

Slot machines coming to county, not Enterprise

OUT OF THE PAST
Compiled by Hanna Brandt

100 YEARS AGO
Mar. 1, 1918

A new law passed by state legislators will require every school district in Oregon to conduct school for at least eight months out of the year. The old requirement made the minimum six months; that has been the extent of the term in many rural districts.

A meeting of all persons interested in putting on a horse show in Enterprise in early spring has been called at the courthouse. Proponents John O'Malley and John M. Fruitts hope to put on a one-day exhibit with no prizes and free admission.

The Joseph High School debaters advanced another step last Friday when they defeated La Grande in the state contest. They had previously won the Wallowa County championship.

70 YEARS AGO
Feb. 26, 1948

There will soon be slot machines in most Wallowa County towns, according to plans which are now under way. The machines have already gone up in Wallowa and Joseph and will be installed in Lostine, Imnaha, Flora and other suitable "spots," according to local operators. Enterprise is still holding out against the machines, but official sentiment in their favor is said to be gaining.

The state game commission reports that 855,944



Do any of our readers know who these three amigos are? This photo was not dated and had no identification on the back. If you know, email editor@wallowa.com.

fish were released in the Union-Wallowa County watershed in 1947. This compares with a state total liberation of 18,376,874 fish.

Twelve registered Hereford bulls consigned to the fifth annual Tri-County Hereford Breeders sale at La Grande on Tuesday by N.B. Sandlin & Son brought an average of \$650 per head, for the best showing made by any consignor to the sale. Most bulls at the sale sold between \$200 and \$450 with very few going over the \$400 mark.

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 29, 1968

A fashion show was held by the Craft and Fabric Shop at the Lostine gym. Around 200 enjoyed the clothing exhibits made from materials carried by the shop.

The Enterprise Lions Club is planning to sponsor a performance by the Grande

Ronde Symphony Orchestra in Enterprise this fall. The orchestra director, Bob Groth, said that the featured number of the concert will be a piano concerto with Gail Swart, soloist.

Water content in the snow over the high Wallowa Mountain area is considerably below the measurements at this time last year, according to a survey made this week by Ted Grote and Don Baldwin who flew to seven stations in Grote's helicopter. The snow depth here at the foot of Eagle Cap Mountain is 16 feet with a water content of five feet nine inches.

25 YEARS AGO
Mar. 4, 1993

Approximately 60 hogs died in a fire early Tuesday morning that destroyed a large old barn on property leased by Diane and Mike Shetler six miles east of Joseph. "My

grandfather built that barn about 50 years ago," said Diane, noting the property, including the barn, was owned by her father, Horace Daggett.

Representatives of the Oregon Parks Division will host a public meeting on March 15 to present information to the community about the new day use fee scheduled to take effect this spring at Wallowa Lake. The park officials intend to discuss the financial difficulties that prompted the new day use fee as well as how the fee will be implemented.

Seven women will be playing 11 characters in the musical "Quilters," presented by Wallowa Valley Players and directed by Louise Kienzle. Cast in the lead as the mother is Patty Pangburn, and as her daughters (and other roles) Genevieve Thomas, Tammy Crawford, Susan Davis, Lauri Jensen, Dawn Brumm and Heather Bowlers.

LETTERS

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Remembering the old days at Joseph High

I lived in Joseph from the end of WWII (1945) until I graduated from Whitman College in 1958, and then went into the U.S. Army for two years.

I never lived in Wallowa County again as my 30 year career with General Mills moved Marlene, the kids and me many times, and I ended up retiring from GMI in 1990 and moved "out West" to California.

However, I have always called Joseph home as my parents, Ted and Eunice Newton, as well as my sister, Shirley Jennings, who passed away this last March, all lived up there and are now all buried up there in the Prairie Creek Cemetery.

I still have many thoughts about Wallowa County as my screen saver on my PC is a lovely picture of Wallowa Lake and my subscriptions to the Chieftain helps me keep up to date.

This past weekend, I was showing my grandson, Jacob, some of my old Joseph High School yearbooks, and in viewing the 1951 edition (when I was a freshman), I chuckled at the autograph of a senior Max Kiel: "To a Pal" with his signature.

Max was a good friend, and I wish I would have kept in contact with him better while I was at Whitman College. He was killed when I was a sophomore March 5, 1956, in a terrible accident while serving our country as a SeaBee in Antarctica.

He and his D8 Caterpillar plunged into an undetected estimated 300-foot deep crevasse while running the lead

dozer on a supply train. Two fellow SeaBees descended down to the wreck at about 80 feet, but Max was dead and his body remains there today 62 years later.

His father, Oscar Kiel, died before Max, also operating a logging bulldozer when he overturned on a hillside up Alan Canyon outside of Lostine, October 1952.

Max and Delwyn Zollman came to the school to notify Norma who happened to be in the gym with the other seniors getting their senior photos taken.

Supt. Bill Williams had asked me while I was in study hall if I would answer the telephone in his office for the next hour while he was in the gym with the seniors. I was briefed on what to say on the telephone and he went to the gym.

Max told me his dad was killed and he was understandably upset. I was told to go get Norma from the gym, which I did after I stopped a kid in the hallway and asked him to answer the telephone.

I told Mr. Williams in the gym why I had vacated the office, and he obviously understood, and quickly found Norma and walked her to Max and Delwyn, obviously not telling her what I knew of events.

It was the most emotional meeting I'd ever witnessed to that time when she was told of her father's death by Max; I felt so exceptionally bad for both, and emotionally drained by day's end. Norma, Max, and Delwyn weren't just fellow students, they were good friends.

Both stories are tragic, and I have never heard of any other family having a father and son die in tractor accidents.

Ed Newton
Folsom, Calif.

Trail association sets annual meeting for March 7

The Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trails Association will hold its second-annual membership meeting to welcome new members and plan for 2018 activities 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, at Toma's Conference Room, 309 S. River Street, Enterprise.

The meeting is open to all. The group is dedicated to improving the condition of the trails and cultural resources

in the area. It is a membership-based nonprofit formed Feb. 13, 2017, and has since grown to over 40 members.

It is part of the Eagle Cap Partnership, which is a cooperative agreement between Eastern Oregon University, the U.S. Forest Service and Wallowa Resources.

In 2017, the group's accomplishments included conducting 10 work parties, work-

ing on more than 26 miles of trail, and amassing more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work. The work performed on trails included removing downed trees, cutting out brush, repairing trail tread and, in some cases, rerouting trails around hazards.

"I'm very proud of our achievements in 2017, with local folks helping out and having fun while clearing trails,"

said Rick Bombaci, an association volunteer.

"We've had a chance to provide a public service, get great exercise and fresh air, see new country and develop great teamwork. There's nothing like working together toward a common goal to build community."

On the agenda for the March meeting is reviewing accomplishments from 2017, discussing project plans for 2018,

going over training opportunities, rolling out a new website and encouraging membership feedback and participation, as well as holding elections to fill three positions on the board.

"Our association has attracted national attention, and was influential in helping the Eagle Cap Wilderness and Hells Canyon complex become designated as a Priority Trails Area by the Department of

Agriculture," said Jim Akenison, the group's board chair. "We believe this recognition will pay dividends as we go forward in time."

Members are also invited to attend project planning meetings the first Monday of each month at noon in the Wallowa Resources Conference Room.

Info: info@wmhcta.org, wmhcta.org or facebook.com/wmhcta.com.

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