

# Mitchell hotel lost to fire

## OUT OF THE PAST

Compiled by Cheryl Jenkins

### 100 YEARS AGO April 12, 1917

• Another landmark went up in smoke when the Mitchell hotel in Joseph was burned Saturday morning. Building and contents were a total loss, and it was with difficulty that other structures in the neighborhood were saved. It is reported there was \$4,000 insurance on the building.

• Since the United States is in the Great World War, for how long a time no one knows, it is a matter of vital concern in town and on farms to see that food production attains a maximum and that economy be practiced in its consumption. As a forerunner to organized steps that may be taken later, every person owning or controlling any land should see that it is all in crop and that the largest possible yield be obtained.

• Having walked every foot of the distance from Chico to Enterprise, William Vanassche, mail carrier, concluded the stage is the thing. The roads are so soft, with half melted snow in some places and mud in others, that he concluded to come in Monday horseback. He had a saddled horse and two for packing. But the load was so heavy that he had to pack all three animals and go to it afoot. The ground was slippery and uncertain, but there was no choice.

• Building operations are going forward rapidly around the corner of Main and West Second streets. The brick front of A.R. Thompson's plumbing shop is nearly finished. Forms are in for the large concrete garage S.A. Gotter is putting up for H.T. Weaver, facing east on West Second.

### 70 YEARS AGO April 17, 1947

• "La Grande is the gateway to the famed Wallowa mountains, to which some enthusiasts have referred as the Switzerland of America,



Chieftain File Photo

"Portable Sawmill" — year unknown

but to most visitors, the area is a class of its own. They insist it needs no comparison with the Alps. In fact, they declare the Wallowas have a finer scenic appeal than all the mountains of Europe.

• Vernon Hammack of the Enterprise FFA chapter received the state farmer degree at the state convention held in Pendleton April 9-11. This chapter also received the Keystone award, being one of the outstanding FFA chapters in the state.

• The Enterprise FFA boxers defeated their opponents, the Elgin boxing team, last Saturday night in the Enterprise gym by winning five of the seven matches.

• At the Christian Church in Enterprise at 7:30 there will be shown three moving pictures, which will be of interest and educational value to everyone. There are two religious films, "We Too, Receive" and "The Prodigal Son" and one educational film, "That Boy Joe." The public is cordially invited.

• (PHOTO CAPTION) Miss Oregon, lovely Margaret Becker, shows scene of Oregon Wallowa mountains featuring this region and routes leading to it, which recently appeared in national magazines in an advertising program launched by the travel information department of the state highway commission to attract people from heavy centers of population to and through this area by featuring "things to see and do" while in the state.

Enterprise and sold to Wolfe Hereford Ranch for \$300.

### 25 YEARS AGO April 12, 1992

• A four-day school week? That is only one of a number of options being explored by Joseph School District Supt. Clark Bray to cut expenses in the face a budget shortfall of \$171,000 to \$371,000 for fiscal 1992-93, due at least in part to the Measure 5 tax limitation

• (PHOTO CAPTION) Wallowa sixth-graders have become amateur archaeologists this year, incorporating a number of subject areas in their research into archaeology, from reading to science. Above they show off the numbered "bison" bones they brought back to the classroom after a recent field trip and archaeology dig at the Willett ranch; the class plans to try to reconstruct the skeleton of the beast. Students archaeology-related projects will be on display at the Wallowa school science fair and art show April 21 in the Beth Johnson Room.

• And the countdown continues ... only 29 school days remain — for seniors that is. So far, 16 seniors have been accepted to at least one college, or if they're like Ryan Sheehy, they've applied and been accepted everywhere.

• Wallowa County girls tracksters captured firsts in four events at the ICUE Invitational at Elgin High School. Enterprise's Jozie Hrenchir scored a convincing first in the long jump with a 14.85, and Monique Renoe aided the Savages' cause with a 27.6 time in the 200 meter run.

