



THREE minutes with ...



SALLY BRANDT

Owner of The Sheep Shed in Joseph

Sally Brandt is owner of The Sheep Shed on Main Street in Joseph. She started the knitting and arts business with Nancy Knoble in 2009 in the building that now houses Highland Mercantile. The two businesswomen were finalists in an Eastern Oregon Small Business program "thanks to Nancy Knoble's organizational work," Brandt said.

The business moved to the current location at 3 S. Main Street and Brandt became the sole owner when Knoble moved on to other interests.

In addition to raising three children with her husband, Ray DeLury, Brandt served on numerous volunteer boards throughout the years. Most notably, she was the Court Appointed Special Advocate coordinator in Wallowa County for 21 years. The group advocates for abused and neglected children. She has a masters degree in elementary education and served as a substitute teacher both before coming to Wallowa County and for two decades after.

Brandt is now active in both the Joseph City Library Renovation and Expansion and Wallowa County Action Group (Democrats).

Q. What brought you and Ray to Wallowa County?

A. I'd lived in Portland in 1981 and had come camping here and loved it and was looking for a way to get back here. We, my husband and I, and my parents, went to the Cow Palace in San Francisco in 1990 to hear my brother perform in the Barber Shop Harmony finals (his group won an International Championship in 1979) and we drove back up the coast and then out to Wallowa County as an extended vacation.

I started working on my husband about moving here and my dad helped because he wrote him a marvelous letter about how hard it was to make a change — but this one seemed like a good move. We moved here from Green Mountain Falls, Colo., in 1991.

I also say I "lured" my husband here, pun intended, because he's an avid fisherman, and I emphasized the good fishing.

Q. What has been good about the move?

A. I think everything. We moved here in our 1956 Bluebird school bus with four malamute wolves — and we didn't have jobs. We've seen people come and go from here, but we did whatever we needed to do to survive here and make it work.

My husband worked in the lumberyard before he found work in his field, which was as a stonemason, and I worked for Carol Lee at Eagle Mountain Gallery and Centennial House before I started my first business as Uncommon Threads in Enterprise.

We wanted to be involved in our community, and we got involved. We took the foster parent training because we intended to adopt and they contacted us to foster just as soon as we graduated that training. We fostered more than a dozen children and ran the "Time Out" program for the justice system.

Q. What has Wallowa County taught you?

A. You can make your home anywhere when you find the right people and have sticktoitiveness with regard to finding work and staying where you love it.

When we moved here, we were informed that it was a difficult place to establish yourself if you were not 10th generation Wallowa County residents. But we met a whole group of people, similar age, kids about the same age as ours, and there were potlucks all the time. We met this wonderful group of people and it was a marvelous time in Wallowa County.

Also, I've found myself being much more politically involved — it took me a long time to express myself openly and not be damaged business-wise by it, but I've watched people come from being really unable to talk to each other to being able to talk to each other. I now see people able to sit down and have a discussion and that's amazing to see.

Bales named grand marshal of Mule Days

By Sondra Lozier

Special to the Wallowa County Chieftain

The Hells Canyon Mule Days board of directors announced May 10 that Wallowa County native Bob Bales is the 2017 grand marshal.

Bales, as well as scholarship winners, volunteers and guests, were honored at a banquet at Hurricane Creek Grange.

Born in Enterprise in 1934, Bales' mother came to Wallowa County from Missouri, and his father was born and raised on Prairie Creek outside of Joseph.

Bales grew up in Joseph where he spent most of his time outdoors. He and his friend Max used to explore the moraines around Wallowa Lake and imagine what it must have been like for Chief Joseph when he was a kid playing on the same ground.

During middle and high school, Bales began working with mules and horses. He worked for Harley Tucker as a horse team driver during the summer haying season. After graduation he went to work for a local sawmill.

During the fall elk season, Bales would launch a raft at Minam after work and float the Grande Ronde at night with a gas lantern hanging from a pole

on the front of his boat. Making camp late at night, he would rise early the next morning to hunt elk, and if he were lucky, he could fill his freezer with meat for the winter before he had to start his next work week.

"I had a few mishaps rafting, but nothing very dangerous," said Bales.

In 1968, Bales moved to Salmon, Idaho, to open a western wear and sporting goods store with his brother. Once the business was established, Bales said he was able to sneak away to guide people into the mountains and down the rivers as a river guide, outfitter and packer, which was one of his favorite parts of the business.

Bales returned to Joseph in 1985 where he drove and repaired school buses for Joseph High School.

"It was a rewarding job to work there with the kids," said Bales. "I felt very fortunate."

Bales has two daughters, Theresa and Jennifer, and two sons, Jeff and Andy. Andy plays a large role in the Mule Days Max Walker Memorial Cowboy Poetry gathering.

In past years Andy has emceed the event and also has entertained with his traditional cowboy songs and poetry. This year he will be the featured artist for the Mule Days Saturday

night concert.

After retiring, Bales took up leather working and eventually built a saddle that he uses to ride his horse and a mule that had a reputation for being a runaway. Bales said she put several people in the hospital, something he knew when he bought her, so he took her to Little Sheep Creek and started riding. Just as expected, the mule took off running, but Bales held on and let her have her way.

"She kept running and tired herself out, and finally she realized it wasn't her idea anymore," Bales said. The mule slowed up, and the two reached

a lasting understanding.

Every year he could make it, Bales has attended Hells Canyon Mule Days. He said it's one of his favorite events because he gets to see friends he might only see once a year.

"I just find it fun — a lot of fun to be there with other mule people," he said. Like mules, Bales thinks mule people are a breed of their own, and he's fond of both.

"Mules are an interesting animal," he said. "They have a very strong sense of self-preservation. You can get along really well with mules if you get to understand them."



Paul Wahl/Chieftain
Bob Bales is the grand marshal for the 2017 version of the Hells Canyon Mule Days in Enterprise.

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Students of the Week

The staff and Administration would like to congratulate the class of 2017 Valedictorian, Addie Kilgore and Salutatorian, Cayden DeLury. Both of these students are exemplary examples of academics, athletics and citizenship. It has been a pleasure having both of you at Joseph Charter School for the last 13 years. You have both made our school a better place. Congratulations and best of luck at OSU and UofO.

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Janet Hohmann
Former Forest Service Biologist

Holly Akenson
Wildlife Biologist

Presentation • Thurs, May 18th • 7pm

True or False ... Owls hunt only at night • Owls only eat mice & rabbits • Owls can turn their heads 360°
• Owls don't migrate • Owls can see in total darkness
• Owls build their own nest

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