

# Author packs center

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

About 50 people packed the Josephy Center on the evening of May 15 to hear a reading by multi-award-winning author and Fishtrap instructor, Craig Lesley. The author has an extensive background in the Wallowa Valley and several of his books feature the Wallowa Valley as a backdrop. Lesley currently resides in Portland, where he is writer-in-residence at Portland State University.

Lesley spent most of his earlier years near the town of Madras, and he still dresses the part of a rural East Oregonian arriving at the May 15 engagement in a flannel shirt and denim. As the Josephy Center was celebrating the 1950s, Lesley read from several of his works, concentrating on the theme of “Growing Up in Eastern Oregon in the Fifties.”

Lesley spent well over an hour on his readings and answering questions from a genuinely moved Josephy Center audience. Afterward

he agreed to sit down for a short interview with the Chieftain concerning his ties to the Wallowa country.

Lesley originally became acquainted with the area through several visits to an uncle’s elk camp on the Imnaha River. In the early 1980s, Lesley read at the Bookloft and later became connected with Fishtrap from its very beginning in 1988. He read from his works then, but starting in 1990, he began teaching at Fishtrap writers workshops, which he continues to do.

“It was a great way to come back here, and I really like it. One thing that’s interesting is that I’ve never really felt like writing a Portland story. I just don’t know how to handle a big city, and I’ve always grown up and lived in small places,” Lesley said.

When writing books with the Wallowas in mind, Lesley doesn’t visit the area once and shape a book around it. “I’ve



Lesley

taught at Fishtrap about eight times, and I came back a lot because I like the country and people so much. I really like the students I’ve had here at Fishtrap as well,” Lesley said.

Because of family obligations, Lesley hadn’t visited the Wallowa Valley in about six years. Regardless, people in the community remember Lesley well as at least a half dozen people stopped by to chat with him during the interview.

Lesley compared Wallowa County stays to a golfer’s preference for playing on a familiar or “home course.” “Enterprise and Joseph are my home course as a writer,” Lesley said.

Retirement from writing is not in Lesley’s plans. “I don’t think I will. I’m writing slower than I used to, and I can feel the difference, but I still have stories. I have unfinished stories of several varieties, some going all the way back to college, and some being set up in this country. I’m still interested in the outdoors,” Lesley said.

## Shaw awarded for her reading

Morgan Shaw, an outstanding 4th grade reader at Wallowa Elementary School, was the final recipient of an Accelerated Reader (AR) reading program award in the 2014-15 school year.

The award was based on Morgan’s participation in AR, a computer-based comprehension program that keeps a record of the books read by each student.

As of May 6, Morgan had accumulated over 549 AR points for the year.

Morgan is the daughter of Mike and Christie Shaw of Wallowa. In order to earn her points, she has read more than 52 very large literature books. Morgan is a good student in all academic areas. She has participated in Battle of the Books the past three years. After school she participates

in soccer and softball. Other activities she enjoys are skiing, running, and making jewelry. She is also an avid writer.

Morgan’s favorite book is “The Blood of Olympus,” by Rick Riordan.



Shaw

JOHNSON CELEBRATES 101ST

Steve Tool/Chieftain

Jeanie Johnson (in red, center), of Wallowa Valley Senior Living, celebrated her 101st birthday on May 21 with about 50 of her closest friends attending. Local country band “Last Call” played for the party. Johnson attributed her longevity to dogs, staying away from men and enjoying an occasional beer.

# Wallowa grad’s team at UA wins \$100K award

A 1997 Wallowa High School grad is a key collaborator in an award-winning effort in Arizona to help the public gain and share knowledge about the state’s water resource issues. Using tools the project provides, everyday people will be able to take part in forging possible solutions.

Cody Sheehy, currently a resident of Arizona, is the son of Dennis and Marcie Sheehy

of Wallowa. He holds a master’s degree in rangeland science from Oregon State University.

He’s also a videographer who has applied those skills in documenting life in Mongolia, the rangelands of Australia, and in Costa Rican jungles. Currently he’s video coordinator in the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), which in April was awarded the \$100,000 grand prize in the “Water Consciousness Challenge,” a competition within the New Arizona Prize, a joint initiative of the Arizona Community Foundation, Republic Media and Morrison Institute for Public Policy.

The CALS team’s winning project, “Beyond the Mirage,” plans to launch a website in January that will be a key component in an overall strategy to



Sheehy

engage Arizonans, who will use the site to create their own mini-documentaries, using footage the site will provide.

Cody’s wife, Jatta Sheehy, is also a member of the “Beyond the Mirage” team.

For more information about the award, visit newarizonaprize.org.

Memorial Day Decorations

Please retrieve any bouquets or other decorations you'd like to keep from the Enterprise Cemetery **no later than June 5th.** After that date, the cemetery maintenance crew will remove any items in the way of mowing and trimming work.

Thank you,  
Enterprise Cemetery Maintenance District

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Fondest Memories

**Ervin F. Botts**  
November 26, 1915 – May 3, 2014

The memory of your smile & hugs inspire us all.

Charlie, Richard, Bryce and Rod

**Jack Elliott**  
October 17 1924 – May 31, 2013

We are so grateful for our wonderful years together; you were the “rock” in our lives. The love you shared forever remains in our hearts.

Wife and daughters, Sandy and Susie

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High and Low Temperatures

According to data sent to MesoWest: [www.mesowest.utah.edu](http://www.mesowest.utah.edu)

Enterprise		
Date	Low	High
May 20	n/a	n/a
May 21	n/a	n/a
May 22	n/a	n/a
May 23	n/a	n/a
May 24	n/a	n/a
May 25	n/a	n/a
May 26	n/a	n/a

Lostine		
Date	Low	High
May 20	43	68
May 21	49	68
May 22	47	70
May 23	49	74
May 24	41	75
May 25	43	67
May 26	39	n/a

Joseph		
Date	Low	High
May 20	46	63
May 21	46	66
May 22	46	68
May 23	48	70
May 24	45	70
May 25	43	66
May 26	39	n/a

Wallowa		
Date	Low	High
May 20	45	72
May 21	51	69
May 22	48	69
May 23	51	74
May 24	43	74
May 25	44	68
May 26	39	n/a

Imnaha		
Date	Low	High
May 20	51	75
May 21	54	74
May 22	52	76
May 23	54	79
May 24	49	79
May 25	51	76
May 26	49	n/a

Troy		
Date	Low	High
May 20	52	80
May 21	51	77
May 22	53	75
May 23	55	81
May 24	51	80
May 25	51	76
May 26	54	n/a

Six-day forecast

May 27 – June 1

Source: National Weather Service

May 27		H: 69 L: 43	Chance of showers
May 28		H: 73 L: 44	Chance of showers
May 29		H: 80 L: 49	Chance of showers
May 30		H: 81 L: 47	Chance of showers
May 31		H: 82 L: 45	Chance of showers
June 1		H: 63 L: n/a	Chance of showers

Phases of the moon

June 2	June 9	June 16	June 24
Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter

Mark Your Calendar!

Amy Hafer

Race for Awareness!

Saturday, June 27, 2015

9:00 am at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, Enterprise

Sign Up Now!

Three Easy Ways to Register

1. Visit [www.wvhcf.org](http://www.wvhcf.org) and register online

2. Stop by Wallowa Memorial Hospital & pick up form

3. Call the Foundation at 541.426.1913 to have form mailed to you

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Event hosted by the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation & Wallowa Memorial Hospital

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