

# 2017 Big Read features war stories

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Fishtrap's 2017 Big Read features the Vietnam War classic "The Things They Carried," the semi-fictionalized wartime experience of author Tim O'Brien.

Although the story is told from a man's point of view, Fishtrap isn't leaving out the women who supported the troops from afar.

Local writer Katherine Stickroth, a Vietnam-era wife herself, is leading a writing class tentatively titled: "The Other Warriors: Voices of the Women of Vietnam Veterans," which is specifically aimed at women left behind during the conflict.

Stickroth is interested in sharing her experiences and learning of those of other women from the era. The class will discuss women's stories from the era, including how they responded to sons and husbands going off to war, and their experiences once veterans returned home.

"(Life) is not the same," she said. "Adjustments have to be made. So how do you make those adjustments? That's where our stories come from," Stickroth said.

Writing prompts for the class will be taken from "The Things They Carried," but Stickroth may add other books to the curriculum.

"I'll also be making references to other books that will generate conversations about a woman's response, wife, niece, daughter — our response to what we see when (the veterans) get home," Stickroth said.

She noted difficulties adjusting to civilian life can cause stress for both women and men.

"Even after discharge, there's still the military training and mindset about how to think about things and how to

## SCHEDULE More online at fishtrap.org

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.**  
**Kickoff & Screening of "Dick Cavett's Vietnam" and Pies!**

**Location:** Hurricane Creek Grange Hall — Joseph. \$5 admission, students free admission

Dick Cavett's Vietnam is a documentary that examines the war and its impact on America through interviews conducted on "The Dick Cavett Show," which featured thoughtful conversation and debate from all sides of the political spectrum. The program combines interviews from Cavett's shows with archival footage, network news broadcasts, and war footage from the Vietnam war.

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m.**  
**What Vietnam Teaches Us: Wallowa County Veterans Discuss The Things They Carried**

**Location:** Tomas Conference Center, Enterprise. Free.

A panel of Wallowa County veterans discuss "The Things They Carried" in the context of their own combat experience. Moderated by

Miles McFall, the discussion will focus on similarities and differences between Vietnam and other wars our nation has fought. Emphasis will be on lessons learned from Vietnam and inform the audience about how Wallowa County residents can help returning veterans successfully integrate into society.

**Thursday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.**  
**America in Vietnam: Understanding Tim O'Brien's Vietnam War with David Schmitz**

**Location:** The Place/Joseph United Methodist Church, Joseph. Free.

Author and professor David F. Schmitz examines why the United States was in Vietnam and the state of the war when Tim O'Brien fought. In the process, Schmitz will place O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" in its historical context to illuminate some of the key themes in the work. David Schmitz is a Whitman College professor of history and a widely published author on the Vietnam era.

**Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.**  
**Life after War: Photography & Oral Histories of Coming Home with Jim Lommasson**

**Location:** Wallowa City Hall, Wallowa. Free.

When does a war end? Does it ever? Many

returning soldiers bring wars back with them, and these wars can reach beyond the battlefield, infiltrating the very thing that defines comfort and safety: home. Photographer Jim Lommasson has collected oral histories from returning soldiers and documented their struggles at home. In this conversation, participants will consider the wars at home faced not only by returning veterans, but also by communities at large.

**Thursday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.**  
**Movie Night: Good Morning Vietnam**

**Location:** OK Theatre, Enterprise. \$5.

Good Morning Vietnam is the blockbuster American military comedy/drama set in Saigon in 1965. The film stars Robin Williams as a disc jockey on an Armed Forces radio station who proves hugely popular with the troops in Vietnam but infuriates his superiors.

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.**  
**Finale: 1960s fashion show, pot luck dinner and dance party**

**Location:** The Place/Joseph United Methodist Church, Joseph. \$10.

Dress in your wildest vintage garb and dance to the hits of the 1960s with a live band.

react to things. Some people can't close the door on that," Stickroth said.

The class can also help women connect with others facing issues.

"For one thing, sitting at a table with women who have their own stories offers a sense of support and understanding that people outside that circle can't understand," Stickroth said. "I think there's value in giving the women who come the opportunity to voice their stories."

One thing Stickroth wants to make clear is that the class won't focus on negativity. She also said the class is not just about rehashing bad experiences.

"I'm not trying to portray that it's all bad," she said. "If it were all bad, why would you hang in there? There are joys."

Stickroth is hopeful that the class conversation expands outside the group.

