

LaGrande's Jared Boyd: attorney of many stripes

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Jared Boyd is the newest member of the Grande Ronde Public Defenders Consortium.

three job offers to take. Then the economy tanked.

Boyd scrambled to fill out job applications and even hung out his own shingle in Salem for a month. His previous experience in Marion County gave him a leg up in the job pool as the Union County District Attorney's office in La Grande soon expressed interest. Interviewed on a Thursday and offered a job on Friday, Boyd found himself reporting for duty on the following Monday. He worked in that office until recently.

Boyd now works out of the

office of La Grande attorney Steve Joseph, who serves as a mentor. Their respective businesses are separate, however. Boyd opened his office on Aug. 1.

Working out of a rural DA's office proved beneficial to Boyd's law career. "In Marion County, you're doing DUI cases for 3-4 years; in La Grande, I was handling Measure 11 and major drug offenses within three months of going to work there. My average case load was 350-450 cases a year," Boyd said.

Boyd liked working for the DA's office. The opportunity to decide against pursuing a "bad" case appealed to him, as did the experience aspect. Boyd eventually had his fill of the work partially because conflict-of-interest concerns limited his community involvement, a major concern.

"I'm back out in the community and in the DA's office you can get an "us versus them" mentality because you're dealing with the worst of the worst of the community," Boyd said. He added that he now enjoys getting involved with the community and meeting people and being able to offer them a solution to their legal problems.

Among Boyd's new legal duties is his place in the public defender's pool as part of the Grande Ronde Public Defenders Consortium. Boyd took over the slot recently vacated by Tom Powers.

Besides criminal defense,

Boyd is also interested in family law, business restructuring and bankruptcy. He also said many of these types of cases overlap with other types of law. Despite his recent foray into the civil law world, Boyd has valuable experience. "What I have is litigation experience. I've been in court nearly every day the last seven years. Learning subject matter is easy, but litigation skills can't be found in a book," Boyd said.

Although his office is in La Grande, Boyd is looking into opening a Wallowa County office. "There is a need for more legal services in Wallowa County and I'm looking into it," he said.

A dedicated "techie," Boyd uses the latest technology to aid his law work. "It allows me to keep in better touch with my clients and be more efficient with time management, which translates into lower costs and better results," he said. One program Boyd utilizes allows any client with Internet access to examine their own case files online instead of coming to the office, a real money-saver.

After seven years of practice, Boyd has no regrets about his career choice. "The idea about law that I really enjoy is that you get to dabble in everything, it's like having a backstage pass to life. As a lawyer you get to see and learn about every aspect of society. You get to be in the middle of everything — whether people like that or not," he said.

OPTIONS: Audience airs clinic concerns

Continued from Page A1

The idea of a dental technician coupled with the nurse was floated and concern was voiced by the audience as being too intrusive on parent rights. Dental screenings, rather than treatment, were discussed as Oregon schools now have an unfunded mandate to provide yearly screenings for grades K-12.

The shuttle bus concept temporarily ran into a snag over funding until it was suggested that Community Connection picks up passengers for transport to primary care providers. Funding sources and grant applications for transportation and a school nurse were also discussed.

The conversation turned toward funding a countywide school nurse, and the costs, which Powers estimated at \$60,000 for 9 months, including building, salary and equipment.

The cost would have to be funded through grants or a tax ballot as the grant money for the school-based clinic could not be used for that purpose.

Discussion also ensued over the possibility of care providers offering educational classes at the different schools like Fit Fridays for example.

After the meeting Falk expressed enthusiasm.

"I think this meeting went better than the last meeting because there was communication on both parts, but I don't think people want to have healthcare in the school," he said. "This time they came with ideas, last time they just wanted to talk about the school-based health center."

The meeting ended with Powers asking, "Is there a group of people who will work on getting funding to make this a reality?"

Eight people raised their hands to create a collaborative group that would work together to start exploring the options and funding for the options discussed from the meeting.

Powers said Winding Waters was surprised at the negative reaction to the possibility of additional services to Wallowa County kids.

Application for WCCTC grants available

The Wallowa County Cultural Trust Coalition (WCCTC) has approximately \$6,000 available for grants supporting the arts, humanities, heritage and culture in Wallowa County for 2016. Grants are generally given in the amount of \$250-\$1,000. Individuals and organizations are encour-

aged to apply. Projects must contain a public component that increases access to local culture. Applications must be received by October 31 to be considered. The WCCTC will meet immediately to review applications, make decisions and notify applicants.

Applications are available

online through the Wallowa Valley Arts Council website under Partnership Organizations, www.wallowavalleyarts.org/partnership. Applications may be requested by emailing janet.pulsifer@gmail.com.

The Oregon Cultural Trust was created under the direction of the state Legislature, Ore-

gon counties and the Confederated Tribes of the state with the purpose of awarding grant funds to support endeavors that promote arts, humanities and local heritage.

For more information, call Janet at (541) 398-0189.

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