

# Firm's art show features 93-year-old's paintings

Four of Raines' paintings to hang at Grain Growers center

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Barbara Raines, 93, of Wallowa poses next to a few of the paintings she has enjoyed creating. Her paintings, along with paintings by Wallowa artists Therese Heinke and Dennis Reinke adorn the walls of the new Grain Growers Propane and Wood Heat storefront at 804 Depot Street. The paintings are also for sale.

Barbara Raines of Wallowa is low-key about her art — but she's got some long-term admirers. At 93, Raines has been winning accolades for her drawing since childhood.

"I don't know how long I've been painting," she said. "The first art I ever did was drawing the cabin that Snow White and the Seven Dwarves lived in on any scrap of paper I could find when I was a kid at home. I sketch a lot, and my imagination just takes over."

Her penchant for recreating cabins remains, but she's moved on to painting and added several mediums and styles over the years: from a historical depiction of a Native American camp to a study of Cypress trees in a swamp.

Those paintings are still

winning fans, and Caleb Samples, heating and cooling technician for Wallowa County Grain Growers Propane and Wood Stove Center,

is a new one.

Samples serviced Raines' propane heater recently and was so taken with the paintings he saw in her home that

he arranged for her work to be featured along with the work of fellow Wallowa artists Theresa Henke and Dennis Reinke in the new showroom for the propane and wood stove center at 804 Depot Street in Enterprise.

The showroom is now graced with four of Raines' paintings, including the most recent of a small brown cabin in a rural setting. The solitude, combined with the welcoming light shining out of the tiny window of the cabin fills viewers with a sense of peace.

Most of her paintings come directly out of her imagination, and she finds a great deal of pleasure in seeing how she can create what she has dreamed up in her mind.

But painting was never a career goal, she said.

Barbara, daughter of Wayman and Millie Larkin of Wallowa, was born on Bridge Island in Canyon County, Idaho, and she attended Nyssa Elementary for a time. The family moved to Wallowa County when she was in the third grade.

She led what she considered an ordinary life in '20s

Wallowa and met and married Paul Raines while cooking for the Minam Highway construction crew back in the '40s.

She had two sons: John, who lives in Wallowa; and Ken, who lives in Lewiston, Idaho. She still lives in her own home in Wallowa and her son, John, "takes such good care of me," she said.

She kept up her hobby over the years and gave a few pictures away as gifts, sold more, had some featured on the walls of The Hydrant in Joseph, took up painting crosscut saws for folks who requested them and did commissions.

After a lifetime of that, just how many paintings she made and where they ended up is a list that's beginning to blur.

"All in all, I can't recall," Barbara says when asked about it.

What's almost as remarkable as the length of her creative journey is the fact that Raines is almost entirely self-taught, having only taken a few lessons with La Grande painter Jan Clark back in the mid-80s. Clark, who became interested in watercolors at

about that time, introduced Raines to the medium. Clark still teaches at Art Center East in La Grande.

That class was a fun endeavor, Raines recalled, though it started from sadness. When husband Paul died in 1987, she had to have something to occupy her mind, she said, so she decided to improve her natural painting skills with lessons from Clark — held in her home. Several other ladies from the county also attended.

Barbara has outlived most of those friends.

"I still run into Jan at Walmart once in a while and get a Christmas card from Jan every year," she said.

One of the benefits of being self-taught is there are no rules. One of her paintings on display at Grain Growers was painted, in part, with a basting brush.

Participating in a show-ing late in life is a pleasure, Raines said, though she's surprised at all the fuss.

"It's just something I enjoy," she said.

You can pick up a Raines' painting for around \$325.

## March Big Read looks at comic books

Enterprise native Mike Lawrence to speak March 8

Fishtrap's Big Read dives into the genre of comics and graphic storytelling with Mike Lawrence, an Enterprise High School graduate and award winning illustrator, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at Enterprise High School. Admission is free.

There is a curious and key connection to comics in the novel, "Station Eleven," according to Mike Midlo, program manager for Fishtrap.

"The book's title comes from a mysterious graphic

novel that the main character carries with her like a sacred artifact from the past and becomes an important part of her future," he said.

Lawrence will reveal how the ancient art of graphic storytelling fires the imagination and inspires creative thinking through drawing. Those attending can watch Mike create a comic and learn why graphic storytelling is considered an important part of the literary tradition.

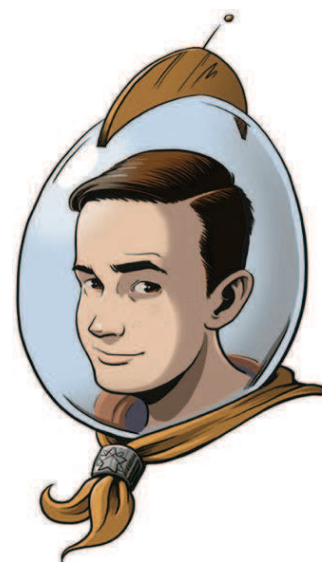
Lawrence is the award-winning illustrator of "Muddy Max: The Mystery of Marsh Creek," and the novel, "The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl." The Star Scouts series is his debut as a solo

graphic novelist.

In addition to making comics, he has created several pieces of public art in Portland.

The event is part of Fishtrap's Big Read celebration of the novel, "Station Eleven," by Emily St. John Mandel. The novel is set 20 years after a devastating flu pandemic destroys civilization and follows a traveling troupe of actors and musicians dedicated to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive through their performances.

"The Big Read broadens our understanding of the world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book," Midlo said.



Lawrence



## Movie night fundraiser planned March 3

The Faith in the Field Movie Night Tour will stop in Enterprise 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at Enterprise Christian Church, 285035 Joseph Hwy., Enterprise.

The event is designed for hunters, nonhunters, families and friends. A shoulder mount display featuring animals from Wallowa County will be included, as well as raffle prizes, silent auction and live auction.

Auction items will include firearms, hunting gear and optics as well as other donations provided by the community.

The highlight of the evening will be a four-piece film featuring two local mountain goat hunts and two local elk hunts.

Free pie and ice cream will be served following the movie. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Riggs Family. Several members have battled cancer in recent years.

Faith in the Field is devoted to spending quality time in the outdoors with God cultivating a relationship with Him in raw creation itself, a spokesman for the organization said.

## Josephy plans month-long women's art emphasis

March at Josephy Center for Arts and Culture will be devoted to art created by women.

An art show will run March 3 to April 3, with an opening event 7 p.m. March 9. Goodies prepared by Lynne Curry and drinks will be available.

Several additional events are planned:

- Abstract painting workshop with Jennifer Klimsza 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 10. No experience needed. Registration required.
- Horse sculpting workshop with Terri Malec will



This photo by Dawna VanKomen is part of an exhibit of women's art at Josephy Center.

learn" events will be held at noon each Tuesday of March. Coffee provided, bring your lunch.

- A women's tea, featuring readings by Mary Emerick and Pam Royes will be 4 p.m. March 18. Gail Swart will perform on the piano.
- Women, Words and Music Concert with Wallowa Valley Music Alliance will be 7 p.m. March 31. It is a showcase of women musicians and writers. Admission \$10.

Info: Josephy.org.

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