

CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS RODEO COURT 2019



Bethany Anderson



Rylee Wilcox



Katelynn Diggins

Paul Wahl
Chieftain

Activities relating to the 2019 Chief Joseph Days Rodeo in Joseph began Sunday with the selection of the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Court for next year. Three young women tried out at Harley Tucker Memorial Arena on a warm and hazy afternoon and were selected — Bethany Anderson, Katelynn Diggins and Rylee Wilcox. The girls completed several events showing their riding skill, including a shot at barrel racing and a reining pattern.

WOODS

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held the lead at the Open on Sunday before finishing sixth.

Then at the PGA Championship, Woods fired off his best round ever on a Sunday in a major, scoring a 64 and finishing just two strokes behind Koepka in second place.

On that Sunday, Tiger looked like his old self. While his drives were erratic, his scrambling was phenomenal, his irons were spot on, and his putting was sensational.

His four birdies over the final seven holes kept the crowd roaring, and on the last two holes, he sank putts from the 15-foot range in a valiant effort to overtake Koepka.

But Brooks Koepka was steady as a rock on Sunday.

He led Adam Scott by three strokes starting the day, and his final round 66 included six birdies and only two bogeys.

His performance was solid but not spectacular, but it should not be underestimated, especially considering all the thunder from the gallery chasing Woods just ahead of him.

Koepka has now won three of the last seven majors, adding the 2018 PGA to his two US Open wins in 2017 and 2018. He deserves more than the polite applause that he received as he walked up to the 18th hole when Tiger's legion of fans tried to swallow their disappointment at the final outcome.

He certainly deserves to have his name pronounced correctly by the television commentators. It should be pronounced as Kep-ka, not Kop-ka, as one analyst did,

and his first name is Brooks, not Bruce, as another commentator mistakenly said at least twice.

Brooks Koepka was not the lead story on Monday morning after this year's PGA Championship was in the books. But at age 28, with three majors to his credit, Koepka is now the No. 2 ranked golfer in the world, behind only Dustin Johnson.

To put Koepka's current standing in context, Tiger is now ranked No. 26 in the world, even after his recent revival.

But make no mistake. Tiger is on the rise, and so will be golf's television ratings. His hunt for a 15th major will begin anew at next year's Masters Tournament. Stay tuned.

John McColgan writes from his home in Joseph.

WEATHER

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enemy, "the silent and insidious killer associated with global warming."

Basking in warm (if smoky) days and warm water in the Wallows, one wonders what it all means. We know now that one of the big drivers of the Middle Eastern unrest is drought.

Drought on the land filled the cities in Iraq and Syria and North Africa and grew to unrest and the "Arab Spring."

Drought in the Middle East and in Africa is fueling the refugee crisis in Europe. And drought in South and Central America and Mexico is driving people from rural lands to their cities and north to the US and Canada.

Few news stories put weather and politics together — but put "drought" and the

name of a country in those regions together and see what your computer finds.

Or, closer to home, think about California. Can I sell you a vineyard in Napa Valley? Or a beachfront home — or one in the fire-charred foothills — in Southern California. Or, further south, how about a houseboat on Lake Mead, formed by the giant Hoover Dam and now holding 50 percent of normal water levels.

My guess is that our population, which has shifted to sun in the south over the past decades, is on the verge of migration the other way.

In the east, there is Louisiana sinking into the sea; in Texas and the Southwest into California, drought and fire. Northwest coasts are inviting. But there are red tides somehow tied to warmer waters.

And algae blooms in inland lakes. Still, coastal cit-

ies are growing and Portland is exploding.

I've done no survey of new people moving here, and casual conversations touch on traffic and crowds, but rarely on weather and fire — although I have heard some vacationers who have landed here fleeing from southern and central Oregon places looking for respite from smoke.

Wallowa Country, even through the haze, is looking better to many. And a warmer Wallowa Lake, which might not bode well for downstream salmon, is a nice place to be on our own 95-degree days.

And if your sister or mother is fighting heat in Phoenix or running from fire in Redding, what are you going to tell her?

Columnist Rich Wandschneider lives in Joseph.

LETTERS

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expenses on the facility, and it goes unused for the most part.

There needs to be an hourly rate, a daily rate (far less than \$200) and a weekend rate. There needs to be a separate rate for rental with the kitchen. There should also be a rate for use of the kitchen only.

There are many missed opportunities, and it all relates back to a "flat rate" of \$200 per event per day. Much updating could be done considering the money lost, but apparently nobody sees that?

Doug Dutton
Joseph

More info needed on Dunn plan

I read with interest a Chieftain article where county commissioner-elect Bruce Dunn is proposing an NRAC-like council for a human and social resource advisory committee.

The incorporation of real estate interests on that seems odd, as was the statement that he doesn't know if "those people" talk to each other. Uh, yes. They generally do already as they co-leverage resources.

Adding another layer of meetings — unless we can be assured that the county will be guided by the advice they get — seems ill thought out. Most people working in the areas he

describes are working more than a 40-hour a week job already, and unless the county is planning to pay members, this takes away from their ability to fundraise and provide services.

The article resulted in a friend commenting that this looked like "a closed group," and I think it has the potential for that.

I have worked with NRACs in the past, and one of the specific things they do is direct spending of a portion of money and leveraging outside money — the very thing Dunn says he doesn't want.

Before we set up another group, I'd like to see a well-thought-out description of

the issues the group will be dealing with and the rules for selection, which for such groups often includes a background check.

I would like to know the tenure for the group members, the authority the county is prepared to grant such a council (oversight over spending some county funds) and how the commissioners plan to organize and manage this entity.

I can tell you, an NRAC is a paper-producing beast.

I can see the potential benefit, but the cost of managing an organization like this correctly has not been addressed. I look forward to learning a lot more.

Kathy Bowman
Joseph

Barn dance planned Aug. 25 at Blue Barn

Wallowa Resources Barn Dance and Auction Fund-raiser will be 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25 at The Blue Barn, 63327 Tenderfoot Valley Road, Joseph.

Festivities begin with a social hour followed by a barbecue featuring sides from Backyard Gardens and local beef from Jess and Zane Anderson.

The live auction offers items and adventures from local businesses and artists, but there are red tides somehow tied to warmer waters.

Countryside Band.

All of the proceeds from this event will benefit Wallowa Resources' efforts to create jobs in land and water stewardship, promote sustainable technology and renewable energy, help control invasive weeds on range and forest lands, and provide top notch outdoor youth stewardship learning opportunities.

Tickets are only available at The Bookloft, on the Wallowa Resources website and from board members.

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