

# Old Time Fiddlers a crowd-pleaser

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

What they lacked in attendance was more than made up for in enthusiasm. The smallish crowd that attended the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers event at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise last Saturday came ready for a good time.

And they found one. After dining on Randy Garnett's Appleflat Catering barbecue they hit the stage for an evening of old-time entertainment.

Club President Denny Langford, of Union, kept folks laughing between sets with his corn-fed country humor, and some folks even got up to dance.

The event is meant to connect fiddlers, but there is plenty of appreciation for other musical instruments: banjo, guitar, bass, autoharp and even accordion.

"We've got some of the best backup you can get" Langford bragged.

The voice is a musical instrument that is also definitely on display at the event. Many musicians sprinkle a little commentary in as they play, and others give a full voice performance. The set



Bill Henke of Wallowa performs at the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers event Saturday in Enterprise.

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by locally grown "Homemade Jam" featured Laura Skovlin's lead vocals with backup by other members of the band. Other musicians both from the group or added in for the event included Mike Ragsdale on lead guitar, Lorainne

Ragsdale on accordion, Caleb Samples on fiddle, Patrick Powers on bass, Larry Richerson on rhythm guitar and Sandi Richerson on autoharp.

Skovlin broke it down for a simpler rendition of "Will the Circle be Unbroken" backed

by Caleb Samples on vocals and fiddle — a tune so evocative that the entire crowd joined in.

Another crowd-pleaser was little Regan Domschot, age 9, who braved the stage to strum her ukulele in ac-

companiment to her grandma, Jody Domschot of La Grande. One of the bits of stagecraft that Regan picked up over the years was to take off her shoes before she played. "Regan

figures it means that you've come to do business," Jody said.

The event has been a standby for the area for so many years not even Langford can recall the exact number without consulting his vast library of notes. "There was actually someone before Charlie Trump," Langford recalled. "There was Ivan McDaniel of Longcreek (near Fossil) first back in '68, then Bob Hunt of Prairie City (near Sumpter), then Walt Langlitz of Baker City and then Bob Dunn of Union and then Albert Langlitz of Baker City and Enterprise, then Charlie Trump of Enterprise and then Len Samples of Joseph and then me." Langford has been president of the seven-county group for 21 years. "They used to have term limits, but then they found a sucker willing to keep doing this and here I am," Langford joked.

That makes it about 47 years the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers have been coming to Wallowa County. Expect them again next year.

Many of the musicians have multiple CDs available for sale.

# Enterprise Library honored for summer reading program

Rautenstrauch remodels Ready to Read; success rate soars

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Students of all ages have been hitting the books during the Enterprise Public Library "Ready to Read" Program — reading those books, earning their Library Dollars, and reporting their progress.

In fact, in the past two years, thanks to Librarian Denine Rautenstrauch's remodel of the program, 119 kids have participated in the program and 72 percent achieved their goals.

"This is extraordinary," said Katie Anderson, youth services consultant for the Oregon State Library. "State



Enterprise Public Librarian Denine Rautenstrauch smiles as she poses with the banner for this year's summer reading program. Rautenstrauch received a prestigious award from the Oregon State Library June 8 for her work promoting the program.

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library was achieving goals fairly well all along, with 50 percent of the 35 kids who took part finishing their reading plans. But that explosion from 35 kids to 119 kids and an additional 22 percent completion did not go unnoticed.

Anderson awarded the Enterprise Public Library the 2014 Outstanding Ready to Read Program Award at the June 8 city council meeting.

Other winners of summer reading awards were: Coquille Public Library, Helix Public Library, Newport Public Library and Salem Public Library.

average for completion is only 33 percent."

Of all the 131 libraries in the state, only five libraries got this award, which is made regardless of the size of the library.

"It's not like sports where

schools are put into conferences based on the size of the school," Rautenstrauch said. "We beat out Multnomah. We were competing against libraries with a staff of five."

In fact, the Enterprise li-

# Fiddle Tunes Camp July 5-10

The 11th annual Wallowa Fiddle Tunes Camp takes over the Wallowa School campus during the week of July 5-10. WFTC offers affordable, group fiddle instruction for individuals and families in a relaxed, week-long format.

WFTC also offers instruction in other accompaniment string instruments as well as on-site technique of ensemble participation.

Morning core classes run from 9 a.m. until noon daily, and include: Beginning Guitar (Duane Boyer), Bluegrass Fiddle (Isaac Callender), Irish and DAGAD Guitar (Stuart Mason), Intermediate Bluegrass Guitar (Jon Meek),

Vocal Repertoire (Emily Muller-Callender), Beginning through Intermediate Mandolin (Matt Sircely), Basic Fiddle (Lora Staples), Intermediate Clawhammer Banjo (Martha Stone), Irish Fiddle (John Weed). The Intermediate Old-Time (Southern) Fiddle class taught by Judy Lungren is sold out. Afternoon electives include contra dance sessions led by dance master Larry B. Smith, jam sessions, and the Thursday performance by the camp faculty at the Courthouse Concert Series in Enterprise. For more on instructors and classes, visit [wvmusicalliance.org](http://wvmusicalliance.org). You can also regis-

ter online.

Registration fee is \$175 per person. (Some scholarships are available). A lunch catered by Beth Gibans of Backyard Gardens is an additional \$62 per person for the week. Camping is free on the school grounds.

For further information contact camp director Carla Arnold: [pickandbow@aol.com](mailto:pickandbow@aol.com); 541-663-0776 (home); 541-786-4535 (cell).

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### Wallowa's 4th of July Parade

11:00 am, Fri. 7/4/15  
(Be at Cougar field by 10:15 am!)

Parade Entry  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ (12 & under)  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ ADULT \_\_\_\_\_  
\*PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORIES  
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Walking Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Truck \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Group \_\_\_\_\_

Please Explain for Announcer \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off Entry Form at Wallowa City Hall by: noon  
7/1/15 or Mail to: "Parade Entry" PO Box 487,  
Wallowa, OR 97885. Questions call 541-886-2422.

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