



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Budget ax falls hard on county library

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Everyone knew it was coming. A dip in federal funding to Wallowa County has caused cutback in hours for county employees, a hiring freeze in some departments and elimination of the county library.

The county lost a million dollars from the Secure Rural Schools funds traditionally given in lieu of revenue from logging on federal timber lands.

Facebook rumors aside, the county did not cut funding for any rural fire departments, nor did the Enterprise Fire Department volunteers quit in a sign of frustration and solidarity.

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Super stays, initiates program

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa School District Supt. Bret Uptmor isn't going anywhere.

Uptmor, who made the final five out of 22 applicants for a job as superintendent for the La Grande School District, found out April 19 that he had not gotten the job. The La Grande School District has 2,300 students in comparison to Wallowa School District's approximately 200 students.



Uptmor

"It was a professional opportunity that was intriguing and yet kept me in Eastern Oregon," Uptmor said. "But I knew I'd be happy either way. This gives me an opportunity to continue with the good work we've been doing here at the Wallowa School District."

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Van Doozer: Five years to justice

JOSEPH MAN WINS MALICIOUS PROSECUTION SUIT **COURT REPORT PAGE 16**

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

When David Van Doozer purchased Roger "Pop" McCommon's bakery in April 2012, he never expected to

be fighting over the deal five years later.

A Wallowa County Circuit Court jury handed down a decision in favor of Van Doozer April 14 in a malicious prosecution suit against Judy and

Larry Willis, owners of the building where the bakery had operated in Joseph on Main Street.

Van Doozer was awarded \$75,000 in damages in the civil suit, which was filed after he

had been acquitted of criminal charges in the matter in June 2013.

"It feels wonderful to finally be vindicated," Van Doozer said in a statement issued through his attorney Carl Kiss.

A request for comment on the verdict was forwarded to the attorney of record for the Willises; but, no response was received prior to deadline.

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SHARP SHOOTING AND TALL TALES



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Friends Terry Sellers of Hauser Lake, Idaho and Darrel Plank of La Grande discuss the characteristics of different lead balls.

Rendezvous brings 200+ visitors to Troy

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The steep hills either side of Griz Flats in Troy echoed with the sound of black powder shots last Saturday as mountain men and women from across the northwest pulled the trigger on the 41st Annual Wenaha Rendezvous.

The muzzleloaders event is the largest in the northwest with an attendance of more than 200 revelers. Of those, a whopping 97 shooters, both male and female, were registered for the rifle and trade gun trail. The gun trail is a trail that winds through the flats with note card signs alerting shooters to look up the walls of the canyon for targets. Those targets are near, far and squint-your-eyes.

The rifles used are mostly shooter-made from kits; Hawkins .50 caliber, CVA .54 caliber and the like. Darrel "Mountain Man" Plank of La Grande shoots a .62 caliber flintlock trade-gun with a smooth bore. Hitting a target with it requires a steady hand as all shooting is free shooting (no braces or stands on which to lean your barrel).

But Plank likes a challenge, and he and a few others, mostly "well mellowed" fellows with significant experience, hit the targets with amazing accuracy.

"The first year we came we were all younger, and the trail went way up the hill and back," recalls Mountain Man. "It was really hard."

Nearby a group of youngsters are throwing knives and hatchets at log butts, starting out close and moving back as their aim improves.

Joseph "Dirty Hawk" Haycock, 13, of Moscow, Idaho, says he's been to more than a dozen rendezvous with his scout troop. He wears the full period appropriate regalia right down to his moccasins.

"Our scout master regularly attends this. I love it to say the least," Dirty Hawk said. "This is my third year here at Griz Flats."

Other sports included bow



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Bill "Two Dogs" Kaufman of Orofino, Idaho, wears his authentic gear to the Wenaha Muzzleloader's Rendezvous in Troy. Kaufman has been shooting for 25 years at rendezvous all over the northwest.

IF YOU GO TO A RENDEZVOUS AND ASK FOR SOMEONE BY THEIR LEGAL NAME, NOBODY WILL KNOW WHO YOU MEAN.

shooting, bean bag tosses, a Dutch oven cook-off, a Homemade Spirits Contest and telling tall tales around the campfire.

No one goes by a legal given name. Rendezvous names are earned among rendezvous folk and complimentary or derogatory.

An example is the story of "Dew Foot," a man who went out one evening to an-

swer the call of nature and came back with one wet moccasin. He claimed it was dew from the grass, but only one moccasin was wet.

"If you go to a rendezvous and ask for someone by their legal name, nobody will know who you mean," Mountain Man noted.



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