

# Divide Camp brings veterans together

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Local veterans support organization Divide Camp is celebrating a successful year after providing 24 veterans in 2015 with a variety of outdoor adventures.

The local nonprofit is committed to helping combat veterans heal physical and emotional wounds through immersion in nature and related activities. The camp itself is located between Big and Little Sheep creeks in the Wallowa Mountains, but Director Julie Wheeler recently oversaw the addition of a new main office in Joseph, which figures heavily into services Divide Camp can offer now and in the future.

The quest for a headquarters fell flat earlier in the year when Divide Camp and the city of Wallowa could not come to terms on a lease agreement for vacated U.S. Forest Service buildings in



Steve Tool/Chieftain

The rustic, yet comfortable interior of the new Divide Camp headquarters and veterans center located at 603 N. Main St. in Joseph.

the city's possession. Divide Camp acquired its Joseph headquarters, a large log cabin located at 603 N. Main St., in

July. The owner of a trucking company in Springfield heard about the organization's need for a main office and offered a lease at a good price.

"Our plan is to have a vet center for all vets to socialize, hang out, host speakers and offer classes, Wheeler said. "We have a couple of fly-ty-

ing classes scheduled for next year." The agency also hopes to offer woodworking and other classes if instructors are available, and the addition of books to the center's library also is a priority.

Divide Camp is having an open house at the new headquarters from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Veterans Day. Volunteer Ramona Phillips will host.

"We're having cookies and coffee and offering a chance for people to see the new building," Phillips said. "I think a lot of people in the county still don't know what Divide Camp is, and we're hoping those people will come in so we can let them know a little more about what we do."

One project already underway is a rotating military history exhibit. Wheeler encourages people in the community to bring memorabilia for display when the center opens full time this spring. She also is considering hosting an occasional veterans storytelling circle.

"They can share stories about their military experiences, and we have some really cool veterans in the area with exciting stories to tell," Wheeler said.

In other Divide Camp news:

• As hunting is one of the main activities the camp offers, Wheeler was pleased that this year's hunts have proved very successful with three of four veterans filling their ar-

chery tags with one elk and two deer.

• Divide Camp is seeking volunteers for spring to staff the new building a few hours per day. Wheeler also is looking for managers for the camp who can cook and do maintenance in exchange for free food and rent. Wheeler noted that the camp is empty every other week.

• Starting Dec. 5, volunteer Saralyn Johnson is hosting a monthly game night, but the center needs another volunteer for that project starting in February.

• Divide Camp recently started an online pledge drive in which hunters donate money based on Boone and Crockett points on an Elk tag in possession of local veteran James Nash. People can pledge a certain amount of money per point until the middle of December.

"It's our last fundraiser of the year, and we need to get some mileage out of this," Wheeler said. "It's a giving time of year in a giving county, so we hope to do well."

For more information, visit <https://rallyup.com/3fa8b3/Campaign>.

## Wallowa County Cruisers

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## Reader shares WWII letter from USS Cecil

Wallowa County Chieftain

Chieftain reader Karen Mason of Enterprise wanted to share this family letter as part of our Veterans Day content. The letter was written by her husband Vern Ward Mason, who was aboard the USS Cecil in the Pacific during

World War II. Vern was a pharmacist in the Navy, and he owned Wallowa Pharmacy for many years after the war.

October 11, 1944  
Dear Virginia, Art and Family,

Well, at last I am at sea, after many months on shore. This will probably be an odd letter, as I cannot write any names of places we have been or are going to, so bear with me. I may get accustomed to writing censored letters after a few months.

So far the trip has been fairly pleasant, no real rough water, although lots of the men including our young doctor, got seasick.

We have our department fairly well squared away, and are having drills every day. I have some sore muscles from carrying a fellow up ladders for practice yesterday.

The sea is really beautiful

in these parts—a deep blue, and last night I happened out on deck about 10 o'clock and thought someone was playing lights on the water, but it was phosphorescence, and sure pretty. The wake glowed like there lights under the water, and occasionally there would be bright sparkles and flashes. Wherever a wave broke there would be a glow of white light, and along the sides of the ship were borders of white light. An airplane swooped over us and blinked it's lights—I'll bet he could see us plainly.

Have seen some beautiful sailboats along the line, and it sure makes me wish I had one. You could sure enjoy a trip like this in a 40 ft sailboat.

Another idea I have sprouted is to get one of these Higgins boats after the war and build a cabin on it. They have some fixed up that way in some of the harbors, and

they make swell launches or cruisers. They have Gray Diesels, 6 cylinder engines, and I sure think they are swell.

All in all, this is not a bad life, if you like waiting in line for everything, and I do mean everything—Mail, chow, ship's service store, bathroom, and are the bathrooms something! About 40 men for every facility.

I sleep on a folding bunk, or rather shelf about 20 inches wide and have quite a time staying in it in a rough sea.