The April meeting of the Wallowa County Cattle Women was held April 9, at the Cloud 9 Bakery meeting room. Betty Van Blaricom, chairman of the In-School Beef Program, reported that she and Connie Dunham presented demonstrations recently in two Joseph High School home economics classes. The Cattle Women team prepared stir-fry and marinated beef tri-tip. Money was presented to the classes to be used toward the purchasing of beef for the meat unit.

### 50 YEARS AGO April 13, 1967

• (PHOTO CAPTION) The Wallowa County Soroptimists club recently donated a small public address system to the Wallowa County Nursing Home for use during the weekly programs, which are presented to the residents there. The Soroptimists have been sponsoring the weekly programs and have noted in the past that several of the residents have had a difficult time hearing the programs.

• Lostine Junior High picked up enough second and third places to edge Joseph, 62-40, in a dual track meet held at Wallowa last Friday afternoon. Joseph captured six events and were sparked by Doug Sandlin who won three events: shot put, 100-yard dash and 220-yard dash.

• A stitch in time could net some local woman a 1967 sports model car valued at \$3,000 and a mink stole specially designed for her. These are the top prizes in the National Grange sewing contest which closes April 30.

• Jack Pace of Enterprise won the top prize of \$100 gift certificate in the Enterprise "Spring Opening" contest sponsored by the chamber of commerce. The total retail value of all merchandise displayed was \$3,722.15. Jack's guess was \$3750.85, only \$28.70 off.

• The champion heifer at the Oregon Hereford Association sale at the Union county fairgrounds April 5 was exhibited by E.J. Snyder of

## QUALLE

Continued from Page A4

Frank didn't compete showing horses, but I noticed the top end of those that did like Tony Amaral often asked his advice about horses. I asked Frank's son one day where his dad learned his horsemanship. He answered that when his grandfather bought the Kesterson from Miller and Lux, they inherited several vaqueros who taught him the old Californio way of breaking horses. I wish I had taken advantage of learning some of what he knew.

My main horse for the last several years has been the best horse I ever owned. I bought her as a two-year-old from Paddy McAuliff in Ft Klamath in 2000. She had been tied up and led to water for four days

as a weanling then turned out.

I named her Wild Thing, and I thought she would never quit bucking. But one day she quit and never bucked again. She was all business and did everything I asked of her and did it well. When she turned about 14, she finally acted as though she liked me. Last year I made the tough decision to retire her and bought a started palomino mare and have introduced her to cattle and roping.

Dixie is a little bigger than Wild Thing and a lot snappier since she is so much younger. She may be a little too snappy for a 75-year-old cowboy too stupid to quit. Wish me luck.

Thanks to all you ranchers that have invited me to your brandings over the years. I never had better times. See you at the next branding.

Barrie Qualle is a local columnist for the Chieftain.

## LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

Our next meeting of the Wallowa County Parkinson's Disease Support Group is 2 p.m., Sunday, April 16, in the Wallowa Memorial Hospital conference room, Enterprise.

Kath Caldwell  
Enterprise

### Loss of dam would be catastrophic

The livelihood of every person in Wallowa County depends on the protection of one critical resource — our water. Not only does our human existence depend on the supply of water, but it is essential to the economic stability of our local community as well.

Anyone who visits Wallowa County can attest to the incredible wildlife and scenic areas our water sustains. Without water, the economic impacts on our local economy would be devastating.

The protection of our water and the vast resources and economy that it supports is, in large part, dependent on the preservation of the Wallowa Lake Dam.

The dam adds to the natural

flow, which impacts about 88,000 acre-feet of water. It directly impacts 16,000 acres, and indirectly a total of 37,000 acres of irrigated cropland.

Without this structure, Wallowa County would see a momentous loss in revenue. It is estimated that if the dam is removed, the loss in revenue from crop production alone would be more than \$14 million.

It is further estimated that there would be a devastating loss of \$18.9 million in livestock production as well. Such losses only begin to scratch the surface of the economic impact that the loss of the Wallowa Lake Dam will have on our county. Water is and will continue to be an important topic of discussion among our local citizens. There are many resources regarding this topic available.

If you would like more information about the current studies on water in our county, contact the OSU extension office.

