

Enterprise Schools Superintendent retiring

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Brad Royse has worked in Enterprise School District for 18 years, with 14 of them spent wearing two hats: Enterprise High School Superintendent and Elementary School Principal.

He brought the district from a very poor financial condition (“we were in pretty sad shape, worse than sad, we were ambulatory,” said Mike Wiedeman), to health sufficient to begin adding back programs. Now, Royse is retiring.

Finding the right superintendent to replace Royse is a very scary process, said Board Chair Keli Christman.

Two organizations presented to the school board, represented Feb. 1 by Chairperson Keli Christman and board members Mike Wiedeman and Adrian Harguess.

After consideration the board voted unanimously to hire the firm of “NorthWest Leadership Associates,” represented by George Murdock of Pendleton.

Murdock has 40 years in public education and is now a county commissioner for Umatilla County.

He has been involved in helping districts find new superintendents and other staff for 18 years and did two searches for Joseph, in-



George Murdock, of “NorthWest Leadership Associates” will begin the search for a replacement for Brad Royse.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

cluding recommending Joseph Charter School Superintendent Rhonda Shirley, who was honored last year as Leader in Education in the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce Citizen’s Award program.

His company has done more than 250 searches.

“There is no such thing as a generic superintendent,” Murdock said. “It’s a ‘fit’ and it’s always amazing to me when I bring candidates



Royse

in to a board and see what happens.”

Murdock recruits aggressively, making contact with potential candidates he feels may fit a community rather than just relying on posted advertisements.

The board, teachers and children of the school seem to build or recognize “chemistry” between them and the winning applicant through the process, Murdock said.

See ROYSE, Page A8

Trice wins Oregon Women of Achievement award

By Kathleen Ellyn
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On March 9, Gwen Trice of Enterprise, founder and executive director of Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center (MHIC), will be at the State Capitol to receive her award as one of the 2015 Oregon Women of Achievement. She will join a select group of exceptional women to be recognized by the Oregon Commission for Women for their “leadership and success in promoting the status of women in society, reflecting a commitment to equity and diversity, and serving as exemplary role models.”

“Winning this award is directly related to the work I do in Wallowa County; recording history and talking to people from every corner. It connects a lot of people. It is an American Story,” Trice said. “It’s such an honor to have that recognized.”

The question now, Trice said, was how to leverage the award to further spread the multicultural story of Maxville.

That story is important, not just to local historians, but to communities all over the United States, because it echoes the experience of a lot of communities, something that was rec-



Gwen Trice

ognized by her nominators.

“Her work has changed the way we view Oregon history, particularly Oregon’s logging history. Through MHIC, Gwen has illuminated the hard work of multiple minority ethnic communities in Oregon’s forests — African-Americans, Japanese, Greeks, Filipinos. ... Gwen researches and documents their stories,” said Oregon Historical Society Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk, who endorsed Trice twice.

Now, dozens of new orga-

nizations want to hear that story and link it with others.

“I’ve had lots of different presentation requests, just in the past two weeks,” Trice said.

One such request came from the Smithsonian Institute. “They’re having an African-American Conference with a panel of people from our state talking about the work they do. I was listening to them on the phone and thinking, ‘are you kidding? The Smithsonian?’” Trice said.

Now, Trice said, “The goal is our panel gets chosen and we travel to California and talk about what’s going on with preservation of these logging communities.”

Trice has devoted her life since 2007 to the history of the extinct multicultural logging town of Maxville, 20 miles north of Wallowa. And it is that small focus that has led to the large connections now being made. Appreciating her own people and her own home is what gives Trice the most pleasure, she said.

See TRICE, Page A8

Wallowa BUSINESS

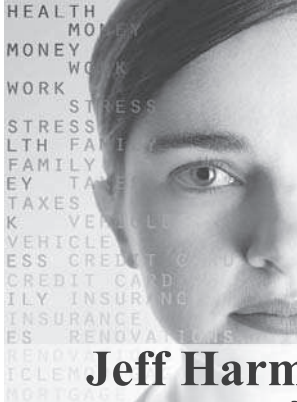
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Student of the Week



Natalie Williams
Joseph Charter School

Natalie Williams is a senior at Joseph Charter School who currently holds a 3.97 gpa. Natalie is a three sport athlete and is actively involved in FCCLA where she served as state VP for Public Relations, is the Class of 2016 Treasurer, is a member of Natural Helpers, National Honor Society, and Rainbow for Girls. Natalie plans on attending OSU next fall and majoring in Biohealth Sciences so taking college credit classes such as Human Physiology, Chemistry, Calculus and Writing 121 will move her ahead in achieving her goal of becoming a nurse. The staff and administration would like to congratulate Natalie on being the student of the week and thank her for making our school great!

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