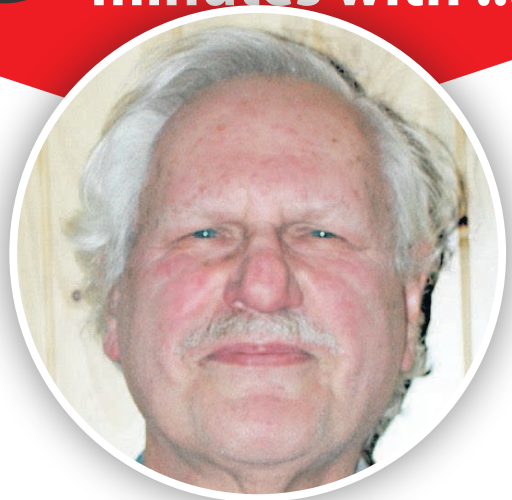




THREE minutes with ...



HANK WATS

Retired computer geek

Hank Wats, 74, of Joseph is fairly new to the county, but for a self-described "loner," he knew how to make himself part of the community.

Hank grew up in Holland in a small city east of Rotterdam. His father was a house painter and his mother a stay-at-home mom who took care of Hank and his four siblings.

Hank went to a trade-oriented high school at 13, which is how education develops in Holland. He graduated with a degree as an electrician.

He was fortunate in that a famous theoretical physicist had established his trade school, so he became involved in research and learned to make and test scientific instruments. American physicists also visited the school and, upon observing his work, invited Hank to come to America and work in the physics department of the University of Maryland. He arrived in the United States in 1969.

There he was introduced to the academic life, and in addition to working at the university took evening classes to get his American electrical engineering degree. His career path grew more and more ambitious and the projects more and more complicated. Over his lifetime, he became proficient in high energy physics design phases and his work supported projects for NASA and the NSA and the technology of a cosmic ray project.

Along the way he married twice and divorced twice. He has a son, Bryan, who lives in the Netherlands.

He is semi-retired and continues to design computer chips for a company he worked with earlier in his career.

He may spend a lot of time at his computer, but Hank also likes to be part of the community. He joined Hurricane Creek Grange where he assists in the financial accounting and serves on the building committee and is also a member of Rotary.

Q. One doesn't associate a scientific and technical career with rural living. So, I have to ask: why retire to Wallowa County?

A. I had been living in Washington, D.C., for about 45 years, and I wanted to get out. I had a colleague with land

in Idaho and he advised me to look for land before the baby boomers got it all. My first find was John Fogarty's land in Troy, but that was too far out. I then found this land on the west moraine, five acres with a log house built by Bronson Log Homes. I was surprised at how many people are highly technical in Wallowa County. There is very much a diversity of people here.

Q. What has Wallowa County taught you?

A. It's a totally different environment than Maryland and Washington, D.C. The county I came from in Maryland was six times smaller than Wallowa County but had 600,000 people in it. If Wallowa County had the same density it would have 3.5 million people in it.

People are more social in Wallowa County than they are in Maryland. In Wallowa County everyone waves as they drive past. In Maryland you hardly even have contact with your neighbors and you don't bother to greet anyone when you are driving. I think socializing is an acquired skill. You must learn all those names and connections.

Q. Can you recall the first book you checked out of a library when you were a child?

A. Oh, I don't think I can remember back that far. I remember three books about Dutch seafaring captains of the 1700s. I think I was 10 years old when I checked those out.

Q. Can you recommend a book you are reading now?

A. Janie Tippet's "Four Lines a Day" (available at the Bookloft in Enterprise). It is a pioneer book, and it gives you a good idea about the living here. It's amazing how many books are published in this county.

The Wallowa County Pilots Association
2018 Wallowa County Aviation Banquet
Saturday, January 20th
at the Wallowa Lake Lodge
 A no host social hour will begin at 5:30 pm, with dinner being served at 6:30pm.

The Chief Joseph Flyer's will give an update on what happened during 2017 and what's up for 2018

The NE Oregon Aviation Foundation will report on what took place during 2017 and give a sneak preview at their 2018 activities.

