



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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## ACCIDENTAL SUCCESS

### The life and philosophy of the Stilsons



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Judy and Jim Stilson of Joseph (and Flash). The Stilsons were honored as Cattlemen of the Year by the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association.

**By Kathleen Ellyn**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**J**im (1941) and Judy (1947) Stilson were honored at the Stockgrowers Banquet last month as 2018 Honorary Cattleman of the Year. As usual, the story of how Jim and Judy made their lives in Wallowa County as cattle ranchers — or in this case, horse trainers and cattle ranchers — is a tale worth repeating.

So, about that horse named Linoleum. Story is, Jim went to town one Valentine's Day and Judy was sure he was going to come home with a brand-new piece of Linoleum for Judy's kitchen. Judy was a farm wife and linoleum was

an acceptable Valentine's gift.

"We really needed a new kitchen floor," Judy said. "I was doing some remodeling." Instead, Jim got sucked into a great temptation — he went to the auction yard. And he gave in to temptation — and came home with a horse instead.

"He called her Val because it was Valentines Day and tried to convince me she was my present," Judy said.

She wasn't having that, and Jim had to go back to town and do better, but the horse stayed and was named Linoleum.

And that story should tell you a lot about ranch life and Jim and Judy Stilson, particularly their sense of humor.

Jim and Judy grew up fairly near each

other in the Palouse Valley of Washington and both their fathers, Dean Stilson (and wife Jean) and Ray Harp (and wife Bea) were grain farmers.

Jim's mother, Jean, was a school teacher and Judy's mother, Bea, was a farm wife. Jim and Judy knew one another through friends and cousins, but "we weren't impressed with one another in high school," Judy said.

Judy went to business college in Spokane and Jim studied general agriculture — but he didn't want to be a grain farmer like his father.

"I wanted to be a cowboy," he said.

They liked each other a lot better when

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## Appeal possible of Lostine corridor suit

### Environmental groups mulling over options

**By Steve Tool**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The lawsuit filed by environmental groups Greater Hells Canyon Council and Oregon Wild to stop the Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project received another setback Aug. 17.

District Court Judge Michael Simon upheld the findings and recommendations of Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan, who determined there was no merit in the suit.

The U.S. Forest Service proposed the corridor project in order to implement fire mitigation treatments along the 11 miles and 2,200 acres skirting Lostine River Road. The treatments include forest thinning, removal of hazard trees and some commercial logging.

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## Biomass project is back on line

### Downtown businesses would benefit from cheaper heating source

**By Kathleen Ellyn**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

A project designed to supply cheap heating to downtown Enterprise businesses is back on track.

Kyle Petrocine, program manager for Wallowa Resources and Community Solutions Inc., has been in discussion with businesses that could benefit from the biomass project and recently presented an update to Enterprise City Council.

Wallowa Resources received an Oregon Department of Forestry grant to do the initial design three years ago, but afterward, fluctuations in the price of fuel oil resulted in the project being shelved.

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## Enterprise youth wages battle against rare form of cancer

### Undergoing Rife Frequency Therapy

**By Kathleen Ellyn**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Boldness may have saved Jalyn Radford-Weeks' life. And he's determined to keep on being bold in hopes of saving the lives of other young men.

In early July, Jalyn, 17, of Enter-

prise discovered a painful lump on one of his testicles. He had learned about testicular cancer in health class at school, and he knew he needed to tell someone about it.

"He texted me at work, July 5, and asked if I could come by his work," said his mother Vixen Radford-Weeks. "That's not normal for a teenager."

Jalyn told his mother what the problem was and asked her to make him an appointment with a doctor.

"I thought, he really didn't say what I just heard," said Vixen. But he had said it. She made an appointment immediately.

The biopsy came back July 12. It was cancer. It wasn't the more common and highly treatable testicular seminoma cancer, it was a rarer more aggressive embryonal cancer — a germ cell cancer.

One-fifth to two-thirds of young men who are diagnosed find the cancer has metastasized.

Back-to-back appointments began. By July 19, Jalyn was in the hospital with grandad Monte Radford and dad Jeffery Weeks at his side when he went in for surgery to remove his left testicle.

A few weeks of recovery later, he was back at OHSU to hear his treatment options going forward. Although testing had shown cancer cells in the spermatic duct, doctors were not saying the cancer had metastasized. However, recent blood-

work results gave cause for concern.

According to the American Cancer Society, radiation therapy can cause an increased risk of getting a second cancer (outside of the testicle) later in life, so full radiation therapy was not an option high on the list for the Radford-Weeks family, though Jalyn now carries two small "radioactive rocks" in his pocket as a part of treatment.

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## JAMMIN' AT THE JAM 10th Juniper Jam plays to large audience at the fairgrounds

**By Steve Tool**  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Portland band Anita Lee and the Handsome Three play their unique blend of psychedelic country at the 10th annual Juniper Jam held at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds on Sept. 1.

Blue skies and perfect weather greeted the 10th annual Juniper Jam at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds Sept. 1. The event is the premiere fundraiser for the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance.

The all-day event featured 15 music acts, all performing original compositions, a prerequisite to take the stage. Alliance executive director Janis Carper said the event was a tremendous success.

This year's jam saw several twists. The songwriter contest fell to the wayside due to a lack of entrants coupled with the fact the event proved a time drain.

"There was a lot of work involved," Carper said, "and the return was minimal." She didn't rule out bringing it back in the future, however.

The festival also included an additional

two hours of music, also with buskers playing at different stations as soon as the gates opened. Buskers entertain in a public place for donations.

"It made a nice way to start the day," she said.

Carper's favorite part of the event was the way the music of each band flowed into the next act, giving the jam continuity. She said that feeling can be difficult to achieve, given variables such as genre, music style, gender and others.

"I was super pleased that every band played at just the time it needed to," she said.

Kory Quinn was the only act that had previously played the festival although he performed with an entirely new band. Several performers had also played the jam as musicians in other bands.

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