



Courtesy photo

Former Navy SEAL Colin Field kneels in prayer before the 6x7 bull elk he harvested during Divide Camp’s first Tyrone Woods Memorial Hunt.

Event to honor Navy Seal, Benghazi victim was years in the making

By STEVE TOOL
EO Media Group

Tyrone Woods gave his life defending the CIA compound in Benghazi, Libya, that came under fire Sept. 11-12, 2011.

The native Oregonian, retired Navy SEAL and CIA contractor is inscribed on the CIA’s Memorial Wall, which notes his immense contribution to the defense of both the CIA and State Department facilities during the attacks, including his part in evacuating 30 Americans from the State Department facility to the CIA facility.

Woods is being honored again for his heroism by a special hunt with Divide Camp, the local organization devoted to helping 9/11 era veterans suffering from physical and psychological injuries through immersion in nature.

The Wallowa County-based organization just completed its first Tyrone Woods annual hunt, which is reserved for active and former Navy SEALs.

Collin Field had the honor of making the first hunt. He was also accompanied by Jim Soares, who acted as guide, as well as John Doyle, an active duty SEAL who was awarded a special depredation cow tag, which he filled.

Woods’ father, Charles Woods, met with Divide Camp director Julie Wheeler nearly two years ago and mentioned that a memorial elk hunt would be a nice way to honor his son’s sacrifice. He even had an elk tag he wanted to transfer to a veteran, but the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife wouldn’t consider the idea.

Wheeler happened to be looking into acquiring tags for the organization’s



Courtesy photo

Active duty Navy SEAL John Doyle, front right, with a cow elk he shot thanks to a tag obtained by the efforts of Divide Camp. Next to Doyle (right to left) are former Navy SEAL Colin Field and Charles Woods, father of former Navy SEAL Tyrone Woods, who was killed at Benghazi. Back (left to right) Divide Camp board member Andy Marcum, local guide Jim Soares, Zac Mansfield and Jeff Dunn, founder of Faith in the Field, which filmed the hunt.

combat-wounded vets. The ODFW stonewalled Wheeler’s request because the tags are issued under the draw system. The roadblock didn’t stop Wheeler.

“To plan your year out, you have to know who’s coming to hunt, when you’re hunting, who’s guiding and all that. We couldn’t do it,” she said.

About five years into her directorship, Wheeler knew things had to change. She contacted State Sen. Bill Hansell and State Rep. Greg Barreto. The director initially wanted to have the legislators consider a bill that would exempt active-duty veterans from having to pay out-of-

state license fees.

As Hansell discovered, active duty veterans don’t have to pay out-of-state fees. Despite Wheeler’s previous inquiries with the ODFW, no one from the agency mentioned it to her. Local stores in both Wallowa County and in Ruch, where Wheeler lives, were also unfamiliar with the law. Without the exemption, hunters had to pay approximately \$680.

Although that solved one problem, the camp still couldn’t obtain buck and bull tags specifically targeted for veterans.

At one point, Wheeler said ODFW stopped returning calls.

During a conference call with Barreto, Hansell and Brian Boquist, a state senator who is also works on veterans affairs in the legislature, Divide Camp presented its case.

Wheeler was aware that the state gave out approximately 30 tags for disabled children, and she created a virtually matching proposal that inserted the words “combat-wounded veterans.”

All three congressmen liked the proposal, and Boquist authored Senate Bill 1517, which allowed the issuance of tags specifically designated for veterans along with disabled children. It was approved in both legislative branches unanimously.

Divide Camp was in business. The organization received two buck, two bull elk and a bear tag annually. One of those two bull tags is now used for the memorial hunt.

Andy Marcum, a former Marine and a current Divide Camp board member, was looking for current or former SEALs, particularly those who knew Woods, to participate in the hunt. Through an ex-SEAL, Marcum was given the name of Field, a 14-year Navy veteran.

“I told him I’d be more than happy to come out,” Field said. Doyle, an active duty SEAL who knew Woods, also came out for the hunt and secured a depredation cow tag through the camp. Both men received SEAL training from Woods.

“He formed us into SEALS,” Field said.

Neither of the men were familiar with Wallowa County, but both fell in love with the area during their stay and intend to return as early as next May.

“Just the history of this place is incredible, with Chief Joseph and everything,” Field said. “The town, the camp, the Divide, and everyone involved in it ... people in the town who offer their help for things. It’s been a truly amazing experience.”

