



THREE minutes with ...



MATT KASSAHN

Matt Kassahn, 38, of Joseph, is a Wallowa County native, married to a native Wallowan, Shala (Reynolds), and raising

his two kids, Jace, 10 and Karree 6, in the county. Both sides of the family have pioneer roots here.

Like most Wallowa County youth, Matt left the county to pursue his career. But once he married and had kids to think about, he knew he wanted to come “home.”

“I wanted my kids to grow up in the same place I did. There’s something about a small-town atmosphere.”

Matt went to work with his dad at Wallowa Valley Glass after Joseph High School and then went to work for Les Schwab in Enterprise and outside the county. He stayed in that job for 15 years in three different states and then spent three years with Wallowa County Grain Growers before landing the job as Everett Roberts’ replacement as facilities manager for the Wallowa County Courthouse. Everett had a 21-year career, and Matt is hoping to have the same.

His community project of choice is coaching for Little League.

“It takes quite a commitment,” he said. “We just finished up three months of that this spring. But you spend a lot of time when you’re not in baseball season getting ready for the next season.”

A high point for Matt this year was going to the All Stars for the first time as a coach.

“That was a new and bright experience,” he said.

Q. Why did you come back to Wallowa County?
A. It’s home. Everybody leaves out of here, but very few stay out of here. Everything I like to do is here. I’m an avid out-

doorsman. We’ve got a great bunch of people. The community support is just unbelievable in this place.

Q. What has Wallowa County taught you?
A. Everything in life. If you put your mind to something you can accomplish whatever you want to do: hard work, dedication and you can reach the goals wherever you want. It’s difficult here because you have to have a talent in something to make a living here — you can’t just run out and get any job around here. It’s a struggle for some people. You can find your job and enjoy the lifestyle if you get the job done and are dedicated to what you are doing.

Q. How has Wallowa County surprised you?
A. The changes over the years. Wallowa County has gone from having such a different economic (driver) to what it is now. It used to be a big timber market, and now it’s crop production and cattle. Timber is almost unheard of economics in Wallowa County.

And we’re getting a lot more on the art side, I guess you would say, that would be more of an economic value to the county. I just didn’t ever think the small town would go that way. When you’re growing up, you feel like the things that are there are going to be there when you’re older, and they really aren’t. The county is kind of split — you have your two sides, but I don’t think it’s affected the overall (personality) of the county.

Smoke from wildfires invades Wallowa County

Wallowa County residents spent much of last week under a canopy of smoke from wildfires in Oregon and Canada. Haze began forming Wednesday afternoon and appeared to peak on Sunday.

Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center, said the smoke came from the Whitewater fire near Mount Jefferson, as well as several large fires burning in British Columbia. A steady southeasterly wind pushed the smoke into the region.

Another blaze, the Cinder Butte fire started at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Bend area and had spread by around 20,000 acres overnight, and as of Thursday morning was at 30,000 acres. By noon, fire officials said via Twitter that the fire had grown to 56,000 acres.

Two other fires were reported, one in the Baker area and one in Umatilla County.

Closer to home, fire crews responded to the Clarks Creek Fire seven miles southeast of Elgin. Firefighters completed control lines Sunday according to Oregon Department of Forestry. Firefighters were expected to continue securing

the line on the 300-acre blaze through Monday.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Firefighters from the Elgin Fire Department, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and ODF responded to the incident Saturday.

Throughout the week, air quality varied between good and unhealthy depending on wind direction and time of day. A number of individuals in the county were seen wearing particulate masks.

Health officials warned pollutants in smoke can cause burning eyes, runny nose, aggravate heart and lung diseases and aggravate other serious health problems. Children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory illnesses were most at risk of serious health effects.

Temperatures are expected to be in the low-90s most of this week, followed by a slow cooling trend, which should bring highs into the upper 80s by the middle of next week. No precipitation is in the forecast for this week.

— Paul Wahl, Managing Editor

JULY 31

- 6:45 a.m. — Report of an abandoned camp trailer full of garbage at lower Bear Creek Campground.

