



Delores Lookingglass Wheeler

Lookingglass Wheeler presented 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

Lewis-Clark State College and the LCSC Native American Club presented Delores Lookingglass Wheeler with the 23rd annual Native American Awareness Week lifetime achievement award during the awards banquet Thursday, March 11 at LCSC.

Delores was very surprised receiving this award; her family had a difficult time keeping it a surprise and getting her to the banquet. Delores, an avid Kub fan, noticed her children in Lewiston wearing their Kub shirts and she thought to herself, "Oh my, is there a game down here tonight?" To her surprise her children wore the shirts in their mom's honor, knowing her love for Kamiah! Delores has eight children, 28 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Delores is the eldest of her siblings, Nancy L. Johns, Andrea Axtell, and the late Edith Strombeck. Delores was born and raised on the Lookingglass family homestead in Kamiah. The home she and her sister Nancy were born and raised in was recently torn down due to safety hazards. Delores married Timothy Wheeler at Talmaks July 4, 1948, thus becoming part of the James/Wheeler family.

Delores spent many years teaching young people about traditional gathering, and caring for the sacred roots and berries. She has been featured in many Nez Perce documentaries demonstrating her skills as a historian, a gatherer, Nimiipuu language teacher and a pie maker. She travels to all the Nez Perce War Memorial sites annually to honor all the fallen Nez Perce warriors, women and children. As the eldest descendant of Chief Lookingglass, Delores was interviewed several times at the war memorials Battle of Clear Creek, and White Bird, Big Hole and Bear Paw battlefields. Delores would say as

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Sergeants have nose for fighting crime

By Ben Jorgensen
Additional reporting by Gina Jorgensen
The Clearwater Progress

At first glance Bruno looks, barks, and even smells like a typical German shepherd. That's where the similarities end between dogs kept on the porch and dogs that take down 200-pound bad boys.

Hailing from Czechoslovakia—he's still working on his English by the way—Bruno is a 94 lb. highly specialized canine that carries a badge, a drive for

“He's an absolute asset to Lewis County and everyone around us.”

--- Sgt. Jason Davis

biting bad guys into submission and a nose for sniffing out drugs.

Sergeant Bruno is a certified drug sniffing and apprehension (bite dog) for the Lewis County Sheriff's Office that has become more popular in north central Idaho, perhaps even the state, than McGruff.

Most recently Bruno and his handler, Sgt. Jason Davis, have been making rounds across the county raising awareness about drugs and raising greenbacks for a bulletproof vest and other needed equipment for Bruno.

The idea for a vest first surfaced during a school assembly. A teacher asked Davis why Bruno was not protected with a vest when all the other officers were. Davis didn't have an answer.

A year-and-a-half later \$1,228 has been raised from a slew of



Gina Jorgensen/Progress

Sergeants Jason Davis and Bruno of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office work as a team to sniff out crime all across north central Idaho.

sources for Bruno's life-saving vest. The vest costs \$600, but people have continued to generously donate to defray the costs of Bruno's invaluable services, said Davis.

As a county officer, Bruno receives liability coverage and little else. He does get to ride shotgun in a squad car and bark on the scanner, to the glee of residents

throughout scanner land. Like the perfect employee he is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, doesn't ask for overtime and is satisfied with a favorite bite toy, munchies and lots of action.

"When the siren goes on so does he," said Davis. "He bounces

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Kamiah schools facing \$831,000 gap

Woeful Idaho economy to impact public school funding

Kamiah school trustees got their first look Monday at a sobering financial outlook that will make for a challenging and uncertain budget year.

Faced with a struggling state economy, the Idaho Legislature is considering an 8½ percent cut in state funding for public schools next year.

To make matters worse, Kamiah schools have been flirting with a slight decline in student enrollment. Since state funds are appropriated according to student population,

the anticipated revenue shortfall could wind up in the 10 percent range for Kamiah, according to Superintendent Dr. Michael Bundy.

So when District #304 trustees meet this coming Monday for their first budget workshop, they will be staring at an \$831,000 funding gap between expected revenues and anticipated expenses for the coming school year.

