



Jack Parry/Wallowa County Chieftain

People watch as the aircraft "Hell-er Bust" takes off from the runway during the Wallowa County Fly-In on July 9, 2022.

Fly-In:

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"It's just a beautiful air-show in a beautiful location. Look at those mountains, I mean really!" Miller said.

For visitors like Blakely, the friendly vibe from the local volunteers and vendors makes this air show a lot more authentic than others he's attended.

"It's a neighborhood event, it's not so much a commercial event," he said.

Mike Webber from Tucson, Arizona, and his family were one of the countless groups of related spectators who turned up to the event which entertained those of all ages.

While he most enjoyed the noise and horsepower, he recognized that his little ones were enjoying themselves as well, especially his daughter and her sno-cone.

"Oh yeah they're having fun," Webber said.

For these reasons and others, this event is one that tends to bring out the whole community. Clay mentioned that they usually have around 1,000 people on the tarmac each year.

"That's a sixth of the county," he said, "so that's a huge number."

Around 10 a.m., everyone either in chairs, standing or laid out on the grass shifted their attention to the skies as the West Coast Ravens started to leave the runway. They did a six-plane performance that included different feats of formation flying.

The performance that seemed to stun the audience the most was the tandem two-airplane display from Undaunted Airshows, which included some creative smoke drawings like a giant loop right above Chief Joseph Mountain.



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Onlookers view Undaunted Airshows flying during the Wallowa County Fly-In on July 9, 2022.

"I liked the two-ship (performance)," Miller said. "I thought they were very nice. Really tight and you know, lazy-playing and enjoying themselves up there."

Stephen Christopher pilots one of the planes along with his partner Todd Rudberg, who both travel all across the Pacific Northwest doing air shows and showing off their act. Being a professional, he finds it difficult to compare the feeling of flying a plane to anything else.

"Getting the experience of being up in the air, with the movement and motion of seeing everything, it's very special," he said.

He describes Joseph as one of his favorite small town venues in the area, and he flew in the show last year when there was smoke coming from the fires.

"The farm community, the backdrop, the enthusiasm of the families and the kids," Christopher said.

Luckily on a clear day, the plains and mountains are beautiful for everyone to observe on the ground. But



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People socialize amid the aircrafts at the Joseph State Airport during the Wallowa County Fly-In on July 9, 2022.

Christopher's view during some of his stunts in the atmosphere is breathtaking.

"I get to see most of that when I'm upside down. I get to see the world spinning by as a backdrop," he said.

The show wasn't just a meaningless display, the North East Oregon Aviation Foundation was fundraising for the STEM career technical program at Joseph High School to help expose students to aviation employment possibilities.

For the first time a four-dimensional experience from the U.S Air Force called "Operation Shadow Strike," which simulates a special operations mission, was stationed toward the front of the tarmac. One of the event's organizers, Joe Basile from Joseph, said that the purpose of the inclusion wasn't just for entertainment purposes.

"The Air Force needs pilots, they need mechanics, they need technicians ... it's a recruiting tool," Basile said.

Psilocybin:

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But psilocybin's greater use has been as a recreational hallucinogenic drug that concerns the county commissioners.

Roberts said she's aware psilocybin can help in therapy, but she and the other commissioners are concerned that allowing even heavily restricted psilocybin into the county may open the door for recreational use.

"The best-laid plans always end up ..." she said. "That's grand. You have to stay there until the effects of the thing wear off and then you can go, but pretty soon, people will start wanting that changed, you know, 'Can I only have this much and take it home?' and what they said to begin with doesn't matter."

There's also the chance that if the county bans it, the cities within the county and neighboring counties might not.

"We just ban it in the county and the cities are able to do what they want," Roberts said.

There's also the possibility that if the county does not ban it and the cities in the county do and neighboring counties do as well, Wallowa County could become a haven for the psilocybin industry.

Although she did not have a recommendation

on how the commissioners should act, Sully did offer insight into consequences of possible actions.

"The problem is that if you approve it, all your adjacent cities and counties, if they ban it, guess where it will locate — that one jurisdiction that hasn't," she said.

Sully said the state has yet to establish its rules for the Psilocybin Services Section, but it's expected to be ready to start issuing licenses by January, thus it's in the county's interest to take action.

The commissioners wondered how legal psilocybin compares with legal marijuana. Oregon legalized the medical use of marijuana in 1998 and then added recreational use in 2016.

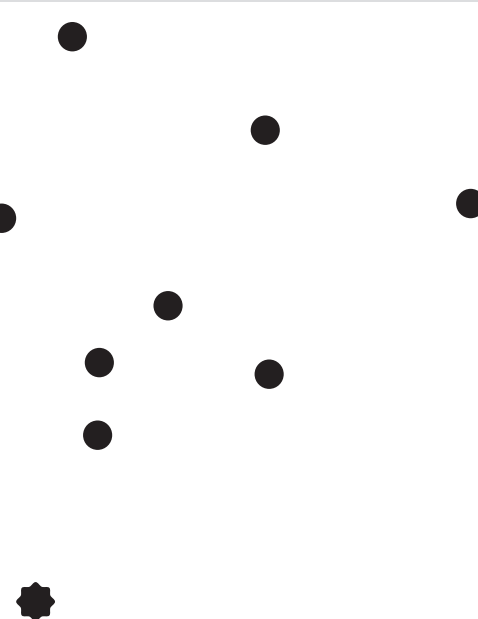
While there is a similarity in the medical legalization of psilocybin and marijuana, Sully said, there is no similarity between legal psilocybin and recreational marijuana. The only dispensary for recreational marijuana in the county is in Joseph.

Sully emphasized that under the 2020 law, such recreational use of psilocybin won't be allowed.

"This will be like marijuana. You'll have to have a licensed facility to grow it and it will be tracked and records kept and you will have to use it on site," she said. "It will not be available for personal use in your home or anyplace else."

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Marshal:

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Everyone learned Tim's rule: "You do not rush the meat! The meat is ready when it's ready!"

This was a lesson many learned the hard way. But they also learned that although Tim could not be persuaded

to rush the meat, his bark was bigger than his bite.

Tim and Shelley were both awarded the coveted Justin Boot Committeeman of the Year Award. This award is part of the John Justin Standard of the West program. Each year, only 125 individuals across the country are presented with this award.

After serving on the Chief

Joseph Days Rodeo Committee in an official capacity for 19 years, Shelley decided it was time to move on. The Marshalls officially hung up their hats in 2020. They now keep busy chasing 6-year-old grandson Marshall Call Suttin.

"We are excited to honor Tim and Shelley as our grand marshals," Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Pres-

ident Terry Jones said. "It is a very well-deserved honor, and we appreciate the many years and countless hours they devoted to Chief Joseph Days."

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