

Changes are coming to Joseph grocery store

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

One of the ways we see Wallowa County business improving is when established businesses upgrade their look, their offerings or their layout. Another is when we see a new business come in to fill a hole. This week, there are three bulletins about good news in the county.

Mt. Joseph Family Foods to change marketing, products

Ambitious plans are moving ahead. One change will improve the shopping experience in several ways. Marketing adviser **Marco Renne** of Joseph has come on board to help owner **Troy Burgland**. Renne worked for 25 years in rural grocery supply in communities such as Estacada, Molalla and Newberg and says his heart is in rural community grocery supply. Now he's moved to Wallowa County and "sort of retired" — which means he's still working but doing it more for the love than the paycheck. Mt. Joseph Family foods has changed wholesalers and is working with Super Valu, one of the largest wholesalers in the United States. That means Mt. Joseph Family Foods will have more control over the quality and type of product they carry. It also means they have more control over advertising. That's key because the former wholesaler and the folks writing



the grocery's ads apparently didn't always know what was important to rural communities. The store will be writing its own ads and making decisions about what products they carry. "We have two elements in our community, the local people and the tourists that come in," Renne said. "We know if we take care of our local people, our tourists will be taken care of as well."

Home Again Renovations looks to meet needs

A shortage in general contractors who will take on remodels is a niche for Home Again Renovations in Wallowa. Owner **Christian Niece** has been in the area since April, but he wanted to get going and have a few local jobs done so that word of mouth could begin spreading before he "went public" in the newspaper. He is a licensed contractor and says that the name of the company is relevant to him (as well as to customers) because he grew up in Wallowa County and moved back last winter. "When my father passed away in 2014, I realized I would lose my connection to Wallowa County, which was unacceptable to me," he said.



"I knew it was time for me to come 'home' to the land where my heart is." Niece has more than 20 years of construction experience, owned a construction company before the 2007 recession, worked for the State of Oregon in the maintenance department of the psychiatric hospital in Salem, worked in management at the energy efficient Junction City campus, and much more. This deep background of positions from wheelbarrow operator to facilities manager with a \$5 million budget has equipped him to take on just about any job and know how to both modernize your project and keep costs under control.

El Bajio Mexican Restaurant gets a new look

There's no way you can have missed the fabulous upgrade that **Leo Arenas** and family have made to the exterior of El Bajio Mexican Restaurant in Enterprise. The exterior painting marks the restaurant boldly as an authentic Mexican food establishment. We're hoping this high visibility helps El Bajio pack 'em in during tourist season and beyond. Tourists who check the online reviews already



The exterior of El Bajio Mexican Restaurant in Enterprise has been repainted to give it an authentic look.

know that El Bajio is highly recommended, and locals who frequent the restaurant appreciate the comfortable and well-decorated interior in addition to the great food.

Correction about donut wagon stationed at Josephy Center

A correction for the folks at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture. The new mini donut shop owned by **Bill Gore**, "Baggins Wagen," is on a

parking lot belonging to the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture not **Mike Musia** of Mike's Garage. The lot is used for Arts Center parking during evening and weekend events. The Josephy Center allows Mike Musia of Mike's Garage to use the lot during business hours, and it has rented the pink concrete slab to Bill Gore for the donut season. Gore gets his water for all those lovely flowers from the Josephy Center.

TEACHER

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It's been a huge change for all of us, as we are used to living out in the country and knowing everyone we see. We have had incredible

experiences thus far: hiking through rain forests, swimming and snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef and visiting sheep stations. Kel and Kennisen are playing for Griffith in Australian rules Football, and we've enjoyed seeing kangaroos and wallabies on a reg-

ular basis like deer in Wallowa County. There are also noisy parrots, lorikeets and cockatiels that wake you up in the morning and warm and welcoming Australians that have embraced us and made us part of their families.

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EO Media Group newspapers are proud to have won 18 first-place awards at this year's Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Summer Convention. We would like to thank the readers and businesses in each of the communities that we serve for their loyalty and support.

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- The Daily Astorian** won Best Overall Website and placed second in General Excellence
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SUN-TUES AUGUST 6-8 8am - 4-H Horse Show	THURS.-FRI. AUGUST 10-11 8:30am - 4-H/FFA Livestock Show 7pm - 4-H/FFA Grand Champion Classes
MON. AUGUST 7 4-H Exhibits to Cloverleaf - Open Class Non-Perishable to Cloverleaf	FRI. AUGUST 11 4pm - "Bessie Bingo"
TUES. AUGUST 8 Open Class Perishable to Cloverleaf	SAT. AUGUST 12 8am - Small Animal Show 10am - Pee Wee Showmanship 11am - Games on the Grass & Balloon Scramble
WED.-SAT. AUGUST 9-12 10am - Cloverleaf Hall Opens	4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SALE 6PM
WED. AUGUST 9 2pm 4-H/FFA Livestock Entries	

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