

Woodlands & Watershed Festival provides fun time for all

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The 15th annual 2019 Woodlands and Watershed Festival brought flocks of Wallowa County families to the Wallowa County Fairgrounds on Friday for an educational and fun time. The Festival featured live music by Darrel Brann and others, as well as a variety of food concessions. This year Wallowa Resources combined with the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center to include more information about forestry and history in the county. Maxville's contributions included historical information about the Maxville community and their baseball team as well as a hearty "Loggers meal" that included pork sliders, beans, coleslaw and other fixin's for a bargain price of \$10.

Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries brought plenty of information about salmon, but the most popular feature was their fishing pond, where youngsters could catch a rainbow trout—and take it home for dinner. "It's FUN!" said Swade Shelter as he caught his second fish of the day. Younger children, including Mia Dawson, 2 1/2, and Stella Terren, age 2, landed fish with the help of parents. They seemed torn between fascination with the shiny, brightly colored trout and fear or concern that they had hauled this wriggling, live animal out of the water.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife brought a variety of animal pelts, including elk, cougar, and sea otter for families to touch. Their activity included a quiz to identify the animal that once wore each of them. Oregon State Parks' Patricia Bass acquainted youngsters with a compass (the old-fashioned kind with a needle that points to magnetic north). Forest Service Wildland Firefighters provided information and



U.S. Forest Service wilderness ranger Joe Whittle shows wild carrot root to a young future botanist at the Woodlands and Watershed festival.

Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop

activities that helped children understand the risks of fire—and how to NOT get one started. U.S.F.S. Wilderness Ranger Joe Whittle connected visitors of all ages with the variety of native plants that grow in Wallowa County, and their importance as wild foods.

More than 25 local and regional organizations participated, providing opportunities for families to connect with agencies and other non-profits important to communities in Wallowa County.

LEFT Is that my fish? — A young angler ponders the trout that she caught with a little help from Mom.
RIGHT East is that way! — Oregon State Park Ranger Patricia Bass helps a young explorer learn how to use an old-fashioned magnetic (non-digital) compass.



A peek at the pollen problem

By Jessica Pollard
Staff Reporter

EASTERN OREGON — The region may have around 30 different plants every summer with high allergenic potential, according to pollen-library.com, but things could be itchier.

In the Willamette Valley, where — according to the Oregon Seed Council — 1,500 grass seed farmers employ upwards of 10,000 Oregonians, sneezes abound. So maybe it makes sense that the only certified pollen count system is monitored by the Oregon Allergy Associates in Eugene.

Some people in that area, Dr. Craig Jacobson of OAA said, see July 4 as a day of independence from grass allergies, because that's when the pollen count begins to die down.

Eastern Oregon does have some grass pollen as well. "There's a lot less in [here]

than there is on the west side," said Jacobson.

That being said, some plants like sagebrush, juniper, ragweed and wheat can cause allergies in the region. Nearby the Columbia River, Jacobson noted, pollen from birch, alder and cottonwood trees can also provoke allergies.

For those who are sensitive to pollen in Eastern Oregon, it might be hard to find an accurate pollen count. The OAA's count is only representative of Eugene's warm-summer Mediterranean climate,

and not the semi-arid climate that makes Eastern Oregon look like a desert.

Pollen.com provides pollen information, but in the form of predictive models based off of meteorological algorithms. A pollen count, alternatively, reveals how much pollen has been in the air in recent days.

"When we look at pollen.com data with our data side by side, they often don't agree," said registered nurse Judy Moran, who does the pollen count at OAA.

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FAR AWAY PLACES CAMP Kids aged 9-14 will have a great time learning to paint and work with clay in this four day camp from 10am-2pm July 8-11. \$75, lunch included.	WINE GLASS PAINTING Wednesdays from 5pm-7pm, paint wine glasses for the WVFA. Class is free unless you want to paint your own glass, \$12.

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