

Wallowa teacher to serve on ODE advisory board

Oregon Department of Education Deputy Supt. of Public Instruction, Salam Noor, is going to continue to hear about the educational focus of schools in Eastern Oregon and Wallowa County.

That's because Wallowa Schools kindergarten teacher Melanie Rowley has volunteered to serve on the State Teacher Advising Board. She is the second Wallowa instructor to serve on the board. Wallowa elementary teacher Annette Moeller was the other.

"It's exciting to have that kind of continuity for the county," said Wallowa Schools Supervisor Bret Uptmor.

The State Teacher Advising Board is 20 to 25 teachers, administrators, coaches and curriculum advisers who meet to improve the graduation rate for students across the state.

The board works on initiatives and policies recommended or implemented by the Oregon Department of Education. The proposals are examined and discussed to determine how they might work "in the trenches." By the end of their service (two years), members of the board will have a written report that makes recommendations for changes.

Rowley, who is serving her first year as a fulltime kindergarten teacher, said that Moeller recommended the experience and felt ODE Deputy Supt. Salam Noor heard what the board was saying.

"It's helpful to know where



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Kindergarten teacher Rowley poses with her class. Top from left: Gracelyn Foster, Kaylynn Wisdom, Teagan Tillary, Lily Witherup. Middle from left: Rebekah Brainard, Cheno Brockman, Mrs. Rowley, Phate Clark, Sal April. Bottom from left: Trenton Hardy and Hayden Woods.

the focus is for the other parts of the state and for other districts," Rowley said. "I want to be a voice for Wallowa and

eastern Oregon so they know where our focus is."

Rowley was born and raised in Union County and

substituted in Wallowa County for several years before being hired full-time in Wallowa.

Finding email equivalent to 'round file'

What did we do before email? Have you ever thought about that?

I think about it every day as I sort through the hoard of things that flow into my inbox. Most of it is stuff we would never use in the Chieftain, so I am using that wonderful function in Chrome "filter messages like these."

We once called it the "round file." Not sure what shape it takes in cyberspace, but the impact is the same.

When I began my journalism career, a banana box full of mail was dumped on my desk each morning. Same process. Weeding through the chaff to get to the wheat.

One of the biggest culprits in the email deluge is politicians like our two U.S.



WAHL TO WALL

Paul Wahl

Senators and to some extent our U.S. House member. Several times a week the senators send me emails letting me know that they oppose everything Donald Trump does. They're democrats, so it's not news to anyone ... except them, perhaps.

And our U.S. Rep. lets me know regularly — although considerably less often than the senators — that he supports everything Pres. Trump does and says. Again, hardly newsworthy.

Now were one of the sen-

ators to send an email saying how much they support and appreciate Trump's move to take the United States out of the Paris Agreement, that would be news. I'm betting it will never happen.

To put things in perspective, email is by far the best way to communicate with us here at the Chieftain. Any time we don't have to re-enter information from scratch — it's called keyboarding — we're 10 steps ahead of the game.

In addition, an email provides a tangible reminder to take action on what has

been sent. That's a big help when you consider how many things cross the desk each week.

When we receive email messages with .jpg attachments, it's essentially the same as sending a fax. Files in .doc and .pdf are preferable for cut-and-paste purposes.

And you don't need permission to send an email. Several times a week, I get a phone call from someone asking if they can send us an email. The answer is always "yes" and "thank you very much, you just made my life that much easier."

Civility and roll of dice mark end of deadlocked Joseph school board race

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Two Joseph school board candidates showed that civility in politics is possible, even if a deadlocked election comes down to a simple roll of the dice.

Rachel Sykora of Joseph, one of two candidates for Joseph School District Director Zone 4 position, won the seat by besting candidate Kirsten Rohla 4-1 in a dice roll-off at the Wallowa County Clerk's office on Wednesday, May 31.

Following the May 16 election, Rohla held a 180-179 edge, but after two weeks to count absentee ballots and examine contested ballots, the machine totaled a 181-181 tie. An official hand recount was May 30. It netted the same results.

Wallowa County Clerk Sandy Lathrop, who has held the clerk's position for about a year and worked under previous clerk Dana Roberts for several years, said she's never experienced a deadlocked election.

"I even called Dana and asked her if she'd ever dealt with this, and she said she hadn't," Lathrop said. A subsequent call to Union County's clerk revealed she hadn't experienced a tie either.

Oregon Revised Statute 254.575 subsection one directs: "For election to state Senator or Representative, a party office, or a public office for which the elections officer is other than the Secretary

of State, the elections officer shall have the candidates meet publicly to decide by lot who is elected."

Lathrop had several choices she could use to determine the election outcome: "I could have had the candidates drawing straws or names from a hat, but it seemed like that was more of a way to choose who has to do the dishes. I could have tossed a coin, but I'm not a very good coin tosser, so I went with the dice."

The clerk called both the candidates to come in for the final determination at 11 a.m. Both candidates were friendly and in good spirits as Lathrop laid blue and gold dice, symbolizing Joseph's school colors. Rohla selected the blue die. After Lathrop told the candidates that whoever rolled the highest number would be declared the election winner, the women rolled the dice.

"One," Rohla said. "Four," Sykora announced.

Sykora was the winner, and the two women smiled and shook hands before walking out of the courthouse together still smiling and chatting.

Asked for a response to the election results, Rohla said, "I'm sure we're both highly qualified, and it's all about the best interests of the students."

"I don't think there's any animosity toward anybody," Sykora said with a laugh before the two women left the courthouse.

LETTER

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"self-defensive lies can permeate all one does, so that life turns into living a lie."

She continues, "to win an election, to increase one's income, to outsell competitors — such motives impel many to participate in forms of duplicity ..."

Hitler was right, the biggest lies won this election. Now, integrity must win.

Don Scully
Sebastopol, Calif.

Scully is a part-time resident of Wallowa County and a long-time subscriber to the Chieftain.

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ANNOUNCING
Dr. Deveen Boyd's Retirement

After 28 years of practicing medicine in Wallowa County, Dr. Deveen Boyd is retiring, effective June 30. There have been many memorable moments throughout Dr. Boyd's career, delivering babies, helping his patients through end of life, and the many events in between. Dr. Boyd and his wife Jan will remain in the community, and look forward to sharing life with friends and neighbors, surrounded by God's beautiful creation. Mountain View Medical Clinic in Joseph will remain open to serve you and your family.

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Photo tip of the week:

When shooting landscapes, the foreground tells an important part of your story. Find something interesting and relevant to the rest of the picture to make an interesting foreground and boost the effectiveness of your image.

WALLOWA COUNTY Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

ENTERPRISE	JOSEPH
MONDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	TUESDAYS 6 p.m. Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) Joseph United Methodist Church 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement
TUESDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	WEDNESDAYS 12 p.m. Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement
7-8 p.m. Enterprise Group (Big Bk Study) 113.5 E Main St.	WEDNESDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.
WEDNESDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	WEDNESDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.
THURSDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	THURSDAYS 7 p.m. All Saints (Mens Mtg) 113.5 E Main St.
FRIDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	FRIDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.
SATURDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	SATURDAYS 7 p.m. Wallowa Assembly of God Church 205 S Alder St.