



Photo courtesy Wallowa History Center Collection

The earliest Wallowa County football teams were clubs composed of men, young or otherwise, tough enough to play the game. In later years, teams were formed in each of the high schools. Leather helmets and matching uniforms followed the development of school teams. The rivalry then, as now, was fierce between the valley communities and closely followed by fans. This photograph, taken on a snowy winter day in 1902 at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds by Enterprise photographer Sterling C. Smith (1866-1936), is one of the earliest known photographs of a county football team. It shows the Enterprise “Red Shirts” team and a crowd of one hundred or more fans assembled to watch the match.

Josephy photo exhibit photos tells Wallowa County history

JOSEPH — The January-February exhibit at the Josephy Center explores local history through early photos and photographers. David Weaver of the Wallowa History Center chose the photos from his own collection, from the History Center’s collection and from family photos brought in by the community over the last few weeks. The exhibit opens Jan. 6, 2019.

While Wallowa County has gained a reputation for its art and artists in recent years, from the earliest days of white settlement, photographers were roaming the

country and sometimes setting up shop in a storefront in Enterprise or Wallowa. They were undoubtedly the county’s first professional artists.

The exhibit, which will include about 50 photos with captions, and in some cases brief essays explaining the context and naming the photographer, is a “sampling,” because family portraits were common, and with the invention of cheap cameras and advent of “postcard” photos in the early 1900s, taking photos of homes, trains and airplanes, football games, and camping, fishing and hunting trips was fair game for all.

There are thousands of photos still in albums and closets.

The Josephy Center hopes this exhibit will inspire viewers to do their own family photo history exploration. Anyone who has information on the photos in the exhibit is welcome to share. The Josephy Center is exploring the possibility of posting more photos on its website. The exhibit is only a beginning.

The exhibit may be viewed in between noon and 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, 403 N. Main St., Joseph.

Book review: ‘A Spark of light’

By **Cynthia Dickison**
StarTribune

Jodi Picoult has tackled, as she once ticked off for an interviewer, “neonaticide, the death penalty, mercy killing, stem cell research, the right to die, gay rights” in her long career. What could be left? For her 27th novel, the controversy du jour is abortion — specifically, a shooting at a family planning clinic in Jackson, Miss., and how lives inside the building and out are touched over the course of one long day.

This being Picoult, of course, there is a gimmick. She tells “A Spark of Light” backward; beginning at 5 p.m., each chapter jumps back an hour until it’s breakfast time.

This has the effect of peeling back the layers of the characters and their motivations (the doctor whose mother died from a botched abortion, the undercover provocateur, the ambivalent patient, the girl facing murder charges, the gunman himself), but it also contributes to a confu-

sion that’s perhaps reflective of such a traumatic incident. There’s a Janine and a Joy and a Bex and a Beth, and it takes a few moments to remember who’s who and what’s their back story. Thankfully, the narrative keeps returning to 15-year-old Wren, who has come to the clinic with her trusted aunt to obtain birth control, and her police officer father, who is (rather unethically) overseeing the hostage operation. Dad and daughter are the heart of the book, the reason to keep reading — at least until an 11th-hour twist that is best ignored.

Picoult has done her research (the afterword details the hundreds of interviews she conducted), and she treats the subject with admirable evenhandedness. Yet it’s obvious where her sympathies lie. Will this turn off some of her loyal readers? More likely, some minds on both sides will be changed, or at least challenged, by Picoult’s thoughtful prose.

Book review: ‘The Collector’s Apprentice’

By **Maureen McCarthy**
StarTribune

Art and intrigue make scheming bedfellows in the latest novel by B.A. Shapiro, master of the “historical art thriller.” This time she takes on the 1920s art world as post-Impressionism is taking hold.

The shape-shifting Cubists and color-crazed Fauvists are captivating Paris, and Gertrude Stein presides over soirees with Picasso and Matisse. Into this world steps Vivienne Gregsby, a young woman reeling from a disastrous engagement to a con man who cost her family their fortune and art collection. She appears to catch a break when American tycoon Edwin Bradley hires her to help him assemble an art collection for a museum in Philadelphia.

Then her ex-fiance con artist reappears. George — or is it Benjamin, or Ashton, or Ivan? — wants her back for his next escapade. She wants her family’s collection back — and revenge. Their sparring takes a darker turn when Vivienne’s boss dies in suspicious circumstances.

Once again, Shapiro stitches her suspense into real life, with Bradley and Vivienne resembling the mercurial Philadelphia art collector Albert Barnes and his assistant Violette de Mazia.

The plot requires readers to suspend disbelief in key places, but the payoff is a fast-moving, multifaceted battle of wits. Art lovers will savor Shapiro’s sensual descriptions of paintings that bring now legendary masterpieces to life.