That means some tough decisions lie ahead. And it could also mean lower salaries for District #304 teachers, administrators and

school employees.

"We're going to have to begin looking at a lot of cuts," Bundy said during an interview Monday. "But the number one priority is to protect instruction. That means protecting as many jobs as possible. We still have to have teachers to instruct kids."

While jobs may be saved, salaries and benefits could be impacted since they typically represent about 80-85 percent of any school dis-

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Remember When



Photos Wanted: *Remember When* is a new weekly feature showcasing historic photographs that depict the places and people of north central Idaho. The photos may feature old townsites, mining, logging, popular events, civic affairs, schools and sports, or just everyday rural life. Photos should include as much information as possible, such as when and where it was taken and by whom, if known. Original pictures may be sent to the Progress but please provide a self addressed stamped envelope if you wish your photo to be returned. We will also accept scanned photos. Please scan and email at a high resolution to ensure the best possible reproduction in the newspaper. Please include your name, hometown, and a contact number/email. Digital pictures may be sent to The Progress at the following address: progress@clearwaterprogress.com or drop off prints to the Progress at 417 Main Street or mail them to P.O. Box 428 Kamiah, Idaho 83536. If you would like your photo print returned send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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Taking it easy

Gene Lamb holds a young CariDawn in front of an old Chevy at Kamiah. In the background is a saw business. The area is near where the current Highland Realty office is located.

Photo submitted by
CariDawn Luther

Lions annual Easter egg hunt April 3

The Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3 at the Kamiah Riverfront Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Easter egg hunt begins promptly at noon and latecomers beware: It is usually over within five minutes. Baked goods, hot dogs and beverages will be on sale throughout the morning. Bring the kids and make it a picnic in the park!

Coloring contest deadline

The deadline for the Easter coloring contest is noon on March 26, not April 2 as previously announced. Submissions may be dropped off at The Clearwater Progress.

Bruno

from side to side of the car when I do code because he knows we're going to something good.

"He's a worker," said Davis at a recent presentation before the Lewis County Commissioners this past Monday.

True to from, Bruno excitedly sniffed the air as soon as he entered the courtroom where the presentation was held. Davis hid some dope prior to Bruno's arrival, which his partner immediately hit on.

Bruno was acquired along with another German shepherd named Alf from Lewis and Clark grant funds four years ago under former Sheriff Phil Steen's direction. The grant money has since run out. Alf has retired leaving Bruno, who will turn six years old on April 1, a one-dog show in the county.

With a tight county budget, it became necessary for the handler to retain posses-

Continued from front

Still, he admitted that when he first met Bruno he was a bit intimidated. A deep growl and mouth full of sharp teeth can do that.

The two have since forged a deep friendship, but "occasionally we have to remind each other of who is number one in the household," said Davis, who truly believes Bruno is the best partner a lawman could have. So does his wife.

Davis tells people that his wife no longer worries about him when he has Bruno at his side.

"He's with me 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We tolerate each other very well."

Davis regularly uses about half of the 32 Czech commands to direct Bruno as well as a few English ones. What he has learned most about working with Bruno is, "Patience. Lots of patience."

Davis likes to tell people that Bruno holds a higher

rank than most of the LCSO deputies. And it's earned. He goes through certification each year for biting and drug sniffing. Idaho requires 100% success or the dog is retired.

Two years ago Bruno was ranked third out of 138 teams in the state

in narcotics trials.

Davis says the tough standard is good because it provides uncompromising credentials in court cases.

For example, Bruno and Davis were called by the Idaho State Police during a narcotics emphasis patrol near Lewiston in May 2009.

When Davis approached the driver he asked if there were any narcotics in the vehicle. She said no. But Bruno's nose said otherwise.

The driver finally admitted, "Everything you are looking for is in a black bag in the trunk," recalled Davis. "When I get back there to my amazement it was the mother lode. It was black tar heroin.

"She had an extended amount of black tar, meth, marijuana and paraphernalia tools there that were unbelievable."