Dan Butterfield  
Joseph

Butterfield is the president of Associated Ditch Companies Inc. That organization's board of directors approved the text of this letter.

## NEOEDD offers free retreat to business owners

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District will host Annie Milroy Price of Birds Eye Business Planning and Consulting in Ashville, N.C., for a three-day intensive workshop retreat for business owners called "Alpine." The retreat will take place on Wallowa Lake Thursday, April 27 through Saturday, April 29. Register by Wednesday, April 19 to reserve a seat.

"Alpine is for people who are beyond the hobby phase," said Price. "They have actual numbers to work with. They are facing some decision-making in their business. They would like to have a cohort experience to look at their business's past, tackle present

challenges and make plans for the future."

In addition to creating Alpine, Price was the lead designer of the Business Foundations class that has proven extremely popular.

The district's executive director Lisa Dawson presents Business Foundations to dozens of local entrepreneurs annually.



Price

"We are so excited to have Annie come here to facilitate this retreat and explore participants' business opportunities and needs," said Dawson. "NEOEDD staff have worked with her in the past, and we've found her inspirational."

To register, call 541-426-3598 or 800-645-9454, or email kristyathens@neoedd.org. Preference is given to people with low to moderate incomes; income verification will be required. The workshop portion of the retreat is funded by Community Development Block Grant through Wallowa County. Scholarships are available to others. Lodging is also available.

The NEOEDD's mission is to provide resources for the benefit of entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties.

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**Births**  
A son,  
**Declan August Mattison**  
was born March 22, 2017 to Ryan and Jessi Mattison of Rathdrum, Idaho.  
Grandparents are Larry & Donna Bacon and Dan & Lezlee Mattison.  
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**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

**The Wallowa County Fair Board Scholarship(s)** will provide scholarship assistance to Wallowa County 4-H/FFA members. Applications are available from the Fair office for graduating high school students who will be attending college, vocational or trade school during the 2017 – 2018 school year. Amounts will range from \$250 to \$1000.

**Applications are available and can be picked up at the Wallowa County Fair office or e-mailed to you from wallowacountyfair@gmail.com.**

**Candidates must submit the following by May 1, 2017**

1. Completed and signed application
2. High school transcript or statement of GPA from Registrar.
3. Three letters of reference with one being advisor or leader.

**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Banquet A Success!**

The volunteers of the Wallowa Mountain Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Chapter would like to say **THANK YOU!** to the local businesses, sponsors and supporters that helped make our 2017 fundraiser a success!

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Cheyenne Cafe	Longhorn Espresso	Sugar Time Bakery
Chris' Forest Products	Lucy Wood	Terminal Gravity
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Copper Creek	Martin Archery	The Gift of Joy
Dean Brown	Marcy's Skin Care	The Nature Conservancy
Debbie Surface	Matterhorn Village	Thompson Auto
Del Sol Wilderness	Mike's Garage	Toasted Fowl Custom Calls
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Flying Arrow Resort	Redding Reloading	Woodstock Circuit Works, Inc
	Ryan & Roz McTe	

**Because of your generosity, our Chapter facilitated the most successful event in our 20-year history and raised over \$71,500 net dollars for our organization.**

We couldn't have done this without support from our community! **THANK YOU!** The dollars raised at the local RMEF events come back to Wallowa County and NE Oregon through habitat enhancement and public access improvement project funded by RMEF. To date, the RMEF has funded 57 projects in Wallowa County for a total value of over \$4.3 Million. The Wallowa Mountain Chapter will host several habitat projects this summer in NE Oregon and could use additional volunteers.

If you are interested in getting involved with upcoming local projects, or would like to learn more about RMEF, Please contact Sharon Wilson at 541-397-1238

**Student of the Week**

**Kenon Nash**  
ENTERPRISE SDA SCHOOL

Kenon Nash is a 5th-grade student at Enterprise SDA School. He is on Honor Roll for the 3rd quarter and is very responsible about his schoolwork. Kenon likes to build things out of wood and is currently working on a science project involving building wooden bridge models. He also is now working on 6th-grade math.

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

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