

# EVENT: Chief Joseph Days starts

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There’s also “slack” rodeo action in the arena, weekday afternoons starting at 2 p.m. Spectators can attend the slack events free of charge. Among CJD’s most pleasing community activities are its two parades: the Junior Parade starting Friday morning at 10 a.m. (to have your costumed kids in the parade, bring them to registration

starting at 9 a.m.), and the Grand Parade on Saturday, again starting at 10 a.m. This year’s grand marshal is Judy Bothum, profiled in this issue of the Chieftain. After the Grand Parade, the public is invited to the 28th annual Friendship Feast, hosted by members of the Nez Perce Tribe at the Chief Joseph Commemorative Encampment next to the rodeo grounds. The Native

Americans provide delicious salmon, and attendees are encouraged to bring salads and desserts to share at this potluck event. Following the meal, the tables are cleared away from under the big tent top so that everyone can enjoy watching traditional native dancing. As such a long-established, community-wide, multi-day festival, CJD has of course grown to include more

activities than can be fully described in one short news article. Through Saturday, the local area is abuzz with expanded shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. Check the advertised schedule today on page A7, and see the articles about CJD in today’s newspaper and in the special publication that’s inserted. And, take note of the motto for the 70th annual CJD Rodeo. It’s “Feel the Thunder!”

# BUDGET: Falling revenue threatens infrastructure

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The big issue for Hayward and the budget is the infrastructure of the county. He used the example of a much-needed new roof on the courthouse. “We can’t just write a check out of the General Fund to put a new roof on this building. As we move forward, these things become more of an issue we have to address,” Hayward said. This conundrum leaves the commissioners with the unappealing choices of either increasing revenue, decreasing expenses, or both. Hayward said that some departments have gone out on their own to obtain funding that makes up for budget shortfalls. Ultimately, he said, the commissioners will look to trim the budget in order to facilitate such projects as fixing the courthouse roof.

The county’s current budget is \$18.6 million, a figure Hayward said is somewhat misleading in that it includes unappropriated monies, such as \$500,000 set aside to pay for county expenses during the fiscal year that starts July 1, and the incoming tax revenue that starts around Nov. 15. “It’s not enough total money, but with other revenue coming in, we can make that work,” Hayward said. While the commissioners recently approved a balanced 2015-2016 budget, Hayward said the next budget will probably have a slight shortfall in revenue, which may affect the county’s contingency fund. Contingency funds are essentially “rainy day” funds to cover unexpected expenses. The county’s General Fund covers the expenses of the courthouse offices

such as the Assessor’s Office as well as the Sheriff’s Office. The General Fund includes a contingency fund of about \$85,000, and Hayward doesn’t want to see it get much lower. To keep it at that level, some budgetary changes must be made. That is, of course, dependent on the county’s budget committee agreeing. The committee is made up of the three commissioners as well as three “lay citizens.” “If the budget committee said, ‘We don’t care about a contingency,’ then we’d probably be OK. We’re not talking in terms of millions of dollars of gap, but tens of thousands of dollars,” Hayward said. Property taxes are already at their legal maximum, so raising them is not an option, and only \$1.6-1.7 million of the entire budget comes from property taxes. The rest of the funds come from various sources such as the state and federal governments in the form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes, fees for services (such as building permits or inspec-

tions) and other sources. Hayward added that some county departments run in the black. The Road Department, because it has an asphalt plant, occasionally makes money, as does the museum. Hayward said that no particular department is a drag on the budget. “We have seen increasing wages and benefits taking up a bigger percentage of the budget. Everyone’s benefits cost more today than they did five years ago,” Hayward explained. The county’s employee numbers have increased over the years as well (currently ranging up to around 100 employees at mid-summer, but mainly including only 55 full-time, year-round positions), but Hayward said the positions were needed. “We now have a full-time veterans services officer, for example,” Hayward said. He also cited examples of a full-time Community Corrections officer and a work crew supervisor, as well as child support enforcement and a victims advocate,

although the state provides the majority of funds for some of the positions. For the time being, the commissioners and budget committee will tread softly when they knuckle down to configure the 2016-17 budget. “All of us between the commissioners and budget committee are relatively conservative people and we’ll approach this pretty cautiously. We always have to be cognizant of, and raise the question of: Are we leaving the things we’re charged with overseeing in a better condition than we found them for the ones who come after us?” Hayward said. As it stands, no particular department funds are definitely on the chopping block. “Not only does the public have a right to weigh in on that, but I would surmise that they have a bit of an obligation to weigh in on it,” Hayward said.