When the case went to court the defense tried to

suppress the evidence. "They challenged Bruno and my jurisdiction that we did not have the legal right to be in that county to be able to do that canine sniff. No one has challenged this previously. When they challenged this it started the paper trail for us.

"The judge denied the motion to suppress. We were lawfully there because we were requested by another agency to assist which set precedence. Canine handlers can truck jurisdictions as long as we are requested by an agency. I can step across the county line and use my dog anywhere I want."

The case is now used for teaching classes at POST Academy in Boise. "I'm very prideful that we set precedence and it's trickled all the way down to Boise and other states as well," said Davis.

Seventeen grams of black tar were seized as well as the vehicle and a bunch of cash, said Davis. "I still got to talk to them about why we didn't get any of that cash," he deadpanned. "Generally that's the way it goes, usually they'll kick back something.

"It is the county's hope that other agencies will donate to the K-9 Trust Fund."

Davis is happy to share Bruno with other agencies, knowing that reciprocity is big in police circles. "It is extremely gratifying to me to assist another agency and do good when we get there."

Law enforcement agencies have recognized Lewis County's success and have started up canine programs of their own. A newly formed association of agencies from Idaho and Washington gather once a month for training, including the Lewiston PD, Orofino PD, Clearwater County, Idaho County, Asotin County, Latah County, and Washington County.

Incredibly, Bruno is the only dog certified in both bite and drug sniffing in the entire region. The closest dog of similar ability is in Plummer.

Davis and Bruno are also called to burglaries, prisoner escapes, and hostile situations, but 99.9% of the job is narcotics.

"Narcotics is a community destroyer. You have no idea how quick it will destroy the community. It will destroy our families within the communities; it affects our schools, our teachers, our law enforcement officers. It affects everybody negatively in



Gina Jorgensen/Progress

Nose to nose - Sergeant Davis shares a unique bond with Bruno. "He's my best friend." Bruno demonstrates his biting technique on Lt. Perry Larson (below).

one way or another."

Davis said people constantly try to outsmart dogs like Bruno by hiding their dope in pepper, lemon, meat or gas to throw off the scent. It never works.

With a sense of smell ten thousand to a million times more powerful than humans, Bruno can pick apart each odor and track it to its source.

"You walk into a house you smell a cake. He doesn't. He smells the flour, the eggs, the vanilla, the frosting, all the components of the frosting and is able to break them apart and locate the source he is supposed to go for."

Bruno is trained to locate the odor of four drugs: marijuana, cocaine, heroine and meth. Davis said cases are slower this year because people have been very good. Part of that is attributed to the reputation of Bruno's olfactory prowess. College kids who get caught with dope in Lewis County don't usually make the same mistake twice, said Davis.

"In Idaho we have laws that his sniff is probable cause to get in the vehicle."

He has sniffed out a single marijuana seed in a trunk.

"He's very methodic when he does his searches," said Davis. "He's an absolute asset to Lewis County and everyone around us."

And that means having a bulletproof vest is imperative. "He goes in before I do.

For better words, hate to say it because he is my friend and my partner, he's kinda like a sacrificial lamb. He is going to take a bullet before I do."

And while finding drugs is more of a game, biting is altogether different. "We get very serious."

Once his switch is thrown the affable nature is quickly replaced with a biting, mauling, take-you-to-the-ground machine.

It's the mix of a good personality and competitive drive that makes Bruno a top dog. "He has two drives: play and prey," said Davis. He hopes his partner will continue to be an effective officer for another six years or so, but admits that it's all up to the dog.

"He will let me know when he is done.

"I don't know what I'm going to do when he retires. It will be a sad day. I couldn't imagine things without him."

Donations welcome

Davis wishes to express his deepest gratitude to those who have donated to the K-9 Trust Fund. Though he is not actively soliciting funds, his goal is to keep the K-9 program going.

Donations to the fund can be mailed to Lewis County K-9 Trust Fund, 510 Oak Street, Room 1, Nezperce, ID 83543.

Money donated to the trust fund will be used for vet bills and equipment.