Yellowstone in winter

Pendleton art exhibit shows showcases local photographer’s work

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

With awe-inspiring moments in nature continuing to be the focal point of her photography, Debbie McIntosh headed to Yellowstone National Park the past two winters.

In addition to avoiding summer crowds, the Pendleton shutterbug discovered a complex wonderland blanketed in snow.

“In 2017, I was really overwhelmed by the experience of being there in the wintertime,” McIntosh said. “I guess I was so overwhelmed ... that I wasn’t all that satisfied with my photography, so I went back to focus on my photos.”

Between the two trips, McIntosh felt she had enough quality images for a show. “Yellowstone In Winter: Solitude, Struggle, and Surprise” opens with a free public reception Friday, Oct. 12 from 5-7 p.m. at Pendleton Art + Frame, 36 S.W. Court Ave.

Each of the photos includes a backstory. In conjunction with the exhibit opening, McIntosh will share during an artist talk at 6 p.m.

One image she sought was the iconic face of a bison. She was successful and said it’s one of the special shots in the show.

“Bison really have it rough in



Photo contributed by Debbie McIntosh

Gibbon Falls is blanketed with snow at Yellowstone National Park. A photo exhibit by Debbie McIntosh, “Yellowstone In Winter: Solitude, Struggle, and Surprise,” opens Friday, Oct. 12 at Pendleton Art + Frame.

the snow, all iced over with frost on their eyelashes,” she said. “You don’t really think of bison as being sweet but I was taken away with that one.”

While Yellowstone is known for heavy snowpack, the 2017 trip featured an abundance of snow. In addition to gaining insight as to what it’s like for animals struggling to stay alive in that environment, McIntosh said it provided a beautiful experience of feeling a part of the place and not just an observer.

In 2018, nature presented an opportunity to spend an afternoon with a wolfpack. The wolves, McIntosh said, allowed the tour

group to linger fairly close.

“They would keep an eye on us but at the same time they were doing their thing,” she said. “Being a part of the social group was an amazing experience.”

The world’s first national park, Yellowstone was established in 1872 and was initially managed by the U.S. Army — the National Park Service was created in 1916. The park encompasses nearly 3,500 square miles in the northwest corner of Wyoming. Also, 3 percent of the park is in Montana and 1 percent in Idaho.

Visiting Yellowstone years ago in the summer, McIntosh had no idea how to approach the park

during the cold, snowy months. Limited services and restricted vehicle access make it a challenge.

McIntosh booked the trip with Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris out of Seattle. The all-inclusive tour was led by award-winning photographer Jeff Vanuga, whose images have appeared in numerous publications, such as National Geographic Magazine, Outside and *The New York Times*.

“We get to focus on the experience and the photography,” McIntosh said.

In addition to Yellowstone the past two winters, McIntosh, who was raised in Alaska, has returned to her old stomping grounds to photograph the aurora borealis, as well as past trips to Antarctica and Iceland, and is heading to Mongolia this coming winter. A key, she said, is good, warm boots.

I’m very comfortable in the snow,” McIntosh said. “I really like going to cold places.”

Pendleton Art + Frame is open Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exhibit remains through Friday, Nov. 30.

For more information about the exhibit, contact 541-276-3617 or artofframing@eotnet.net. For more about McIntosh, visit www.debbiemcphoto.com.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

Second wolf plan meeting on Oct. 9

SALEM — ODFW will host the second facilitated meeting with Wolf Plan stakeholders Tuesday, Oct. 9 in Salem at the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters, Tillamook Room, Bldg C 1st Floor, 2600 State Street.

Stakeholders deeply involved with the Wolf Plan update have been invited to attend. The meeting starts at 9 a.m., and the agenda is available at the ODFW website.

Deb Nudelman with Kearns & West will facilitate the meeting which is about the Wolf Plan review and update. Earlier this year, Fish and Wildlife commissioners decided to postpone final Wolf Plan adoption and conduct additional facilitated outreach in hopes of getting more consensus from stakeholders.

No formal decisions or rule modifications will be made during the facilitated meeting. But products from this and any future facilitated meetings will be incorporated into the Wolf Plan update for adoption by the Fish and Wildlife Commission at a future date.

The meeting will be open to the public, though seating is limited. A public comment period is scheduled for 3:30-3:45 p.m.