

## RODEO

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George drew a good horse, a big black mare, and about five seconds into his ride he thought, “I better really pull out something big if I want to beat J.D.” and so he whipped off his big Wallowa County Buckaroo hat and fanned the mare on the shoulder and she went ballistic.

George won, and in keeping with that cowboy flourish, he finished his dramatic win upside down on the

fence.

He remembers that ride well, but what he remembers most is that although he never hears the crowd when he rides because he’s so focused, this time he heard his mom, Carmen, yelling. Carmen Kohlhepp is no longer with us, but the memory of her cheering remains clear and strong for George.

He’d like another great memory to keep, and that would be winning Mt. High Broncs and Bulls in 2017.

“Everybody dreams of winning their hometown ro-

deo,” he said. “This will be the closest thing to it. Lee Daggett and I and a bunch of other folks started this rodeo.”

And then there’s the fact that the stock contractor for the event is Bonnie Eckley Rasmussen.

“We grew up together, and this will be the first time I’ve ridden her horses,” Kohlhepp said.

Now 46, Kohlhepp is philosophical about riding broncs and “too old” to be thinking about the money or the gals or ... okay, Kohlhepp

allows, “everybody likes a little piece of glory.”

He’s pretty sure everyone will want to see the old man ride at Mt. High Broncs and Bulls this year.

“Everybody’s going to want to come and see this because they’ll either see me get bucked off or they’ll see me ride,” he said.

He’ll have one extra special fan in the audience ... his toddler son Jackson Kohlhepp.

“Jackson loves bucking horses,” Kohlhepp said. “He get’s all excited about it.”

## SCHOOLS

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Enterprise School District is also predicting adding two teachers — one elementary and one secondary. New classes are being offered in math, science, choir, physical education and drama.

The district’s total budget of \$4,559,914 is also based on the predicted state budget. However, Pinkerton does not expect to make cuts to staff even if the state numbers come in lower. An unexpectedly large incoming kindergarten class along with steady growth in enrollment, from 397 in 2014 to 420 in 2016, has helped Enterprise financially. The growth in student population has brought in an additional \$162,730 since last biennium.

The cost of PERS has risen steadily from \$108,008

in 2014-15 to the proposed \$235,285 for 2017-18.

Joseph School District also expects no reduction in teaching staff. One teacher is retiring and the half-time Spanish teacher is leaving, so the school will be adding a teacher, but no one has been hired.

No new programs are planned, but the district is looking to enhance programs already in place.

Of a total budget of \$4,216,293 the district has set aside \$51,441 for PERS payments, more than double that of 2015-16 and up by nearly \$5,000 from 2016-17.

Although Joseph and Imnaha have gained students over the past few years, the population is expected to decline in the next biennium, according to Supt. Lance Homan, due to the fact that the schools graduated one of the largest classes it has had and

the kindergarten class is expected to be relatively small.

Local foundations that support the schools continue to enhance programs at all schools. The Joseph Education Foundation has purchased smart boards, books, computers, software and other supplies; the Enterprise Education Foundation regularly supports elementary art and music programs in addition to helping finance other programs; and the Wallowa Education Foundation pays for an aide, supplements the music, art, dance, and Ag and FFA programs in addition to many other projects.

There are only three ways for schools to get money: State School Support; tax distribution from the ESD, property tax collections and Secure Rural Schools Forest fees.

The Federal Forest Fees (Secure Rural Schools) funds are an offset, which means

that the state will make up for their loss if they are no longer available, but they have been shrinking dramatically every year. As an example, Enterprise SD received roughly \$105,000 in 2015-16 and \$7,479 in 2017-18.

Each school district receives somewhere in the \$7,000 per student range for students from the state. Wallowa School District received \$7,210 per student in 2015-16 and will receive \$7,377 per student for the 2017-18 biennium. Each school receives a slightly different amount based on a number of criteria including percentage of students living in poverty.

The amount each school will get from the state will not be known until the schools actually receive their first payment at the end of the month. Budget numbers will continually be adjusted until that time.

## RIBICH

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After three years in college, Ribich remains the epitome of the student athlete, continuously maintaining a place on the school’s honor roll despite his hectic training schedule. Ribich’s father, Michael Ribich, said that during a recent speech at a school fundraiser, the star athlete received three standing ovations and several post-graduation job offers.

Although Ribich generally spends at least some time in Wallowa County during the summer, this year is already spoken for with an internship in the WOU athletic department while earning nine credits toward graduation in communications and sports leadership.

“It’ll also help out the school, because they’ve done a lot to help me,” he said.

Ribich will also spend three weeks training younger runners at the Steens Mountain Running Camp in July.

Micahel Ribich is proud of his son. He went to the national championships meet with Geneva Reinhardt, David Ribich’s mother. The elder Ribich said that his son also competed in Alabama, winning an indoor distance medley relay race.

“He almost sounded more proud of the distance medley win because it was a team effort. He keeps getting better,



Courtest Photo/Jenny Reinhardt

**With a time of 3:49.64, David Ribich, junior at WOU, wins the 1500 meter race in the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field National Championships at Bradenton Florida on May 27.**

and I don’t think he’s finished yet. I’m so proud to call him my son,” he said.

How does the best Division II 1500 meter runner in the nation plan to stay motivated? More running.

Ribich and a couple friends intend to race Sunday in Portland to try to hit a qualifying time for the professional USA National Meet.

“If you make it into the top three there, you represent USA at world’s (championships). It’s a super, super long shot for all of us, but we’re just racing one last weekend to kind of decompress from the long season ... This last race is a final hurrah of our fitness where we can just kind of tuck in and run and feel good about it.”

## DISPUTE

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well as prejudgment interest from the time the rental payments became due. It also asks for plaintiff’s costs, disbursements and reasonable legal fees as well as any relief the court deems just.

In civil cases, a lawsuit

goes into arbitration depending on the amount of money the plaintiff is asking — \$50,000 or less, excluding court costs and attorney fees.

The city of Joseph declined to comment on the matter, citing the pending litigation. Lisa Dawson, a stockholder in Diamond D. told the Chieftain negotiations have failed, “so we’re looking for a resolution.”

# Amy Hafer Race for Awareness!

## Saturday, June 24, 2017

9:00 am at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, Enterprise

Early registration open until June 21st

**Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness**

**Bank of Eastern Oregon**

**Viridian Management**

**Winding Waters Clinic**

### Three Easy Ways to Register

1. Visit [www.wchcd.org/amy-hafer-race-for-awareness](http://www.wchcd.org/amy-hafer-race-for-awareness) and register online
2. Stop by Wallowa Memorial Hospital & pick up form
3. Call the Foundation at 541.426.1913 to have form mailed to you.

*All ages and abilities encouraged! Sign up today!*

**1 mi walk • 5k walk/run • 10k run**

*Event hosted by the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation & Wallowa Memorial Hospital with additional support from major sponsors: Bank of Eastern Oregon, Viridian Management, Winding Waters Clinic*

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were married on May 28th, 1940.

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from your family,  
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Terry & Joyce Decker & family.

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## Meet The Editor

# OPEN HOUSE

## Thursday, June 8

# 9am - 11am

**Come enjoy cake and coffee and have a chat with the new Chieftain Editor**

**PAUL WAHL**

**209 NW 1st Street, Enterprise**

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Nature Photographer

**Presentation • Fri, June 9th • 7pm**  
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**Field Trip • Sat, June 10th • 8:30am - 1pm**  
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