

BARRETO

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We say, "It sure would be nice if we could only afford it." There are many things we would enjoy, but can they be paid for?

Any government program, regardless of the value, must be paid for. The most basic rule of economics comes into play. There is a cost to everything and there are no free lunches, period. The question is, how much can we afford?

Listening to the governor, the speaker and the senate president at this month's business summit, it's all the fault of the business community that the state doesn't have enough money. The fact is, there will never be enough money to satisfy this state's wants. The government was never intended to satisfy our wants — regardless of what those on the far left continue to say. Everyone should live within their means and those that are able should pay their own way and this includes the state of Oregon. Just because we want a new car when we can't afford a new car doesn't mean we should expect someone else to buy it for us.

But don't be discouraged, we can only go down this road for so long until the voters that have elected our legislators into office start to realize that if we continue to dig a deeper financial hole, at some point, we will be unable to dig ourselves out. And I'd say we're just about there. Someone must pay, and if the burden falls on the business community, I anticipate some businesses that can, will start to move out of the state as the majority party continues to demonize them. Every rock will be turned over to extract more revenue from everyone, including the middle-class worker, to satisfy this insatiable bent of unbridled spending. I hope voters hear their wake-up call.

The next legislative session starts Feb. 1. It should be an interesting year.

Greg Barreto, of Cove, represents Wallowa County and House District 58 in the Oregon State House.

CHRISTMAS GIVING



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Volunteers for both the Elks' Christmas Basket program and the Tree of Giving, line up behind just a few of about 100 gifts and baskets at Cloverleaf Hall going out to needy Wallowa County families and individuals on Dec. 23.

WINTER

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As remote as Wallowa County is, it was affected by Vietnam.

Old timers have stories of Vietnam veterans and hippies of that era drifting in, desiring to find a new life.

These "newcomers" shifted the culture of Wallowa County, bringing new ideas, new ways of doing things.

I encourage readers to watch for Fishtrap's calendar of events for The Big Read and come when you can.

Among them will be a discussion by a panel of veterans who have read the book. A

photo display "Exit Wounds" will be on exhibit at Divide Camp Headquarters in Joseph, and then in Wallowa, with the photographer giving a presentation. "Good Morning, Vietnam!" will be shown at the OK. These are open to the public — veterans of all eras and citizens, young and old.

By reading "The Things They Carried," and attending the events, perhaps we will learn what we each have carried since the tornadic 1960s that circled around Vietnam. And understand.

Katherine Stickroth is a freelance writer who blogs at awallowagal.com.

ROMBACH

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We now rejoin Fraser and his cluster flies. Chuck said he knew at least one good thing about real cold winters like this. When conditions are just right, with temps well below freezing and lots of sunlight outside, he cranks up the forge in his blacksmith shop until it gets a bazillion degrees inside. This sets the stage for what he calls Fraser's Revenge.

The sauna temperatures in

the shop rouse the cluster fly population living up among the rafters. The flies get downright lively, start buzzing around the joint and that's when he shuts the lights and all the doors, covers the windows and snuffs any and all light in the shop. Blackout. Shut that forge door. We need total darkness.

You let that ride for a while. Just the hot and the dark and the buzzing of a kajillion cluster fly wings.

Then Chuck and his fellow metal artist Lyle throw open the big shop doors all

the sudden. The light floods in, the cluster flies see that glorious sunshine, figure it's springtime, they all head for the light in those multitudes they're famous for and out they go, hustling from well above a hundred degrees to way below zero until they hit that abrupt temperature shift and then they just hit the snow. Done. It's quite a sight, Chuck assured me. And very satisfying. I begged him right then to give me a call next time conditions are right for

Fraser's Cluster Fly Revenge. This is an event I want to behold with my own eyeballs. Frozen the frozen pipes, frozen nose hairs, squeaky snow and double-digit-below-zero mornings, I needed this one instance of extreme cold being turned to good use. I also might need a blacksmith forge in my living room. That sounds like just the thing.

