



Members of the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Court of 1958 were on hand for this year's coronation ceremonies: Janice Dougherty Burns, left, Judy Begley Lamy and Judy Stockdale Bothum.

Once a rodeo queen, always a rodeo queen

Wallowa County born and raised folks age well. Have you ever noticed that? I was particularly struck by that idea when I met the 1958 Chief Joseph Days Queen Court Saturday evening. Janice Dougherty Burns, Judy Begley Lamy and Judy Stockdale Bothum kept the crowd in stitches with their presentation on what it was like in the "old days."

The three were part of the 13th year of Chief Joseph Days. From the sound of it, they had a blast. And they appeared energetic enough to step right back into their roles in 2018, some 60 years later. It was clear they had a ton of fun and enjoyed every minute of their year in the spotlight. It was my pleasure to have a chance to meet and chat with them.



WAHL TO WALL
Paul Wahl

LAST YEAR, the coronation was the first event my wife and I attended after arriving in Wallowa County. We didn't know anyone, and by the end of the evening, we weren't completely sure what we had gotten ourselves into.

This year was entirely different. We knew a large number of people at the event, some have become good friends over the past year.

We knew both royalty candidates personally and their families. We sat with Del and Brinda Stanley and anyone we didn't know, they did.

I did something I haven't done in a very long time. When we entered, Debby Short handed me our tickets, and we went inside. I went to work shooting and interviewing folks, and when it came time to go through the chow line, those dang tickets were nowhere to be found.

Debby graciously replaced them and vouched for us. I still haven't found those tickets.

WE ALSO attended the Enterprise Education Foundation "We Love Our Kids" auction on Friday night. Cloverleaf Hall was packed, and everyone had a good time. Most importantly, everyone reached deep into their wallets to help support this amazing organization.

The program listed more than 100 donors. It took some work, but we managed to walk away with a silent auction item my wife had her eye on from the moment we walked in the door.

This year a full-blown dinner wasn't part of the auction; however, the desserts were a big hit. Our table was served a fresh fruit tart that was totally delicious.

The foundation is making a difference in the quality of education in Enterprise. Kudos to them for their efforts.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

District would unfairly tax farmers, ranchers

Once again, we are speaking out for landowners who own a fair amount of taxable property.

Having libraries is a great thing for everyone, but if the proposed taxpayer-funded library district is approved, then the landowners will have to carry the tax load one more time.

Raising property taxes is unfair and lopsided. For instance, if the ballot measure is approved at 65 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, a \$300,000 homeowner would pay an additional \$195 annually, a \$95,000 homeowner will pay an additional \$61.75 and a rancher or farmer with \$1 million in valuation would pay \$650.

If all three entities are using the libraries equally, then who is getting the short end of the stick?

It is more reasonable and fair to have the libraries be funded by fees paid by those who use them.

U.S. Forest Service charges permit and trail head fees to those who use the wilderness, and national parks charge a day or camping fee to fund the use and maintenance.

If the library district tax isn't approved, then the libraries will have to charge fees or cut back on some of their services. Fees may be lower than paying extra taxes.

If the district is approved, then farms and ranches will have to cut back on their services or charge more for their operations because of the increase.

We can't afford to keep relying on the increase of property taxes in this county to be the answer to funding every financial problem that arises.

Casey and Kim Tippet
Joseph

Lifelong library user chimes in



GUEST COLUMN
Bonnie Marks

Libraries are important to our communities. Not only do they provide educational, computer and multi-media resources to people of all ages and promote a love of reading and learning, they provide a safe environment for all.

Combining all Wallowa County Libraries into one service district will expand and enhance services with improved efficiency, while providing stable funding. I fully support the formation of the library district.

My love for libraries started when my mother first took me there as a child. We lived out in the country and didn't have television.

Saturday was town day, and at least twice a month, it included a stop at the library. I soon had my own library card and learned to be responsible for the books I borrowed.

When I was in fourth grade, we moved into town, living only a block from the library. I walked to school and often stopped at the library on my way home. It was one of my favorite places. By the end of that school year, we were moving back to the country.

By junior high, I was using both the school and public libraries. I became a library aide and worked my free period each day at the school library. There I



From early learning through late in life learning to the simple joy of a good read, the library has something for everyone."

learned how to shelve books and help library users find what they were looking for. I did everything from entering new books in the card system and repairing bindings on well-used books to extend their life.

When I married Don and moved to the ranch on Imnaha, we made frequent visits to the Imnaha Library. To this day, we continue to use the library on a regular basis.

