

# Photo book explores 'This Side of Paradise'

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Robert Dawson is publishing a new book featuring Wallowa County sites called "This Side of Paradise: Photos of Mt. Joseph and Wallowa County."

Dawson is a renowned photographer of the west with four previous books and award-winning photos in magazines such as Western Horseman, American Cowboy and Cowboys & Indians. He is also a philanthropist who has raised many thousands of dollars through donations of his work.

"This will be the first book I've ever done that's strictly wildlife," Dawson said from behind the desk at his gallery at 15 S. Main St. in Joseph.

The 142-page book, printed in the United States, features more than 140 photos of various facets of the county's wildlife, landscapes and western life. Dawson said he conceived the idea for the book more than a year ago after talking with Copper Creek store owner Tammy Strampe, who said that

customers were looking for something a little larger than post cards, although post cards were selling well.

"I told her I couldn't make any money off post cards, so why don't we put together a small coffee table book of nothing but photographs," he said. "It can be used as a gift or for tourists to show where they went during the summer instead of selfies on their cell phone. A lot of people who come here see maybe 10 percent of it. I want them to get a feeling there's more here."

Dawson said he has spent nearly 700 days in the field.

"Out of that 700 days, I got maybe 250 pictures for the layout firm to pick from, and they picked between 140-160 images," Dawson said.

The photographer said he's sweating bullets about the project, as he had 1,000 books printed.

"I'm hoping that I don't end up with 500-1000 books to use as doorstops," he said.

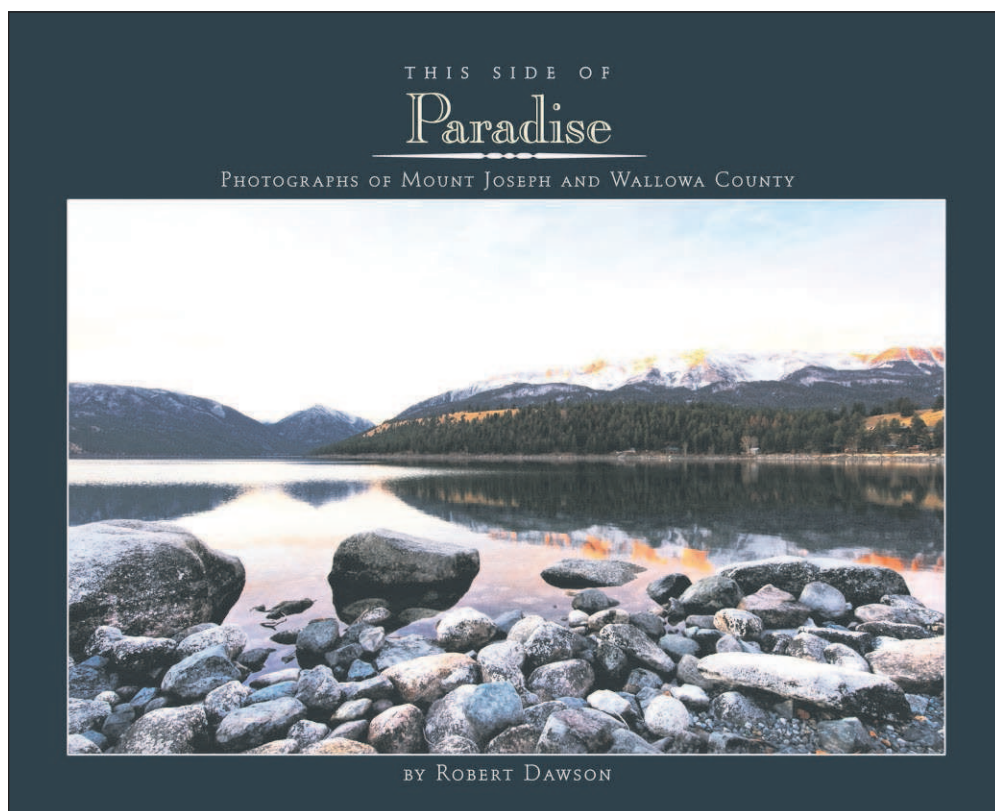
Scenery is Dawson's favorite part of the book. He noted

the cover photo of Wallowa Lake was his favorite.

"It was done early in the morning in November or early December," he said. "Driving up to that lake every morning is absolutely gorgeous — it's paradise. It's hard to really pick a favorite place in the county to shoot because it's all gorgeous."