Jon Rombach is a local columnist for the Chieftain.

THE SCENE

Friday, Jan. 6

- "Places in Wallowa County" exhibit opening, 7 p.m. at Joseph Center
- Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Tuesday, Jan. 10

- Brown bag lunch celebrating historian Grace Bartlett, noon, Joseph Center

Thursday, Jan. 12

- Big Read Kickoff, 7 p.m. Fishtrap, Enterprise

Friday, Jan. 13

- Bart Budwig and Marshal McLean, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Saturday, Jan. 14

- Wallowa County Gamblers Snowmobile Club Annual Poker Run, Salt Creek Summit
- Tunesmith Night, 6 p.m. Featuring Marshall McLean, Bart Budwig and Kory Quinn at Stockman's Lounge

Wednesday, Jan. 18

- Eagle Cap Extreme sled dog race, 9 a.m. vet check in Joseph and 1 p.m. vet check in Enterprise. Followed by community potluck at the Joseph Civic Center.

Thursday, Jan. 19

- Eagle Cap Extreme sled dog race, start at 1 p.m. at Fergi Ski Area
- Old-Time Community Dance

Saturday, Jan. 21

- Old-time community dance, 7-10 p.m., Hurricane Creek Grange Hall. \$5 per person, under 12 free. Beginners welcome, no partner or special clothing required, all dances taught and called.

Thursday, Feb. 9

- Big Read movie night, 7 p.m., OK Theatre. Showing of "Good Morning Vietnam." \$5.

Saturday, Feb. 11

- Big Read finale, 7 p.m., The Place/Joseph Methodist Church. 1960s fashion show, potluck dinner and dance party with live band. \$10.

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

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12-Oz. Fragrance Gel Beads
Absorbs odors. Lasts approximately 90 days. Choose linen or lavender scent.
W 196 750, 781 8125. While supplies last.

17⁹⁹

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2 heat settings plus fan-only setting. Safety overheat protection. Adjustable thermostat.
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SPECIAL PURCHASE
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2-Pk., 22-Oz. High Traffic Foam Carpet Cleaner
Freshens with a light, clean scent.
W 218 071 86. While supplies last.



5⁹⁹

YOUR CHOICE
38-Ct., 13-Gal. Tall Kitchen Trash Bags or 18-Ct., 33-Gal. Outdoor Trash Bags
Flex Technology bags with drawstring.
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Jan17 FOM Ad 011

M-F 8AM-6PM • SAT 8AM-5PM • SUN 9AM-3PM

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Enterprise, Oregon
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WALLOWA COUNTY
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Thursday, January 12 @ 7pm

Kickoff: Screening of "Dick Cavett's Vietnam" Hurricane Creek Grange Hall, Joseph

Thursday, January 19 @ 7pm

What Vietnam Teaches Us: Wallowa County Veterans Discuss The Things They Carried Tomas Conference Center, Enterprise

Thursday, January 26 @ 7pm

America in Vietnam: Understanding Tim O'Brien's Vietnam War w/ David Schmitz The Place/Joseph United Methodist Church, Joseph

Thursday, February 2 @ 7pm

Life after War: Photography & Oral Histories of Coming Home w/ Jim Lommasson Wallowa City Hall, Wallowa

Thursday, February 9 @ 7pm

Movie: Good Morning Vietnam OK Theatre, Enterprise

Saturday, February 11 @ 7pm

Finale: 60's Fashion Show and Dance Party
The Place/Joseph United Methodist Church, Joseph

Additional Events:

Exit Wounds: Art Exhibit

January at Divide Camp – Joseph
February at Wallowa City Hall – Wallowa

Book Discussion at Fishtrap

Wednesday, January 18 at 10am at Fishtrap—Enterprise

Writing Workshop

The Other Warriors: Voices of the Women of Vietnam Veterans
Saturday Mornings in January at Fishtrap – Enterprise
\$10 per session suggested donation



O. Hm.
Oregon Humanities



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



Fishtrap
Writing & The West

fishtrap.org
541.426.3623



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