# LIBRARY: Donor leaves money in will

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“We first got notification back in November or December, but we weren’t really saying anything because it’s like, ‘This is from an estate, it’s in probate. We don’t know what can happen,’” Kingsford said. It was late April or early May before the library got confirmation of the gift and the amount. The library received the check in early June. It took some time for Kingsford and the board to find the link between the donor and the library. Kingsford, who has filled the librarian position the last 22 years, didn’t remember Al Albee, and neither did the previous librarian. Kingsford tried “googling” Albee and only found he had worked for a jet propulsion company in Los Angeles. As a last resort, Kingsford contacted Roy McBride, the estate executor, who solved the mystery for the library. According to a letter sent from McBride to Kingsford, Albee and his wife, Rita, worked in Seattle, and when Rita Albee retired from her federal government job, the couple moved to Joseph during the 1970s and early ’80s. Al Albee, who was a certified air frame and airplane mechanic, worked for a company that serviced helicopters for the U.S. Forest Service in

Joseph. Al Albee eventually ended up working for a packing/outfitting company packing in elk hunters in the area above Troy before he and his wife moved to Milton-Freewater. McBride said Albee and his wife, who were childless, appreciated all the people in their lives, and Al Albee remembered the Joseph Library and how the staff there went out of its way to make sure that his wife had access to professional books and journals so she could keep abreast of current events. Kingsford said the librarian at the time the Albees were in the valley was Mary Fiorillo, who remembers the Albees well. As for the library today, Kingsford knows exactly what will happen with the recent windfall. It will be added to the library’s expansion fund, which will considerably add to the library’s available space. “This is really exciting for us. This contribution brings our total fund to over \$24,000,” Kingsford said. According to Kingsford, the library board can now begin the grant process.



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**Live Music By OLIVIA**  
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Sat. Aug. 1st 8am

**Schedule of Selected Events**

**SAT. AUGUST 1**  
► 9am 4-H Dog Show

**SUN-TUES AUGUST 2-4**  
► 8am Sun-Tues 4-H Horse Show

**MON. AUGUST 3**  
► 4-H Exhibits to Cloverleaf  
► Open Class Non-Perishable to Cloverleaf

**TUES. AUGUST 4**  
► Open Class Perishable to Cloverleaf

**WED.-SAT. AUGUST 5-8**  
► 10 am Cloverleaf Hall Opens

**WED. AUGUST 5**  
► 2-6 pm 4-H/FFA Livestock Entries

**THURS.-FRI. AUGUST 6-7**  
► 8:30 am 4-H/FFA Livestock Show  
► 7 pm Grand Champion Classes

**SAT. AUGUST 8**  
► 8 am Small Animal Show

**WED. AUGUST 5**  
► 9am Planter Contest Entries

**THURS. AUG 6**  
► 1 pm Grange Pie, Ice Cream & Entertainment

**FRI. AUG 7**  
► 5-7 pm K.C. Kunkle LIVE  
► 8-10 pm Teen Dance

**SAT. AUG 8**  
► 10 am Pee Wee Showmanship  
► 11 am Games on the grass

**4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SALE 6PM**

**Special Events**

For a full schedule call 541-426-4097 or go to [extension.oregonstate.edu/wallowa](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wallowa)

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We are excited to welcome **Jennifer Powell** to the Chieftain staff!

*Jennifer is helping out this summer in our Wallowa County sales territory.*

To reach Jennifer, call 541-426-4567 (office) or email [jpowell@wallowa.com](mailto:jpowell@wallowa.com)