AUGUST 1

- 8:39 a.m. — Welfare check on an over due motorist.
- 8:28 p.m. — Warrant issued for the arrest of Trevor Nicholas McWaters of Joseph, 23. Charges are probation violation; original charge PCS meth.
- 8:44 p.m. — Warrant issued for the arrest of Dustin Gladden of Joseph, 27. Charges are probation Violation, original charge DUI.
- 10:15 p.m. — Warrant issued for the arrest of Bobbie Buchholz of Wallowa, 41. Charges are probation Violation; original charge Contempt.
- 11:28 p.m. — Warrant issued for the arrest of Errol Bullock of Wallowa, 35. Charges are probation violation; original charge assault.

AUGUST 2

- 4:32 p.m. — Warrant issued for the arrest of Jacob Michaels Ellis of Enterprise, 27. Charges are post prison probation violation; original charge possession of meth.
- 5:29 p.m. — Report of a dog locked in a vehicle in Enterprise.

AUGUST 3

- 00:45 a.m. — 911 call reported a bear at Wallowa Lake State Park.

FOR THE RECORD

- 10:22 a.m. — 911 call reported a civil dispute in rural Joseph.
- 4:26 p.m. — Dustin Cole Gladden of Joseph, 27, was arrested by EPD on an order of arrest and detention issued by Wallowa County Community Corrections for probation violation. Original charge DUI. Gladden was released.
- 8:40 p.m. — Jacob Michael Ellis of Enterprise, 27, was arrested by Yamhill County on an order of arrest and detention issued by Wallowa County Community Corrections for probation violations. Original charge was PCS meth. Ellis was lodged at the Yamhill County Jail.

AUGUST 4

- 5:20 a.m. — Report of a cougar found under a home in Joseph.
- 3:13 p.m. — Report of a fire at the Enterprise Solid Waste Transfer Site.
- 5:56 p.m. — Driving complaint in rural Joseph. David John Cairns of Joseph, 54, was arrested by the Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office for DUI. He was cited and released.
- 8:50 p.m. — William Alan Quinn of Enterprise, 56, was arrested by the EPD for probation violation. Quinn was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

IN BRIEF

him to fall from his horse and be dragged. He is being cared for by his wife, Brinda, a longtime volunteer for many county organizations.

Stanley benefit details finalized

A benefit dinner and auction for Del Stanley of Joseph, who is recovering from serious injuries, is Sunday, Aug. 13, at the Joseph Community Center. Social hour is 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. with a silent auction, followed by a live auction at 7 p.m.

Admission including dinner is by donation. The Chief Joseph Days Court queen and princesses will collect contributions at the door. Beer and wine will be available for an additional suggested \$5 donation.

Live music will be provided by local musicians who are donating their services.

Donated auction items include art prints, a half of beef, Olaf pottery, other handcrafted items, a cord of firewood and a \$500 discount from purchase of a vehicle from Main Street Motors.

Stanley, 66, is at home following hospitalization in Boise. He was hurt June 27 when an aneurysm caused

First aid, CPR class is Aug. 17

Project Heartbeat will conduct a First Aid, CPR and AED class at the Prairie Creek Center (Oregon Department of Human Service office) at River and Litch streets in Enterprise Friday, Aug. 18.

The class begins at 8:30 a.m. and will train lay responders to assist people suffering medical emergencies until the ambulance arrives. Participants will receive two-year certification from the American Red Cross.

Cost of the seven-hour class is \$45.

For more information or to register call 541-432-0259.

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TESTIMONIALS:
The spiritual atmosphere was important to us. Knowing that the science classes were taught from a biblical understanding of creation gave us the assurance that our kids were learning sound principles of our origins. Coming from a Christian viewpoint in all the classes was assuring to us as parents — Ken Rose MD, Parent

We highly recommend the SDA school to other parents for their children. The very reasonable cost is highly worth it, you will not be disappointed! — Neal and Corinne Isley, Parents

In the small classrooms, the teacher was able to help students one-on-one which really benefited all of us. — Kana Oliver, Former Student

For full reading of testimonials please go to: <http://enterprise24.adventistschoolconnect.org/>

For more information please contact Dan Webster, 541-426-5942 or 541-263-0464

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

This week’s athlete of the week is bull rider Derek Kolbaba. One of the finest bullriders in the nation, Kolbaba has connections to the Wallowa Valley and regularly competes in the Chief Joseph Days rodeo, winning the 2014 and 2016 bullriding events.



Derek Kolbaba

This year, Kolbaba drew the previously unriden bull “Omaha.” Kolbaba not only rode the bull, but also scored 88 points in the process for his third win.

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