

THE SCENE

Mountain Jubilee barnstorms Joseph

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The fifth annual Joseph Mountain Jubilee whirled through Joseph over the Fourth of July weekend, turning the town into a virtual “Music City, USA” during its three-day tenure. The music festival kicked off Friday with both the Stubborn Mule and The Hydrant hosting three acts over the course of the evening.

By Saturday, seemingly every place in town got into the act with bands playing on practically every street corner, starting with the Wallowa County Farmers market at 10 a.m. Participating venues included La Laguna restaurant, Embers Brew House, Stubborn Mule and The Hydrant, with musicians at the latter two establishments playing into the early morning hours.

Silver Lake Bistro closed out the jubilee with a mimosa party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

Matt Bell, a former Wallowa County resident and now bandleader of New Orleans jazz and country swing group Wasted Lives, played at Embers on Saturday and enjoyed the experience.

“We always tour in the summer, but we never get to bring the sound we’re cultivating in New Orleans, so this year it’s really special to bring the whole band,” Bell said.

Samantha Weaver, co-owner of Silver Lake Bis-



Montana Newgrass band Moonshine Mountain played the deck at Embers Brew House during the Joseph Mountain Jubilee Festival. From left: Rio Mattole, Cory Chopp and Elliott Abbott.

Steve Tool/Chieftain

Thursday, July 7

• The Wasted Lives, 5:30 p.m. at the Wallowa County Courthouse

Friday, July 8

• Coffee, Doughnuts & Cartoons (Bowly Bash kick-off), 9 a.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com

• 6th Annual Dulcimer Extravaganza concert, 7:30 pm at the Joseph United Methodist Church; \$10 general, \$5 children age 12 and under.

Saturday, July 9

• Live music Square Dance and Country Swing Dance, 7:30 p.m. at Hurricane Creek Grange Hall in Joseph.

Sunday, July 10

• Open mic night, 4 p.m. at the Joseph Center. josephy.org

Thursday, July 14

• Music for Wild Places featuring Kai Welch, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com

Thursday, Aug. 4

• Reckless Kelly (OK Theatre facade fundraiser), 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com

Friday, Aug. 19

• Don Flemons, 8 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com

Please submit Entertainment Calendar event information to editor@wallowa.com

tro with partner Ryan Cook, said she enjoyed the restaurant’s first participation in the event.

“We love music, we love the opportunity to feature music,” she said. “It really helped our business — absolutely.”

Jubilee founder and organizer Tammy Kruger said she was pleased with this year’s event and enjoys the Joseph emphasis.

“The one thing we’re trying to keep pure is Joseph Mountain Jubilee. It’s strictly a downtown Joseph music festival.”



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Local musician Bart Budwig played The Hydrant beer garden Saturday as part of the Joseph Mountain Jubilee.

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Writers converge for Fishtrap retreat

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Aspiring writers who need direction or just friendly advice from seasoned writers

should sharpen their pencils for the 29th annual Summer Fishtrap, July 10-16. The event is a week-long writers retreat complete with daily workshops and readings held at the United Methodist Church camp in the Wallowa Lake village.

The theme of this summer’s program is “Frontiers and Fences.”

“Summer Fishtrap always brings interesting writers to Wallowa County,” said Fishtrap Program Manager Mike Midlo. “They give morning workshops in poetry, fiction, nonfiction and memoir.”

Midlo said this year’s program even includes a workshop on hands-on bookmaking.

Writers come from all over the West — and even a few points east — for the annual event. Midlo said the participants range from emerging to

well-seasoned and published writers, some of whom both attend and teach the workshops.

Summer Fishtrap isn’t just for adults.

“We also have youth workshops,” Midlo said. “We have a robust scholarship program that allows many youths, and even adults, to attend summer Fishtrap because we want them to come out.”

Starting in 1990, Fishtrap began the tradition of offering fellowships to writers who show great promise.

“It’s very competitive and we’ve given them to more than 100 writers over the years,” Midlo said.

Midlo emphasized that most of the workshops have available space.

“Only a couple are full, and there’s also the Summer Fishtrap weekend gathering for people who can’t take a

whole week off. They can register for the gathering that starts on Thursday (July 14) and lasts through Saturday brunch.”

Touching on the Frontiers and Fences theme of this year’s program, Midlo said, “It’s an open-ended thought. It could be the frontiers and fences of our region, it could be the history, or even of our minds — ‘Where do we open ourselves up or close ourselves down?’ It could be describing genre. Each day we’ll talk about it in a different way.”

Fishtrap’s program committee selects the theme and hires faculty who best exemplify it in their writing.

Midlo said instructors’ readings may be the most useful portion of the program.

“Every evening, we’re offering events that are open to the public. In the evening, the workshop instructors give readings, and we open the doors to anyone who wants to come.”

For \$10, anyone can attend a keynote address by instructor Robert Michael Pyle that takes place on July 14 as the week begins to wind down. The following evening offers a silent auction that helps finance the camp.

“We have some awesome items this year,” Midlo said.

Fishtrap Live is the annual closing ceremony.

“Everyone’s had a super intense week of writing and talking about issues and thinking hard, and Fishtrap Live is a celebratory night to blow off steam and have some fun,” Midlo said. The event includes music, a show put on by one of the faculty and another reading. The event is \$10 as well.

“I love to see folks from our community, even if they can’t come for the week or attend the weekend gathering, even if it’s just for the evening readings,” Midlo said. “It’s such a tradition here and part of the fabric of community events.”

Summer Fishtrap adult instructors include: Justin Hocking, Laura Pritchett, Robert Michael Pyle (the keynote address speaker), Erika L. Sánchez, Marjorie Sandor, Barb Tetenbaum, Jane Vandenberg and Joe Wilkins. Youth instructors: Anis Mojgani, Cameron Scott.

For more information, visit fishtrap.org.



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