

Joseph craftsman finds art in bowls

Tom Clevenger says he fell into his passion for lathe work

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

The first thing you notice when you enter the wood shop of Joseph bowl-turner Tom Clevenger is the neatness. No sawdust hanging from ceiling, no cobwebs, no sharp tools laying about waiting to taste errant flesh.

The whole area is as clean as the designs on the bowls and vases you see on display at the Stewart Jones Designs gallery on Main Street in Joseph.

Clevenger, who retired from the Costa Mesa, Calif., fire department after 23 years, moved to Wallowa County in 2002. He fell into his hobby by happenstance in 2008.

The artist and his wife, Denise, lived on Liberty Road outside of Joseph at the time. A case of cabin fever found Clevenger out in his shop playing with an old lathe.

Working on a bowl made from green wood and not very symmetrical nearly beat him to death. When he returned the next morning, the lathe bed was rusty from the green wood.

"I thought well, this sucks," Clevenger said. "Then I saw a segmented piece on the Internet, and I thought I'd try that. I made a couple of trial pieces, which I still have."

Segmented bowls are made by stacking and gluing together many segments of

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS COMING

The 34th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts will be Sept. 13-17 at Josephy Community Center in Joseph. Events include:

- En Plein Air Competition and Exhibit Wednesday and Thursday with a public quick finish and special reception and art hanging 3-8 p.m. Thursday at Josephy Center.

- Afternoon and evening Joseph Gallery Walk 4-6

p.m. Thursday on Main Street in Joseph.

- Showings of selected short films from Ruby Peak Film Festival 3 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday at Josephy Center.

- Special Local Youth Arts Showcase all weekend at Josephy Center.

- Hilarious "Art That Makes You Laugh" presentation by Jeff Leedy noon at Josephy Community Center.

“

"I want this to go to a local farmer or rancher who has these brands ... That's what I'm hoping."

— Tom Clevenger
Joseph artist



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Retired firefighter-turned-artist Tom Clevenger works on a segmented bowl featuring the brands of eight local ranches. Below, four of his bowls in various stages of completion. The papers in front of each piece contain the bowl's technical information as well as a rough drawing of its ultimate design.

many segments of wood actually make up a typical piece of his work.

"I don't try to count them all," he said. "I don't have time."

Surprisingly, finishing is the most time-consuming part of the process.

"It sometimes take two or three weeks just to do the finish," Clevenger said.

"I'll seal it with clear shellac just to keep the colors from running. Then I'll put on three or four real heavy Waterlox coats and wet sand and repeat maybe about a dozen times."

Clevenger's latest creation, a segmented bowl/vase inlaid with eight local cattle brands and barb-wire, is one of his favorites.

"I wanted to do something Western," Clevenger said. "A lot of the stuff I do is kind of



southwestern, Native-American, that type of thing. I've done some contemporary pieces, but I wanted to do something where I'd be able to pick up something of the Western theme."

The artist conceived the idea for the brands theme while eating at the Cheyenne Café in Joseph.

How did he find and choose the brands?

Clevenger went to the state

brands book and chose a few of the more interesting looking brands with one caveat: Straight lines.

The artist said he'd need to get a very good scroll saw to cut the intricate inlays required of a rounded letter, horse or elk.

The bowl is composed of cherry, ebony, bloodwood, maple and ipe, which is extremely dense and durable.

"I want this to go to a local farmer or rancher who has these brands, and it'll be priced so that one of them can bring it home. That's what I'm hoping."

