

SUN SETS ON WALLOWA COUNTY



Steve Tool/The Chieftain

The sun sets in the horizon on a recent evening. After about a week of rain and cooler temperatures, the forecast calls for clear skies and warmer days this week.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

The Bad Penny Pleasuremakers entertained the crowd at the Josephy Center during the All That Jazz fundraiser.

Fundraiser toasts 1920s

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Dozens of stunningly dressed people attended the Josephy Center's "All That Jazz" 1920s-themed fundraiser on Saturday night. Couples danced to jazz from the era and the no-host bar stayed as busy as a speakeasy during the two-hour event.

The crowd took their role seriously — loud conversation and the clinking of glasses were staples of the evening. Many who dressed for the part invoked images of Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and occasionally sported the opulence of J. Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan. The only missing elements to make the aura completely authentic were bootleg hooch and cigarette smoke.

Music provided by The Bad Penny Pleasuremakers kept the dance floor hopping, with some dancers even attempting the Charleston. The quartet, composed of upright bass, clarinet, guitar and singer Joy Patterson keeping rhythm with a washboard, also dressed for the part. Guitarist Matt Bell picked a National Resophonic guitar in

keeping with the era. The evening ended with smiling couples leaving the packed dance floor and thanking the band and Josephy Executive Director Cheryl Coughlan for the evening.

Josephy board member Nancy Clarke of Lostine said she thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

"How often do you get to do the Charleston?" Clarke said. "I had a great time. I'm a huge jazz fan, and this is a wonderful organization to support."

Real estate broker Diane Daggett also attended the event and came away smiling.

"The evening and the music were great," Daggett said. "Arts and culture in Wallowa County are incredibly important economically and socially. The Josephy Center is a new gathering place that brings all of the diverse interests in the county together in a really great way."



Outing highlights regional flora used in Native American cuisine

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Several dozen people ignored rain-threatening skies Saturday morning to journey to the Homeland Project in Wallowa for an Into the Wallowas outing focused on Native American foods.

The outing, part of Wallowa Land Trust's summer series, focused on common plants in the area that Native Americans utilized for sustenance and how their culture integrated foods and resource care into the daily fabric of their lives.

The morning opened with a brief introduction to native flora by biologist turned botanist Ralph Anderson before moving to the longhouse, where local Nez Perce tribal member Joe McCormack spoke of the role of prehistoric and contemporary longhouses in tribal culture as well as a history of the nearly completed on-site longhouse.

Afterward, Anderson led the party on a brief walk near the longhouse showing several nutritious and/or medicinal "weeds," including Tumble Mustard and even nettles. Although Anderson said one gets use to the nettle stings, no one cared to test the statement's validity. Anderson stopped at various points to demonstrate the uses of more common flora such as plantain, which is edible and also bears an aloe-like substance to treat skin irritation. Service berries serve as a source of nutrition, while curly



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Wallowa Band Nez Perce descendant Wenix Red Elk stands beside a table of plants used as food by Native American tribes.

dock is a relative of buckwheat and makes an excellent flour.

Wenix Red Elk, a public outreach and education specialist with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, presented a very detailed PowerPoint presentation of the roles First Foods serve not only as nutrition but also in the sacred realm. She is a descendant from the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce and part of the CTU-IR First Foods program.

Red Elk said the tribes are working to restore and manage their First Foods based on their native culture and using sacred lore as a guiding management tool with science playing a supporting role. In sacred lore the first foods are literally the first foods given at the beginning

of time to the tribes as sustenance from the Creator. The first foods also followed a yearly cyclical pattern: With spring came salmon, followed by the harvest of roots during the early summer, which in turn led to the mountains for berry and other flora harvesting in late summer and to hunting deer and elk into the fall.

Through forced assimilation and the loss of traditional

hunting and gathering grounds, tribes began to lose touch with their heritage. The CTUI is working to change that and is using traditional culture to bolster the community.

Kathleen Ackley, executive director of Wallowa Land Trust, said preparation for the event started in April.

"Our goal with these Into The Wallowas programs is to inspire and educate locals and visitors alike," Ackley said. "We try to give them unique opportunities to explore natural places throughout Wallowa County and consider our natural world through different lenses. We hope to open eyes in new ways to the wonders of the natural world and instill a deep love of place. Only when people have a deep connection to a place will they want to steward and protect it," she said.

Thank You

To my dear family, relatives & friends - I don't have words to express my thanks and appreciation for all the love, beautiful flowers, cards and the wonderful party held for my birthday. It was wonderful. I am so blessed.

Thank you so much,
Vera

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Saturday, July 23rd from 5 to 10 pm at the Blue Barn.

Tickets: \$8 for adults, children 6 and under are free.

Tickets available through July 21st at Winding Waters, Mountain View Medical, the Bookloft, Joseph Hardware, Blonde Strawberry, or M. Crow. Get your tickets today!

Sunday Service
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Music by SOUL RENOVATION
Message by ARCHIE HOOK

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