



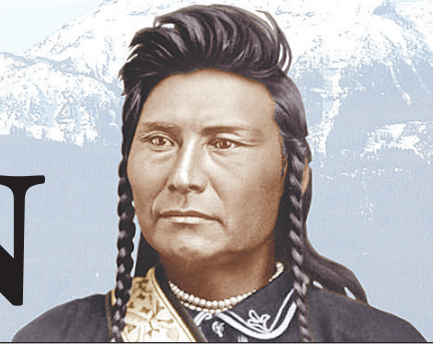
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# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



## County bypassed for housing pilot project

County 'too rich' in some areas

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

It's a miss this time, but Wallowa County will soon know what is needed to qualify for state Workforce Housing Initiative money — or know how to create workforce housing on its own.

The state has selected five housing pilot projects from 31 applications in its first round of awards. The pilot projects will be launched in the next few months and are intended to strengthen and develop partnerships between local communities and business sector and private developers.

The pilot projects will not only provide more than 115 workforce housing units but will help agencies and investors learn how to bring

stakeholders together to address the housing problem. The Regional Solutions Cabinet, which oversees the Workforce Housing Initiative, includes directors of six agencies including Oregon Housing and Community Services.

"These pilot projects will ... inform our plans for accelerating the growth of Oregon's housing market to match that of the state's economy," said Gov. Brown.

Wallowa County could not offer

the Regional Solutions Cabinet what it was looking for this time around, said Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts.

"Only part of Wallowa County was eligible under this program," Roberts said. "Based on population and other things, the upper valley was way too rich for what they were looking for. The portion that met the criteria was west of Lostine to the county line and all of the north end, and we did apply for that area

with the assistance of the North East Oregon Economic Development District."

The winning cities and counties by comparison had industry established, older housing available for remodeling, exploding population growth or financial partners already identified.

"There were questions about available land and whether or not

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## PARK TIDIED

Joseph playground project marks one year



**TOP** Penny Arentson, who helped spearhead the drive to fund the new Joseph City Park Playground, talks to two volunteers during the May 12 Joseph Playground Volunteer and Donor Celebration. "It was a real nice turnout with a lot of hands that things done earlier than we expected," she said. The group erected donor plaques and sanded and stained all the benches and picnic tables and other wooden equipment among other maintenance tasks to prepare the playground for the coming summer. **LEFT** Joseph Charter School teachers Marla Dotson, left, and Megan Smith aren't preparing to play this outdoor xylophone, they're staining it for the summer's use at the May 12 Joseph Playground Volunteer and Donor Celebration.

## McFarland gets his day in court

Sentenced to 30 days for driving violations

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Keith Raymond McFarland's seeming disdain for the court and the law has netted him a week in jail and three years probation at Wallowa County Circuit Court on May 3. McFarland, who has a string of motor vehicle violations, was defending himself on charges of failure to present a license and driving while suspended or revoked.



McFarland

McFarland first appeared at a pretrial conference May 2 before Judge Russell B. West. The judge asked McFarland, who had waived his right to an attorney, if he had read the relevant paperwork on his waiver and said he did. When West asked if he comprehended it, McFarland said, "I don't comprehend anything."

West attempted to speak but McFarland interrupted, saying he didn't see a cause of action. West again attempted to speak but McFarland overrode him saying the court's jurisdiction was still questioned. West explained the benefits of having an attorney and telling him one would be provided if he couldn't afford it. McFarland attempted to interrupt several times and said he still didn't understand the cause of action on the case. He also said the court had no jurisdiction to bring the case to trial. When West asked if he still wanted to represent himself, McFarland replied, "I don't represent myself, I present myself." He also said it was impossible for a son of God to appear in person.

McFarland requested a trial by jury. When the jury was seated May 3, Williams told West that McFarland told her he now wanted a trial by judge.

West apologized to the jury for the inconvenience and thanked them for their time before dismissing them. He also gave McFarland time to mull over an offer from the DA's office.

After 15 minutes or so, West asked if he had made a decision to go to trial or accept the offer.

"I want to make it clear that I'm only here under threat, duress and coercion," McFarland said.

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## FAREWELL, JOHN

Well-wishers gather for Williams' retirement bash

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

There is little doubt that Wallowa County Extension Agent John Williams will be missed when he retires June 30. A group of around 100 well-wishers gathered at Cloverleaf Hall May 11 for a send-off.

Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts served as emcee for the event. A variety of community representatives also spoke, providing an abundance of good-hearted humor.

Roberts said that when she began gathering anecdotes, people asked her if John were dead.

"I said 'no he's just retiring,'" Rob-

erts said. "We always figured he'd die on the job," folks responded.

Despite Williams being very much alive, Roberts said she proceeded to prepare what was essentially a eulogy.

Few of Williams' foibles over the past 25 years were missed by speakers, which included friends, family, co-workers and others.

Williams has for years coordinated the livestock auction at the Wallowa County Fair, and the pressure of the event and its impact was much-discussed.

Roberts said former county commissioner Mike Hayward suggested "John's



Mac Birkmaier shares stories about retiring Wallowa County Extension Agent John Williams, right. Williams' predecessor Arley Isley looks on.

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