You will have your choice of three dinners:
Baked Salmon, Baseball Cut Sirloin Steak, Vegetarian option
 (Let us know if you need a child's dish)
 The cost is \$28 per person which includes, salad, mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert
 Gratuity is included in the price of your dinner.

To place your entree order or if you have any questions please call:
Bill Ables, 541-263-1327
Tim Locke 541-263-0470 or
Shay Mann 541-912-0340
 (Please call before Tuesday, Jan. 16th)
 No ticket is needed, pay at the lodge after your dinner.

Public is invited to attend this event

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 \$40,400 2015 CHEV SILVERADO LTZ, 1/2 T, Z71 4WD, CREW CAB, 5.3 L., V-8, 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC LEATHER, HEATED SEATS 29,636 MILES SN#FF201469 VEHICLE ID#5897	 \$38,995 2013 CHEV SILVERADO LT, 3/4 T, HD 4WD, CREW CAB, 6.6 L., V-8, 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC CLOTH SEATS 65,262 MILES SN#DF121924 VEHICLE ID#4777	 \$13,995 2007 CHEV SILVERADO 1/2 T 4WD, CREW CAB, SHORT BOX 5.3 L., V-8, 4 SPEED AUTO- MATIC, CLOTH SEATS 163,720 MILES SN#7G519632 VEHICLE ID#4253	 \$14,995 2005 CHEV SILVERADO LT, 3/4 T, HD 4WD, EXT. CAB, 6.6 L., V-8 DURAMAX DIESEL, 5 SPEED AUTOMATIC, LEATHER, 377,500 MILES SN#5E131672 VEHICLE ID#6724	 \$15,500 2004 CHEV SILVERADO 3/4 T, HD 4WD, CREW CAB, 6.0 L., V-8, 4 SPEED AUTOMATIC, CLOTH SEATS 105,854 MILES SN#4F111677 VEHICLE ID#5656	 \$25,800 2016 NISSAN FRONTIER 4WD, CREW CAB, 4.0 L., V-6, 5 SPEED AUTOMATIC, CLOTH SEATS 21,129 MILES SN#GN795488 VEHICLE ID#7115 PRICE: \$25,800	 \$26,100 2017 CHEV EQUINOX LT AWD, 4 DR., 2.4 L., 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC, CLOTH SEATS, HEATED SEATS, NAV 14,692 MILES SN#H6311847 VEHICLE ID#7245
 \$26,995 2016 CHEV EQUINOX LTZ AWD, 4 DR., 2.4 L., 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC, LEATHER, HEATED SEATS, NAV 26,127 MILES SN#G6279062 VEHICLE ID#6374	 \$7,275 2003 CHEV SUBURBAN Z71, 1/2 T 4WD, 4 DR., 5.3 L., V-8, 4 SPEED AUTOMATIC, LEATHER SEATS 203,693 MILES SN#3G266723 VEHICLE ID#6960	 \$39,995 2015 CHEV TAHOE LTZ, 1/2 T 4WD, 4 DR., 5.3 L., V-8, 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC LEATHER, HEATED FRONT & BACK SEATS, SR, DVD, NAV 87,967 MILES SN#FR11331 VEHICLE ID#5363	 \$11,325 2008 GMC ACADIA SLT2 FWD, 4 DR., 3.6L., V-6, 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC, LEATHER SEATS, HEATED SEATS, SR, 96,612 MILES SN#8J279261 VEHICLE ID#6486	 \$25,100 2015 GMC TERRAIN SLE-2 AWD, 4 DR., 2.4 L., 4 CYL., 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC 13,642 MILES SN#F6351142 VEHICLE ID#6446	 \$8,175 2007 JEEP COM-MANDER SPORT 4WD, 4 DR. 3.7 L, V-6, 5 SPEED AUTOMATIC 161,760 MILES SN#7C546796 VEHICLE ID#7162	 \$10,995 2008 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER PRM AWD, 4 DR., 4.0 L., V-6, 5 SPEED AUTOMATIC, LEATH- ER, HEATED SEATS, SR, 113,512 MILES SN#8UJ03549 VEHICLE ID# 7255

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