Later, I was the librarian at the Imnaha Library for about four years. It was rewarding to watch the school students grow in their ability to read and love of reading.

Needs change, and what libraries offer changes to meet those needs. It used to be just books to check out, then came story hour, books on tape and videos. Now there are all those plus computers for public use, DVD's, after school programs, proctoring for on-line college students, "Deliver Me a Book" for those who can't get to the library and more.

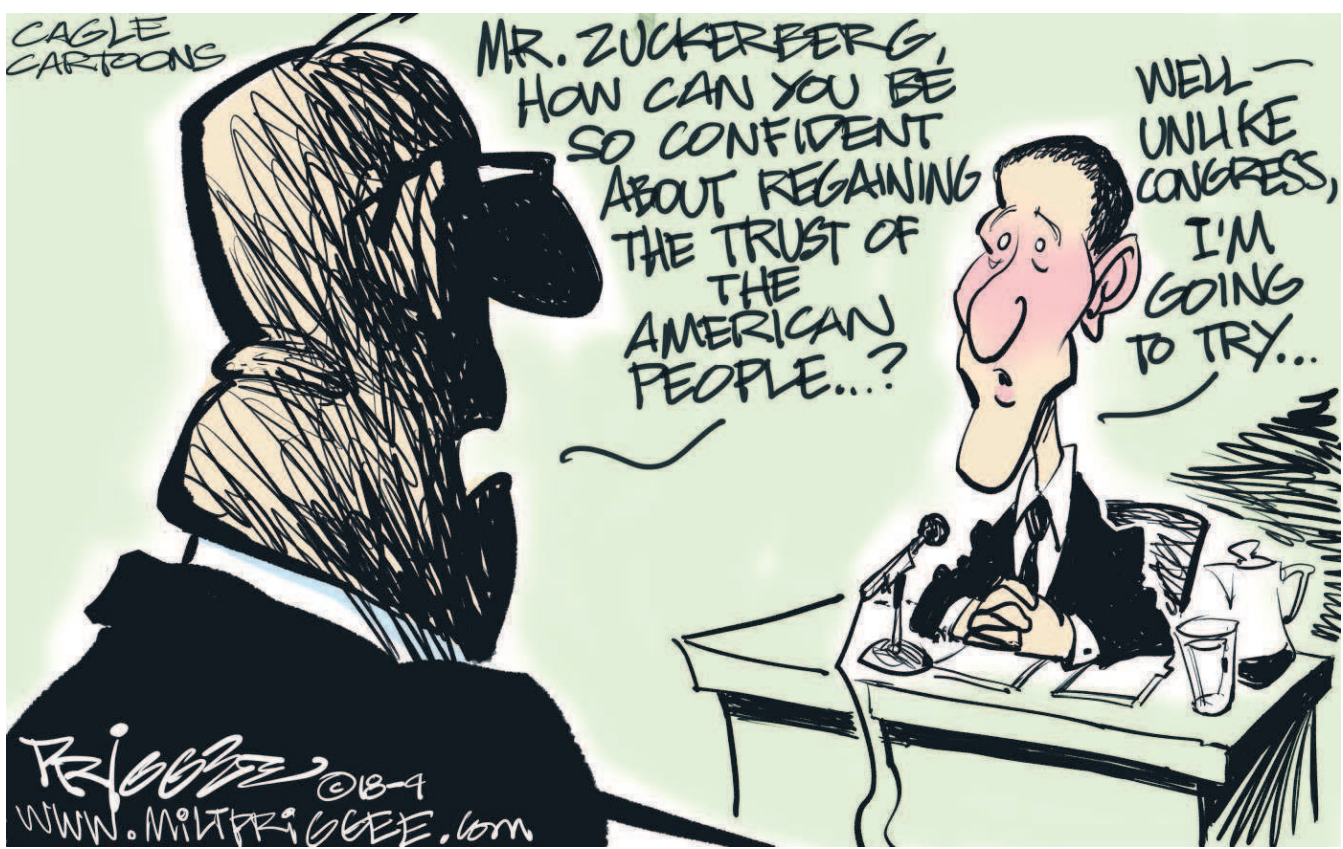
We don't want to lose any of these services, and we will if the Wallowa County Library closes. We will lose much of the programming and grant funding for all of the libraries in Wallowa County.

If it is not approved, those of us who don't live in one of the towns with a city library will no doubt have to pay a hefty yearly fee for a library card to use one of the city libraries.

