

Matters of the heart

Transplant survivor bucks the odds, sustained by her faith **A5**



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Joseph policing contract encounters snags

City approves; sheriff has not signed

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph citizens that were worried about the lack of police protection may breathe easier soon. But not quite yet.

The Joseph City Council approved a three-year contract with the depart-

ment at \$113,667 per year for extra patrolling at a special meeting July 31.

Normally a rubber-stamp action, this year's contract negotiations proved volatile behind the scenes with the council split between abolishing the service, reducing the contract or paying the standard rate. Eventually contract negotiations were relegated to attorneys for the city and county.

As of press time for this week's edition, Sheriff Steve Rogers had not signed the contract.

The latest offer included not only patrolling at up to 240 hours per month but also included stipulations of quarterly meetings between the sheriff and Joseph officials.

Council member Teresa Sajonia said that after a previous negotiation meeting, she was under the impression that between the funds the city was paying for extra patrol and some additional funds from the county, the city would get its own designated deputy.

Mayor Dennis Sands said that he understood the offer may not be just one particular deputy and that others could help fill the 240-hour patrol time. Sajonia agreed.

"I thought that was a huge selling point ... I felt it was huge for those (of the council) who voted for the contract for three years," she said. "That was one of the reasons I voted no on the three years, because I wanted to see in that one year, was that going to get done, was that one person was

going to get hired."

Council member Mike Lockhart said he thought the agreement was clear as written and Sands agreed the contract stipulated 1.5 equivalent full-time deputies patrolling in the city limits.

Sajonia wasn't convinced. "I'm going to put this out there: What are the consequences in three years if they don't live up to the contract?"

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Land returned to Nez Perce



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council member and elder Arthur Broncheau holds a small rock from the riverbank as Nez Perce Veteran and historian Wilfred Scott burns and fans sage in a spiritual ceremony. The rock symbolizes the return of a portion of Wallowa River bank to the Nez Perce. The Aug. 1 ceremony blesses the symbol of the healing process that was the basis of the transfer of the land deed from the United Methodist Church to the Nez Perce Tribe.

Methodists conduct act of restoration

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The crowd at the United Methodist Church Camp above Wallowa Lake had gathered to be part of a historic moment that many had not believed would happen in their lifetime.

A formal presentation was made of the land deed for 1.5 acres of Wallowa River

riverfront from the United Methodist Church to the Nez Perce Tribe was made Aug. 1. As part of the ceremony, a small rock taken from the river and presented to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee June 15 was returned to the riverbank.

The importance of the gesture could not be overestimated.

"I never thought I would see this day," said Nez Perce Elder Mary Jane Miles. "I

never thought we would see the day come when we would have a hand of friendship from the larger community to the Nimi'ipuu (Nez Perce)."

Miles, who represented the Nez Perce as a member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, is also a Presbyterian minister and doubly hurt by the "Doctrine

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Who will get former library's books?

County Commission, Foundation have the talk

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The books formerly comprising the Wallowa County Library shortly will have new homes. The Wallowa Valley Library Foundation presented a draft proposal of a plan to Wallowa County Commissioners at an Aug. 6 commissioners meeting.

Jonelle McCoy, president of the foundation board, along with board member Bonnie Marks, told commissioners that librarians from Enterprise, Joseph and Wallowa had all expressed a desire to have most of the books divided amongst them.

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McQuead selected for city post

Enterprise appoints new City Administrator

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The way Lacey McQuead sees it, she's standing on the shoulders of a giant.

McQuead, 33, is the new city administrator for Enterprise, replacing Michelle Young who retired after more than 30 years in the position.

"I think the only reason I'll be successful in this position is because I had Michelle Young as my mentor for so many years," McQuead said.



Lacey McQuead

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TELEHEALTH the wave of the future

Wallowa hospital official tells Congress it has more work to do

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Doctors routinely made house calls in the '40s. The practice may be enjoying a revival, especially in rural areas such as Wallowa County.

In the latest iteration, the doctor won't be present in flesh and blood but on a television screen over the Internet. It's called telehealth.

The county's medical providers, led by Wallowa Memorial Hospital, have begun exploring the opportunities.

"Telehealth has enabled us to ... ensure access to high-quality care in our frontier county," Jenni Word recently told members of the House committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology in Washington, D.C.

The associate administrator and chief nursing officer at Wallowa Memorial was among a handful chosen to testify. U.S. Rep. Greg Walden is a member of the committee.

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Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Winding Waters Clinic Medical assistant Tasha Tanzey, left, and Meg Bowen, Quality Director, show off the robot the clinic uses for telemedicine — accessing doctors who are far away from Wallowa County.



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