I keep thinking how nice this trip would be in peace time, as a civilian, with deck chairs, sport clothes, tall drinks, dancing, and a blonde alongside.

Maloney and Thomas still talk about the good time we had with you. They are standing things well, beefing as much as everybody.

Some of our men may be transferred off, as the ship is overrun with Hospital Corpsman, but I think I will stay.

Have been too busy to do much writing or reading, but will get caught up soon, I hope. Write when you can.

Love to all—  
Vern Ward Mason  
USS Cecil

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- ACROSS**
- Cronkite's network
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  - Humbug
  - Every
  - Capital is Valletta
  - Copycat
  - Bound book sheets
  - Steps to an upper floor
  - Local school organizations
  - Old English
  - Atomic #73
  - Cheerless
  - The bill in a restaurant
  - Singer \_\_\_ Lo Green
  - Domesticated
  - Mammary gland of a cow
  - Honorable title (Turkish)
  - Alias
  - Emblem of a clan
  - Edouard \_\_, Fr. painter
  - Short-term memory
  - Used to speak to the Queen
  - Vertical spar for sails
  - Expresses surprise
  - Morning
  - A long narrative poem
  - Minor punishment
  - Ice or roller
  - GE founder's initials
  - Moses' elder brother
  - Beak
  - A major division of geological time
  - Fuss & bother
  - Young women's association
  - Feeling sorrow
  - Straggle

- DOWN**
- Bog arum lily
  - Thin plain-weave cotton fabric
  - Thick rough piled carpet
  - A way to lessen
  - Amazon river tributary
  - Larceny
  - Make ale
  - Begged
  - White of egg
  - Road travel guide
  - Aircraft tail
  - Italian monk title
  - Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
  - Goblin
  - A baglike structure in a plant or animal
  - Date
  - I, Portuguese
  - Design on the skin
  - Time before
  - Free from gloss
  - V.P. Quayle
  - Supplement with difficulty
  - Tell on
  - Landed properties
  - Metric ton
  - One thousandth of an ampere
  - Former \_\_\_ Hess, oil company
  - Siemens conductance unit
  - Woman (French)
  - More (Spanish)
  - Request
  - Group jargon
  - Stakes
  - In advance
  - Yiddish meat pie
  - Equal, prefix
  - Box (abbr.)
  - Having nine hinged bands of bony plates
  - Scarlett's home
  - S. branch of the Lower Rhine

## Church Directory

### St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Roger Fernando  
301 E. Garfield Enterprise  
Mass Schedule  
Weekdays 7:15am  
Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am  
(541)426-4008  
stkatherineenterprise.org  
St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am  
All are welcome

### Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community  
Service time: 10:30 am  
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise  
Pastor Mark Garland  
www.summitchurchoregon.org

### Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
Pastor Cherie Johnson  
Phone: 541-432-3102  
Sunday Worship Service  
10:00 am  
Children's Sunday School  
meets during service

### Faith Lutheran Church

409 W. Main  
Enterprise, Oregon  
Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays - 2 pm  
Bible Study Tuesdays before the  
2nd & 4th Sundays at 11 am  
LCMS  
(Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod)

### Enterprise Christian Church

207 East Main - (541) 426-3449  
Worship at 8:15 & 11:00  
Sunday School at 9:45  
Evening Worship at 6:00  
(nursery at A.M. services)  
"Loving God & One Another"  
David Bruce, Sr. Minister

### Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson  
Church Office: 541-426-0301  
Family Prayer: 9:30am  
Sunday School: 10am  
Worship Service: 11am  
723 College Street • Lostine  
Providence Academy

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Children's program during service  
Blog: [dancingforth.blogspot.com](http://dancingforth.blogspot.com)  
541.398.0597  
Hwy 82, Lostine  
Stephen Kliever, Minister

### Enterprise Community Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
The Big Brown Church  
Sunday Worship 11A.M.  
301 N. E. First Street  
Enterprise  
(541) 426-3044  
Pastor Don McBride

### Wallowa Assembly of God

606 West Hwy 82  
Wallowa, Oregon  
541-886-8445  
Sunday School • 9:30  
Worship Service • 10:45  
Pastor Tim Barton  
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

### Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)  
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-426-3751 Church  
541-426-8339 School  
Worship Services  
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon  
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber

## Grants available for vets, memorials

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Heritage of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering grants for the construction or restoration of veterans and war memorials.

"The program is designed to honor Oregon's soldiers and veterans by commemorating their service to the country," said Kuri Gill, coordinator for the program. "Local governments may apply to build or repair monuments on public land."

New monuments should recognize veterans and wars not already recognized. Grants for restoration could be used for broken monuments, missing elements of monuments, or the related design elements of monuments for veterans of earlier wars such as World War I.

Details and the application information are available at <http://tinyurl.com/q3ht8br>.

The application deadline is Dec. 15.

For more information, contact Gill at 503-986-0685 or [Kuri.Gill@oregon.gov](mailto:Kuri.Gill@oregon.gov).