"With the county having one in seven residents who are veterans, what I hope will happen is to generate a com-

munity-wide conversation about what's going on in individual lives whether they were soldiers or not, and what was going on at the time in this county and this country," she said. "Some people here were hippies, and that had as much to do with the era as veterans coming home."

Stickroth has a syllabus for the class — the first assignment is about how they met their connection to Vietnam.

Although the class has some structure, the writing itself can be poetry or prose. Also, Stickroth wants women who think they have no talent to consider taking the class.

"I believe that anyone who can organize their thoughts to write a grocery list or to-do list can be a writer, but this class isn't about good or bad writing — it's about telling our stories."

The four-week class is slated to start on Jan. 7 at Fishtrap, 400 E. Grant St. in Enterprise. Fishtrap will provide all writing materials with classes from 9-11 a.m. each Saturday.

The class registration fee is \$40 or \$10 per session. A sliding scale fee is available for

those who qualify. Register at the location or online at [www.fishtrap.org](http://www.fishtrap.org).

# Missing hunter found dead

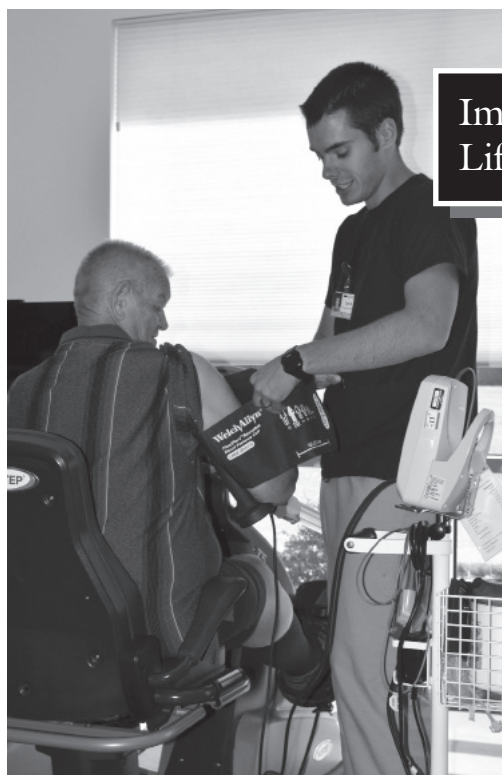
By Steve Tool

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A Lostine man died of natural causes while hunting outside of Wallowa on Dec. 17.

Scott Colony, 65, of Lostine, was found dead by Wallowa County Search and Rescue team, which had received a call of an overdue hunter at 5:19 p.m. that day.

The team found Colony's vehicle parked in Little Bear Creek and at 9:30 p.m. located his body in rugged terrain above the vehicle. Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers said Colony died of natural causes, likely a medical issue.



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It was another fun Winterfest Celebration in Enterprise this holiday season! Perfect winter weather and a fantastic parade turnout made this year the best yet. Greater Enterprise Main Streets (GEMS) would like to thank the people and organizations that helped to make this event a success.

- Stangel Industries and Les Schwab for their very generous support in constructing the new barrel train ride for the kiddos.
- All the vendors who participated in the Winter Wonderland Pop-up Market at Stage One.
- The entire City of Enterprise staff for their great attitude and help with all the logistics.
- The Enterprise Fire Department for their delicious chili feed.
- Mr. & Mrs. Claus for bringing the Christmas spirit to Main Street.
- Santa's Elves for helping with Santa Central and all the photo opportunities.
- Angie Nash for taking pictures of the the kids with Santa.
- All the fantastic parade entries. Wow!! Awesome parade for sure!!
- Maury Bunn for his help with the sound system.
- Jon Stewart for manning the barrel train rides all day long.
- Bill for keeping the burn barrels stoked for the day.
- Charlie for helping put all the wood out for the burn barrels.
- Superaxe for delivering the wood that kept us warm.
- Bird Dog Signs for the beautiful new Winterfest logo and signage for the event.
- Wallowa County Nursery for the Christmas tree donation on the fire truck.
- Don Swart for braving the cold and lighting up the trees.
- Pacific Power for assisting us to light up the town.
- The Carolers for ringing in the season with the sound of Christmas.
- And to all the merry people in the community who showed up to have fun and add to the festive mood of the holiday season.

**A Happy New Year to all of you.**  
**Thank you for keeping Enterprise vibrant & alive.**

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