



## Wallowa County Voices



**Matt McDowell**  
Enterprise

### Horse trainer enjoys the outdoors

ENTERPRISE — Matt McDowell has been in Wallowa County since 1990 and lived along Hurricane Creek Road south of Enterprise for about 15 years.

"We had a packing business at the lake for about 20 years," he said.

Now he trains reining horses.

"We travel around the country and show horses," he said.

His wife, Amber, and their four kids all show horses.

As might be expected, McDowell's favorite thing about Wallowa County is the outdoors.

"We outfitted for 20 years and I love the hunting, the fishing, the small community to raise my family," he said, "and the old-time way of life and the morals."

As summer winds down, McDowell still has a few things he wants to do before fall.

"My kids like to archery hunt ... so we're going to do that in August and September into deer season and do a little more fishing on the Snake River," he said. "Hopefully we'll get a few more Snake River trips in before summer's over."

McDowell was as shocked as anyone when the Aug. 11 hailstorm hit Wallowa.

"That was devastating for the town of Wallowa," he said. "It's something we don't see up in this part of the country very often. ... I tried to help out as much as we could. I think the whole county came together to help out."

As the Oregon Department of Forestry has increased restrictions because of fire season, he has his concerns.

"Of course, you have to protect the county," McDowell said, "but a lot of people coming to the county for tourism and the hunting season, it brings a lot of income to the county. It hurts the county when they shut down the forests."

He has mixed feelings when it comes to advising those thinking of moving here.

"You know, you want it to stay small — it's an unbelievable place to live and raise a family," he said. "Making a living is the hardest thing, with the long winters, but I can't say not to because it's been great for my family when we moved here in the 1990s."

— Bill Bradshaw,  
Wallowa County Chieftain

# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



**Historic military vehicles pull into a field behind the Indian Lodge Motel in Joseph as the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's biennial convoy passes through Wallowa County on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.**

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

## Military vehicles mostly served in Vietnam

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**J**OSEPH — They weren't pulling into Saigon or Da Nang, but the convoy of 24 historic military vehicles that pulled into Joseph could well have staged a similar entrance some 50 years ago.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association's biennial convoy on Thursday, Aug. 25, left Baker City and headed through the mountains for a lunch stop at the Hells Canyon Overlook before traversing the windy National Forest Road 39 to Joseph.

"Where's the diesel?" asked Dan McCluskey, convoy commander, as soon as he stepped out of his Vietnam-era three-quarter-ton M37 cargo truck.

He hadn't noticed that the Chevron station in Joseph does indeed offer diesel fuel, critical for many of the convoy's vehicles.

About 50 people — 30% of whom are Vietnam veterans, along with one World War II vet —



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

**Jimie Smith of Texahoma, Oklahoma, explains how this Army ambulance could accommodate four wounded soldiers as part of a display of 24 historic military vehicles in a convoy passing through Wallowa County on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.**

accompanied the rigs.

The convoy began Aug. 14 after gathering near the home of Mark Sigrist near Kamiah, Idaho. Sigrist, who conceived the idea of this year's convoy, died in 2020 before it could take place.

"But his son is here, keeping the dream alive," McCluskey said.

After a couple hours of a static display in the field behind the

Indian Lodge Motel, the convoy was back on the road to spend the night at the Eagle Cap Shooters Association's gun range north of Enterprise.

The next day, the plan was to head north to Lewiston, Idaho, where some would leave the convoy for home.

McCluskey may not be a military vet, but he's certainly a veteran

with military vehicles. His father, who was a WWII vet, bought a jeep shortly after the war.

"I grew up in that jeep," he said.

His own first vehicle also was a jeep, a rig that had seen WWII service.

All the vehicles are privately owned, McCluskey said, adding that the owners pay for fuel and their own food.

"Each individual pays his own way," he said.

The MVPA plans a convoy every two years. Usually the trips last 28 days and cover 3,000 miles. This time, the run was for two weeks and 1,600 miles.

The association, founded in 1976, is a nonprofit with more than 100 affiliates worldwide "dedicated to providing an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport," according to its mission.

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Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

**Restored classic cars and pickups were a highlight of the weekend's Wallowa Mountain Cruise in Joseph: The first five cars on display here on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022, from the left, are a 1934 Ford pickup, a 1931 Ford Model A Coupe, a 1936 Ford Roadster, a 1931 Ford Tudor Sedan and a 1939 Chevy Coupe.**

## Car enthusiasts swarm Joseph

**1946 Hudson pickup named top vehicle of Wallowa Mountain Cruise**

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**J**OSEPH — About 165 classic cars and trucks from all over were on display and cruised around Joseph during the three-decades-

old car show, now known as the Wallowa Mountain Cruise, this weekend.

A black 1946 Hudson pickup owned by Bob and Becky Cunningham, of Idaho, was named King of the Mountain, top prize for the car show, formerly known as the Oregon Mountain Cruise.

Another Idahoan, Marion Evans, took the People's Choice award with his aqua 1932 Ford Roadster.

The event started

Friday, Aug. 26. As the vehicles arrived in Joseph, beer and food flowed and people enjoyed and danced to the classic tunes from the local band Good Question. The next day, Aug. 27, streets were blocked off, cars and pickups parked downtown, vendors pulled in and set up shop and the crowds gathered for a day of milling around, admiring the

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### STORM RELIEF

## Wallowa to receive \$2 million in aid

**City to be on list for state emergency board**

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**W**ALLOWA — The city of Wallowa can expect to receive \$2 million in state emergency aid next month when the board of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management meets, according to state Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena.

The aid would be to assist Wallowa residents in the wake of the hailstorm that ravaged the town on Thursday, Aug. 11. The roofs of at least 400 buildings and scores of automobiles were damaged by the large hailstones, Mayor Gary Hulse said. A handful of injuries were reported, although none was considered serious.

Hansell said on Aug. 24

that he learned the previous day \$2 million was to be added to the funds the board is expected to request when it meets Sept. 30.

He said it's too bad the money can't come through sooner, "but that's when the board meets."

Hansell is a member of the emergency board.

The senator said he immediately called Hulse to inform him.

Hulse confirmed Aug. 23 that he'd been told a \$2 million request was made, but had yet to hear if it was approved.

Hansell said the delay in approving the funds could prove troublesome.

"It hasn't been appropriated yet," he said. "In the meantime, maybe's going to be there, they can get the work done."

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