack, which it was until a few years ago.

The old town site of Maxville is now owned by Hancock Timber, who has determined that the cabin is no longer fit for human habitation and must be moved or destroyed. This is where Gwendolyn Trice comes in.

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## Make a Wish grants shopping excursion

By Steve Tool

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Thanks to the Make a Wish Foundation, Robin Sands of Joseph will visit Portland to fulfill her wish of a shopping trip. Sands, 15, is the daughter of Maria Parks and Dennis Sands (son of the Joseph mayor).

Robin Sands, a Joseph Charter School student, was born with a heart condition called pulmonary atresia. Her heart valves have defects.

The valve that pumps blood into her heart was calcified so pushed much of her blood out rather than in. Some of the blood that came in soaked into Sands' heart and caused enlargement.

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## City, county sued for civil rights violation, racketeering

By Kathleen Ellyn

Wallowa County Chieftain

Lorien and Dustin James of Enterprise are suing the city of Enterprise, Wallowa County, Wallowa County Building Inspector John Lindstrom, City Administrator Michele Young, Public Works Director Ronnie Neal, three unnamed John Does and another three unnamed Jane Does for a violation of their civil rights.

Suits involving violations of civil rights must be tried in federal court. The suit stems from a months-long negotiation that took place in spring of 2014 about how and where to run a residential electrical line to the Jameses' Eggleston Lane property outside of Enterprise.

The Jameses allege that they satisfied all applicable requirements of building codes, laws, and ordinances and having received a "service final" inspection of their electrical service. Despite that, they allege, the city and county colluded to deny them permission to continue their work and placed ever-increasing demands upon them.

A "stop-work" order was placed on the property development in April of 2014 when the city cited concerns over the placement of the underground electrical line next to the city's water main.

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### WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

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## Area sees early start to fire season

By Steve Tool

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Fire season made an early appearance with the Little Basin Fire, burning around Little Basin Creek, near the Dug Bar Road in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The fire was reported at 10:30 a.m. on the morning of Monday, June 15. The fire grew to 100 acres in size by Monday afternoon and increased to 500 acres by Tuesday morning, June 16.

Both the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry are fighting the blaze, which is burning in steep terrain with light, flashy fuels with a few small, shaggy trees along some of the ridge tops.

On Monday afternoon, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest reported that five fire engines, two helicopters, a hand crew and a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) along with both the Union and La Grande Hot Shot crews were fighting the fire with an ad-

**WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE PREPARED WITH THE PREVENTION MEASURES THAT HELP US TO MINIMIZE HUMAN-CAUSED FIRE STARTS.**

STEVE MEYER

Unit forester for La Grande and Baker



Courtesy photo/Michael Maslach

Photographer Michael Maslach, an Imnaha resident, shot this sunset image around 8 p.m. Monday looking north toward Fence Creek. He was located on the Imnaha River, upriver from the Little Basin Fire.

ditional Hot Shot crew and air tanker support en route as well.

According to Matthew Burks, USFS public affairs specialist, resources are limited across the region at the moment as fire season is getting underway and not all firefighting resources are in

active duty status. Burks also said that although the cause of fire is unknown at this time, a fire investigator is on site.

Because of warm, dry and windy weather as of late, the Oregon Department of Forestry declared the opening of fire season as of 12:01 a.m. June 16 for forest and range

lands protected by the ODF Northeast Oregon District, according to an ODF press release. "We want to make sure that we are prepared with the prevention measures that help us to minimize human-caused fire starts," states Steve Meyer, unit forester for La Grande and Baker.