THE BOOKLOFT AND SKYLIGHT GALLERY

Finding books is our specialty

541.426.3351 • 107 E. Main • Enterprise • www.bookloftoregon.com

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
	18				19		20			21			
					22	23			24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30							31						
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43				44				
		45	46										
47	48				49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57				58
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cereal grain
5. Small constellation
8. Pouch
11. Beef comes in these
13. Chest muscle
14. Maine city
15. Saliar
16. Int'l fraternal organization
17. Greek god of war
18. Canadian harbour
20. Firearm
21. Deities
22. North, Central and South
25. After the 16th
30. Used in herbal medicine
31. Whale (Norwegian)
32. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
33. Insect appendages
38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
41. Small Arab monarchy
43. Former U.S. President
45. Short-lived, slender insects
47. Forms after a cut
49. Fuel
50. Made of wood
55. Whale ship captain
56. Small bed
57. Supreme being
59. NY Giants owner
60. Consumed
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Promotional materials
63. Business term
64. Famous cartoonist

CLUES DOWN

1. Former CIA
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Rhythmic patten in Indian music
4. Invests in little enterprises
5. Highest point
6. Incomes
7. Poisonous plant
8. Period in astronomy
9. Passed with flying colors
10. Professional certificate
12. Dublin college scholar
14. Heroic tale
19. Satisfy
23. ___ student, learns healing
24. Beloved golfer Rodriguez
25. Car mechanics group
26. Not the start
27. Engage in a contest
28. Energy-saving module
29. Within reach
34. Forms adjectives
35. Snitch
36. Data executive
37. Hostelery
39. Helps people see
40. "MASH" actor Gould
41. Bridge building degree
42. Moreover
44. Spoke
45. Volcanic craters
46. Swedish rock group
47. ___ Veda: liturgical chant
48. Former footballer Ochocinco
51. Swiss river
52. Klu Klux ___
53. Italian Island
54. Catches
58. Baseball stat

Church Directory

Church of Christ

502 W. 2nd Street • Wallowa
541-398-2509

Worship at 11 a.m.
Mid-week
Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
NE 3rd & Main St

541-426-3439
Worship Service
Sunday 9:30am

St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Francis Akano
301 E. Garfield Enterprise

Mass Schedule
Tues-Fri 8:00 am
Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am
(541)426-4008
stkatherineenterprise.org
St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am
All are welcome

Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community
Service time: 10:30 am
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
541-426-2150
www.summitchurchoregon.org

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
Pastor Cherie Dearth
Phone: 541-432-3102

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am

JosephUMC.org

Faith Lutheran Church

409 W. Main
Enterprise, Oregon

Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays - 2 pm
Bible Study
2nd & 4th Thursdays - 11 am
LCMS
(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449

Worship at 9 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship at 6 p.m.
(nursery at A.M. services)

"Loving God & One Another"
David Bruce, Sr. - Minister

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-263-0505

Family Prayer: 9:15am
Worship Service: 10am

723 College Street
Lostine

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM

Childrens program during service
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com

541.398.0597
Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliever, Minister

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

The Big Brown Church
with an open door
Pastor Archie Hook
Sunday Worship 11am
Bible Study 9:30am

Ark Angels Children's Program
Ages 4-6th grade, 11am
Nursery for children 3 & under
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR
Find us on Facebook! 541.426.3044

Wallowa Assembly of God

606 West Hwy 82
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445

Sunday School • 9:30
Worship Service • 10:45
Pastor Tim Barton
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3751 Church
541-426-8339 School

Worship Services
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber

A Taste of Heaven

September 14th-16th

Joseph United Methodist "The Place"
301 Lake St Joseph
For Men & Women

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Thursday: 7 pm (Church Sanctuary)
- Friday: 10 am & 7 pm
- Saturday: 10 am Meeting & Luncheon (Women Only)
- Saturday: 7 pm Closing Meeting

Hosted by:
*Jackie (Nash) Matthews
Sam (Slinker) Luttenberger
Christie Moore Ministries
*Please RSVP 208-940-2548 to Jackie by September 13 for women's luncheon. (no child care provided)

Introducing you to the new owner of Bennett Insurance Agency!

Hailie began her career with Bennett Insurance Agency as a Customer Service Representative and within the last few years she has grown into a successful agent. She is excited about her new endeavor and looks forward to representing Wallowa County and the surrounding areas.

Take time today to stop by and say hello to Hailie Hillcock!

541 - 426 - 4208
Locally Owned & Operated
616 W. North St., Enterprise