I urge you to consider the value a good stable library system has for the county. From early learning through late in life learning to the simple joy of a good read, the library has something for everyone.

Please join me in voting "yes" for Wallowa County Libraries.

Bonnie Marks is a long-time resident of Imnaha and retired postmaster for the community.



It's women's month, women's time

March is always Women's Month at the Josephy Center. The art show features women artists; there's a reading night with women writers and this year the addition of "musical stories" on Gail Swart's piano. And then a final, full-blown women musicians night.

Janis Carper coordinates the concert and gives us her own music. In the last 15 years, at the Methodist Camp and Wallowa Lake Lodge, on the stage at the courthouse, Embers and at the Josephy Center, Janis has amazed with musical athleticism.

She plays guitar and mandolin and saxophone and moves from bluegrass to jazz at the flick of a fellow performer. She sings harmony or lead, and smoothly catches up with guest musicians on fiddle, piano or accordion.

I had to get that in about Janis, because she's a star, a musician herself who is helping and encouraging others — men and women — to make music.

Janis set it up, but it was at the Josephy Center.

"Harmony Rising," a chorus of women singers who led off the music show, sing a cappella and get bigger and better with each performance. This year there were 12 women. They are realtors and foresters, women you've seen with fiddle or guitar, and women who've never been on a stage, women born and raised here and others new. As a 75 year-old white man, I am absolutely thrilled to see women take the stage. Any stage. The first time I saw it was actually in Turkey when I was a Peace Corps volunteer. It was 1965, and I met my first women doctors and engineers in a country pulled into the 20th



MAIN STREET
Rich Wandschneider

century by a man they called Ataturk — father of the Turks. Ataturk had founded the modern country in 1923 and immediately given women the vote and seats at many tables.

That must have given me courage in my first Wallowa County job at the Extension Service. I was in charge of a program called Neighborhood Youth Corps. Working with Bob Palmer at the Forest Service, I sent a crew of 14- to 16-year-old boys and girls to Billy Meadows for a summer. Later, we used special programs to put women on trail crews.

Title 9 came along, and we had girls basketball teams locally and a rising number of women in medical and law schools across the country.

I thought we were on the way to equity, and we are making progress: my OSU Ag class at Eastern has been 50-50 men and women the past four years; most of our county docs are women; Sales Force is in the media explaining how deeply rooted inequality in the workforce is, and how they are working to change it. And women across the country — Democrats and Republicans — are lining up for the 2018 fall elections.

But the backlash is immense. In my old second country, Turkey, an authoritarian government is chipping away at many of Ataturk's reforms, and although women in academia and writing from abroad are

speaking out, their in-country presence is tough.

In our country, many pundits attribute Trump's presidential victory to the rise of angry white men, while the campaign videos of Donald Trump boasting about having his way with women have helped propel the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

We had another unique event this women's month: Rep. Pramila Jayapal talked to a group of men and women live from her congressional office in Washington, D.C. Although she represents a Seattle district in Congress, she is a frequent visitor to the Wallows with many local friends.

Pramila, an immigrant from India at 16, didn't set out to be a politician, but rose with the times and Seattle area concerns about race and gender. Our conversation was wide-ranging, and her constant reminder was that it is women's time.

The movements — yes, but more importantly, women are primarily engaged in issues that concern all Americans: health care; income disparity; war and peace. And they are running for office.

Times are changing. Like an increasing number of older white guys, I have a brown granddaughter, and I want her to be free of assault, able to work where and how she wants and to be justly paid for it.

Maybe she'll run for congress someday. Maybe your granddaughter will be President or Secretary of Defense. Women have rarely made war. They've been busy raising families and promoting harmony.

Columnist Rich Wandschneider lives in Joseph.

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

VOLUME 134 USPS No. 665-100

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Wallowa County's Newspaper Since 1884

MEMBER OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Published every Wednesday by: EO Media Group

Interim Publisher Kathryn B. Brown, kbbrown@eomediagroup.com
Editor Paul Wahl, editor@wallowa.com
Reporter Stephen Tool, steve@wallowa.com
Reporter Kathleen Eilyn, kellyn@wallowa.com
Newsroom assistant editor@wallowa.com
Ad sales consultant Jennifer Powell, jpowell@wallowa.com
Office manager Cheryl Jenkins, cjenkins@wallowa.com

Periodical Postage Paid at Enterprise and additional mailing offices

Subscription rates (includes online access)	1 Year
Wallowa County	\$40.00
Out-of-County	\$57.00

Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

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