



The Joseph team was intense and fast on the buzzer.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Battle of the Books plays to standing-room-only crowd

Elementary school teams compete for medals

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Everybody gets a cookie at the Battle of the Books. The winners get to swagger about wearing medals. But nobody is a loser, either on stage or in the standing-room-only crowd that packed the Enterprise School cafeteria Friday night. It was an intense, and fun competition. The elementary grade teams from Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph had read four books per team and tried to be first on the buzzer to answer questions put to them by quizmaster Laura Miller. Team tables had multiple buzzers on each table, but Joseph proved lightning fast on the buzzer, often taking their chances before hearing the entire question. It was a strategy that served them well, as Joseph all but swept the competition this year, winning four out of five battles. Grades 2-5 from Joseph took their competitions. Enterprise took the prize for 6th grade, while Wallowa put up a good fight.



Enterprise conferences in the few short minutes before they answer at the Battle of the Books.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain



Wallowa kids react when Joseph beats them to the buzzer on a question they knew the answer to.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain



We've got this one!

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Miller resigns from Enterprise City Council

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Although there were hopes that the Enterprise City Council might be ready to announce a selection for new police chief at their March 14 meeting, the public will have to wait at least until the next meeting to learn that news. What was announced was that there were three open slots in public service and only one appointment had been made so far. The first opening came as a result of the resignation of City Councilwoman Laura Miller, who cited a schedule too full to allow her to continue to serve on Council. Miller is a new mother in addition to her many other responsibilities in the community. She was elected to her first term beginning January 2011 and served on multiple council committees in addition to volunteering in the community. All members of council and city staff were sad

to see her go. "It is with great sadness that we announce Laura Miller has resigned," said Mayor Steve Lear. "We've done everything from begging to offering free baby-sitting." The Planning Commission also has two vacancies; one commissioner chair has been open for some time, the other will soon be vacated by Rob Taylor, who took a job with Fish and Game on the Island of Midway in the Pacific Ocean that begins April 12. Although understandably

excited about his new position, Taylor wrote that he regretted not being able to continue service on the Enterprise City Planning Commission and hoped to find a way to serve in the community again upon his return in approximately 18 months. Jim Sackett of Enterprise volunteered for a Planning Commission position and his application was unanimously accepted. He joins Chairman John Lawrence and commissioners Dave Ebbert, Margie

Shaw, Jason Lyman and the departing Rob Taylor.



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ODFW confirms wolf depredation

Wallowa County Chieftain

State wildlife officials on Friday confirmed a wolf depredation in Wallowa County, likely by a member of the Imnaha Pack. On the morning of Wednesday, March 9, a rancher reported finding a dead steer calf in a pasture on his private land in the Upper Swamp Creek area. Officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife investigated the scene the same day and estimated that the animal had been killed Monday night or early Tuesday morning. The calf was estimated to have weighed about 500 lbs., and the skeleton and hide were mostly intact. All internal organs and most of the muscle

tissue had been consumed, according to ODFW. Evidence at the scene — including bite marks consistent with a wolf attack, wolf tracks and scat — as well as recent reports of the presence of the Imnaha Pack nearby led officials to declare the case a confirmed depredation. It was ODFW's fourth wolf depredation investigation of 2016 across the state and the second confirmed Oregon wolf kill so far this year. It was the second investigation in Wallowa County. Wolf involvement in the previous incident — on private land on the Zumwalt Prairie in late February — was categorized as "possible/unknown" after an investigation.

Commissioner opening draws three candidates

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The passing of the March 8 filing deadline for the upcoming May 17 primary election found three candidates throwing their hat in the ring for Wallowa County Commissioner position 1. Joseph rancher Todd Nash, Wallowa rancher Steve Wolfe and Dan DeBoie, who is self-employed in real estate investment, filed for the position, which was recently vacated by Mike Hayward. John Lawrence is serving as an interim commissioner. In keeping with a new state law, all the commissioner positions are listed as non-partisan for the first time. Wallowa County Clerk Dana Roberts said her office plans to start mailing ballots April 27. She cautioned that ballots must be received in hand by 8 p.m. May 17. "Postmarks don't count," she said. Incumbent candidates running for county office unopposed are: Susan Roberts for commissioner position 2, Randy Wortman for assessor, Steve Rogers for sheriff and Shonelle Dutcher-Pryse for county trea-

surer. Only Wortman and Susan Roberts' positions will be listed on the May ballot. Rogers and Dutcher-Pryse will be listed only on the November ballot. Dana Roberts also said that if candidates receive more than 50 percent of the votes in the May primary, the seat will go to them with no need for a November runoff. She added that regardless of the May primary results, Lawrence will serve as interim commissioner until Jan. 2017.

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for another great

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