Despite his photography skills, he said he couldn't have put the book together without help. Between 10-15 people helped with scouting for wildlife or inviting him to their property when wildlife was present.

The books shipped out from the printer Dec. 8 with Dawson expecting their arrival Dec. 14-15. The bulk of the books will be sold by Missy's Uptown Art, whose space is shared by Dawson. After the weekend, the books will be distributed to select stores throughout the county. Along with Missy's, both Mad Mary's, Copper Creek and possibly other stores will carry the books in Joseph.



Courtesy Photo/Robert Dawson

Local photographer Robert Dawson will release a wildlife/scenery book of his photographs called "This Side of Paradise: Photographs of Mt. Joseph and Wallowa County." Dawson spent 700 days shooting landscapes and wildlife around the county for the 142-page book. Expect to see the book in local stores around Dec. 15.

## CHORALE IN CONCERT



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Randy Morgan was the director for the 2017 Christmas Concert performed by the Wallowa Valley Chorale on Dec. 7 at Enterprise Christian Church.

## Gingerbread party planned for children

Building Healthy Families will host its first-ever Gingerbread Mania Party 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, 207 NE Park St., Enterprise.

The event includes an afternoon of stories, crafts, games, snacks and decorating gingerbread men for the holiday season.

Activities and games have been designed for children ages 2-10. RSVP is requested: 541-426-9411.

## Two local musicians will play in 'Messiah'

Two performers from Wallowa County will be part of the orchestra for this year's community production of Handel's "Messiah" 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at La Grande High School.

Kathy Vernon from Lostine will play the clarinet and Michelle McMillan of Enterprise will play the

## IN BRIEF

trombone.

The production tells the story of Jesus from the King James version of the Bible, and includes the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" at the end of Part II, Scene 7.

## Foundation gets funding support

The Endowment Committee for the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation has been busy fundraising over the past few weeks.

Soroptimists International of Wallowa County provided a grant of \$1,000 and also auctioned off items for the foundation. Another \$1,090 was raised from a bicycle raffle. The winner was Ruth Uhrig. Outlaw Motor Sports donated the bicycle.

The Joseph Holiday Bazaar

proved a big success for the committee as well, raising \$1,460 from a booth there. The bazaar organizers donated the committee's booth fees.

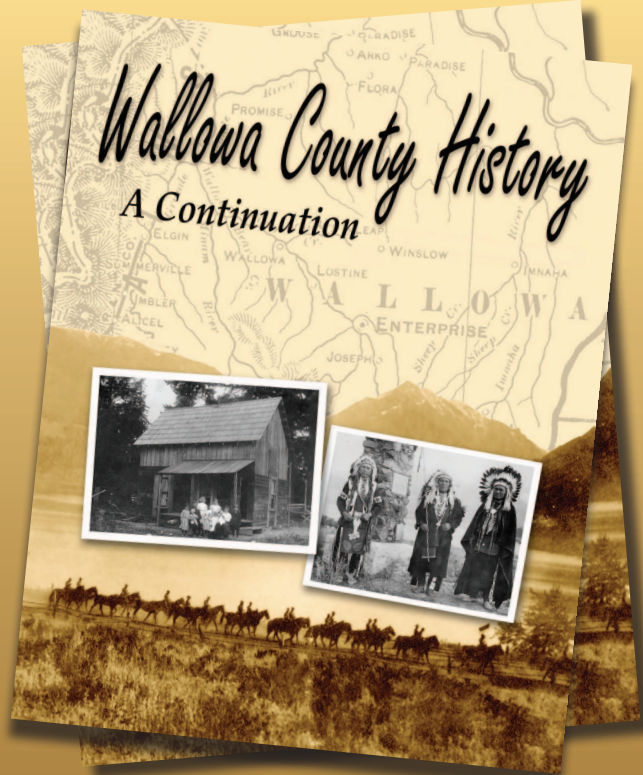
The funds are being used to endow the foundation so that it can continue to support libraries throughout all of Wallowa County.

## Buy raffle tickets for guided deer hunt

Enterprise Education Foundation is selling tickets for a three-day guided deer hunt on the Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie. A winner will be drawn April 13, 2018, at the "We Love Our Kids" dinner and auction.

The tags were donated by the Nature Conservancy.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. A maximum of 400 tickets will be sold at Neil's Body Shop, Miller Plumbing or by calling Cindi at 541-426-2039.



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