

## Countdown to Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo



Lowell Lewis of the Circle P Ranch ropes a calf at the 2015 Countdown to Chief Joseph Days Rodeo, a fundraiser for local high school scholarships.

## USHER IN RODEO SEASON AT THE COUNTDOWN TO CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS RANCH RODEO

By Katy Nesbitt  
Go! Magazine

JOSEPH — It's rodeo season and local ranchers are gearing up to compete with their neighbors for cash prizes and bragging rights at the Countdown to Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo July 2 and 3.

The popular event pits teams against each other in real working ranch events like (virtual) branding, team roping, sorting and doctoring. This year the rodeo will also feature steer stopping - a fast paced event where the roper must catch the calf by the horns within a predetermined distance.

The excitement starts when horseback riders from the com-

munity are invited to ride horseback across the Wallowa Lake East Moraine — home of the original Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

The ride begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Joseph Rodeo grounds.

That night, rodeo enthusiasts are invited to the annual dinner, auction and calcutta auction, where rodeo teams are up for "sale" and "owners" take a cut of the winnings. Social hour begins with a cash bar at 6 p.m. followed by tri-tip beef

### Ranch Rodeo

**July 2:** 2:30 p.m., Joseph rodeo grounds  
**July 3:** 2 p.m., Harley Tucker Arena

dinner at 7. Dinner tickets are \$15.

Auction items offered this year include artwork, day-trip packages to the Wallowa Lake Tram and Wallowa Lake Marina, veterinarian care, baskets from the local nurseries and a horse packing trip.

The ranch rodeo begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 3 at the Joseph Rodeo Grounds' Harley Tucker Arena. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 4 to 10, and under 4 receive free admission. Food and drinks will be for sale during the event.

Proceeds from the rodeo support college scholarships, awarded to one 2021 graduate from Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph high schools.

## JOSEPHY EXHIBIT

# 'Treaties and Reservations'

JOSEPH — A new exhibit at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, "Treaties and Reservations," features the agreements between the U.S. government and the Nez Perce people.

The exhibit, which runs June 22 through July 26, includes facsimiles of treaties, drawings and photos of major figures, discussion of the documents, and interpretive artwork by three contemporary tribal artists: Kevin Peters, Kellen Trenal and Phil Cash Cash. The art on display will be available for sale.

An opening reception will be held Saturday, June 26, from 4-6 p.m. With the lessening of COVID-19 restrictions, the in-person gathering can accommodate 100 people. Masks will be provided and suggested.

In 1805, Lewis and Clark were the first whites to come to Nez Perce lands, but fur traders, missionaries and settlers soon followed. In 1855, Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens convened treaty meetings in Walla Walla, and the Nez Perce emerged the only Northwest tribe with their own reservation. How-

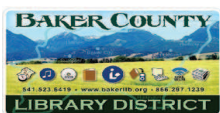


ever, when gold was discovered in 1860, the government decided it needed a new treaty. The Treaty of 1863, called the "Steal Treaty," shrunk Nez Perce lands by 90% and divided the Nez Perce into "treaty" and "non-treaty" factions.

There was a last Indian hope in 1873, when President Grant declared, by executive order, a "Reservation for the Roaming Nez Perce Indians in the Wallowa Valley in Oregon." Grant said Chief Joseph and his band would have half the Wallowa Country, but the order was rescinded in 1875.

Visitors to the exhibit will be able to see the handwritten pages, compare the signatures, and read the words of printed treaty documents.

The Joseph Center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



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