

Maxville Gathering adds lumberjack competition

Don Flemons gets things started Friday night at OK Theatre

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Lace up those calks, you brush monkeys and bullbucks and get ready to set those dogs in and beavertail a good but-tlog.

The rest of us will watch and learn as the 8th Annual Maxville Gathering takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Nez Perce Homeland Site east of Wallowa.

It's an alcohol- and drug-free family event that celebrates the logging history of Wallowa County. There are stories, tours, demonstrations and competitions based on the history of Maxville. Also on tap: rides on a mule wagon around the grounds, food booths, vendors, Ma and Pa races, a BBQ pig dinner cooked by Pigtail Pork of Cove with lots of sides for just \$7 per person, and more.

This year, lumberjacks of all levels are invited to take part in competitions from chocker setting and double bucking right on down to homeowner chainsaw competitions.

Professional loggers from Sinclair Brothers Tree Services, Trouble Tree Service and Executive Tree Care also will perform. Sign up to compete at 9 a.m. before the event



From left: Eric Sinclair, Darrell Brann and Brandon Casper help prepare for the upcoming Maxville Gathering.

Courtesy photo

starts. Local merchants have donated prizes, and Boise Cascade, Grain Growers, Ace Hardware of Enterprise and La Grande, Joseph Hardware and D&B Supply in Island City are event sponsors.

It's not all spectator sports for the kids, either. Jarred Bedard of Enterprise will be creating kid-friendly logger games.

Silent auction and raffle items include a one-hour flight over the Wallowa Mountains and Hells Canyon with pilot Joe Spence or a half-hour flight over Wallowa Mountains and Eagle Cap Wilderness with pilot Tim Locke. There's also a sesquicentennial Pendleton

blanket and a bronze fennec fox sculpture from Tim Parks Bronze.

The Brann Family of Enterprise will perform live music and there will be a performance by modern ballet dancers from the Hope Dance NYC Workshop being held in Enterprise before the event.

"Our event is just like a logging camp is — all inclusive," said Maxville Heritage director Gwen Trice.

As an accompaniment to the Maxville Gathering, award-winning performer Dom Flemons & Friends again will perform at the OK Theatre on Friday evening in advance of the Saturday event.

Flemons has played live

for over one million people just within the past three years. As part of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, which he co-founded with Rhiannon Giddens and Justin Robinson, he has played at a variety of festivals spanning from the Newport Folk Festival to Bonnaroo, in addition to renowned venues such as the Grand Ole Opry.

"He's got great stories of old time musicians," Brann said. "He's really tapped into the cultural history."

Last year Flemons did three encores for an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. Doors open at 8 p.m. Friday at the OK Theatre. Tickets cost \$25 and are available at www.eventbrite.com.

Officials announce public-use restrictions for Wallowa-Whitman

Wallowa County Chieftain

Due to increased fire danger and dry weather conditions, forest officials on Aug. 3 announced new temporary rules for campfires, smoking, off-road travel and chainsaw use in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Conditions prompted officials to implement Phase A of the Public Use Restrictions (PURS).

"Phase A is the second level of restrictions, generally implemented when the fire danger is moderate to high," said Bret Ruby, Fire Staff Officer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Phase A restrictions include:

- Chainsaws may be operated only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time. A one-hour fire watch is required after saw operations cease. Saw operators are required to have an ax (minimum 2 lb. head, 26" length), shovel (8" wide, 26" length), and fire extinguisher (minimum ABC 8 oz.) in their possession.
- Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles and buildings, developed recreation sites or cleared areas.
- No off-road/off-trail vehicle travel or travel on roads not cleared of standing grass or other flammable material; no vehicle travel on those FS roads where access has been impeded or blocked by earthen berm, logs, boulders, barrier, barricade or gate, or as otherwise identified in the Fire Order.

Seasonal campfire restrictions and requirements described for June 1- Oct. 31 apply:

- Campfires allowed only in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. All flammable material shall be cleared within a 3-foot radius from the edge of the pit and free of overhanging material. Use existing pits wherever possible.
- Campfires must be attended at all times and completely extinguished prior to leaving.
- Persons with campfires are required to have a tool that can serve as a shovel and one gallon of water in their possession. The intent of this requirement is to ensure individuals with a campfire to have the tools necessary to completely extinguish their campfire.
- Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled gas and wood-burning stoves equipped with a chimney that is at least 5 feet in length with a spark-arresting screen consisting of 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth are allowed.
- Use of charcoal briquettes is permitted under the same restrictions as campfires described above.

Recreationists, firewood cutters, hunters, and other forest users can all help in ensuring a safe fire season," Ruby said.

The public is responsible for knowing if restrictions are in place. For more information about the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Public Use Restrictions, visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/PURS or call our Public Affairs Officer Katy Gray at 541-519-4623, Public Affairs Specialist Matt Burks at 541-523-1208, or one of the following Forest Information Hotlines:

- Joseph 541-426-5552
- Baker City 541-523-1234
- La Grande 541-962-8679

Two sentenced for burglaries at Joseph Charter School

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph Charter School recently was the scene of a different kind of lesson for four would-be burglars — crime leads to jail time.

A judge recently sentenced two adults for their roles in a string of break-ins at the school in February.

On Feb. 28, Cameron Ogden, 24, Jacob Dylan Hart, 18, and two juveniles passed the time in a backyard trailer Ogden occupied at the home of one of the juveniles' parents. Hart and Ogden were both unemployed. Hart and at least one of the juveniles already had criminal records.

Sometime during the early evening, Hart and the two juveniles concocted a plan to rob the Joseph Charter School concession stand at the same time the school was holding an open gym night. One of the juveniles sneaked into the school and let Hart and the other juvenile in. They ransacked the concession stand and made off with precious loot of candy and root beer, which they later shared with Ogden back at the trailer.

Ogden later suggested a second break-in of the school the same night, this time targeting tools inside the school shop. At least one of the juve-

niles had experience picking locks.

Later that night, a third break-in took place at the main school building. That raid brought forth a bounty of musical instruments left outside the band room as well as cameras and speakers.

"This is a group of young men with some skills," said Wallowa County District Attorney Mona Williams during Hart's May 11 sentencing hearing.

After JCS officials informed law enforcement of the break-in, the school pointed to one of the two juveniles involved in the crime as a possible suspect. During an interview with the named suspect, the juvenile led law enforcement to Ogden's trailer, where

most of the stolen goods were stashed. A motorcycle stolen from the city of Joseph also was recovered from the site.

Ogden eventually led law enforcement to other stolen items and pleaded guilty to stealing the motorcycle. Other than the candy and root beer, all the stolen items from the school eventually were recovered.

Both Ogden and Hart were charged with multiple counts of burglary in the second degree and conspiracy to commit a crime. Judge B. Russell

West, who recently heard both cases, handed down similar sentences for the two, including 10 days for each of their respective theft charges and 15 days for the conspiracy charge. Hart received an additional 30-day jail sentence for violating house arrest orders, as did Ogden for the stolen motorcycle.

West also sentenced the two to supervised probation and \$960 shared restitution to the school, along with a two-page apology letter. Information regarding any punishment for the two juveniles was not available.

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hellscanyonmuledays.com
for cookoff info and entry form

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