

New venue spells success for 2018 festival of arts

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Artists with works in the 2018 Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts walked away with more than \$5,000 in prize money, not to mention thousands more in sales during the Sept. 13-16 show. The festival is sponsored by the Wallowa Valley Arts Council.

"I'm tired, but it went really well," festival director Jeff Costello said.

According to Costello, art sales went well, particularly in light of the venue change from the Joseph Community Center to the Joseph Center and Mt. Joseph Lodge. Also, the show juried in less art for a higher quality show.

The show drew entrants from all over the country, the farthest being sculptor Bill Wolff of Maryland. Costello added that the majority of the art came from the Pacific Northwest.

"There's a real respect and affinity for the Joseph Center," Costello said. "We wanted the art to be enhanced and complemented by the structure. It is our arts and culture center, so it make sense to have the festival based there."

He added that Mt. Joseph



Steve Tool/Chieftain

This year's Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts brought in 250-300 art patrons at its official opening night at the Joseph Center and Mt. Joseph Lodge on Friday, Sept. 14. The show awarded more than \$5000 in prize money to category winners.

Lodge across the street equally enhances the art.

The director also noted that attendance was above average with an estimated 250-300 people attending both venues during the popular Friday night festival opening.

The success of the "Quick Draw" competition, which took place at the Mt. Joseph Lodge, also pleased festival staff. Formerly a catered indoor event with an admission charge, this year, the event was

held outdoors in the afternoon with free admission. According to Costello, many more people came off the streets to watch the event transpire than the paid admission crowd last year.

"I think we did just as well on bidding and numbers," he said. "When we looked at what each piece went for, it was a wonderful success."

In a windfall for some of the winners, certain category sponsors augmented the prize money. For example, one \$200

award skyrocketed to \$500 while another went from \$200 to \$450.

"It's always nice when some of the sponsors and donors kick in a little more to up the ante," Costello said. "The artists are so grateful, and it means a lot to them."

Costello said that the artists and attendees liked the change of venues so much that the arts council hopes to keep the same locations for next year's festival.

LETTERS

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Williams vs. Williams Wes is methodical calm and open-minded

We support Wes Williams for Circuit Court judge in November.

We have known Wes through many years of collaboration, especially during Sandra's experience as a family law attorney, mediator and chair of the Family Law Advisory Committees in both counties.

In that capacity, he interacted extensively with both the other attorneys and the judges. He gained a deep appreciation for the personal and intellectual qualities that result in "judicial temperament."

Stephen has served for 18 years with many Oregon judges on the Chief Justice's Statewide Family Law Committee.

In our opinion, a judge should be calm, methodical, scrupulous, compassionate and open-minded. These qualities reflect personality, experience and education.

In our interactions, Wes exhibited the qualities necessary in an effective judicial officer. He was well-informed on the law.

He showed a genuine concern for finding workable solutions for clients' problems and not making their situation worse through endless wrangling. He was willing to hear

out another point of view.

His broad experience, good relations with other members of the bar and excellent temperament make him extremely well-qualified to serve as Circuit Court Judge in Union and Wallowa counties. We would be very fortunate to have a judge of his caliber.

This November presents a rare chance to make a real difference in the quality of our local bench. We endorse him with enthusiasm and hope that you will concur.

Sandra Purnell
Stephen Adams
La Grande

Former Union DA supports Wes

I support Wes Williams for Circuit Court Judge.

I have known him for almost 25 years since he first came to Eastern Oregon to practice law. Our contact has been primarily professional, since I was then the administrator of the Indigent Defense Consortium for Union and Wallowa Counties and later the Union County District Attorney.

Wes and I faced each other in a number of trials, so I've had lots of opportunity to observe him.

Wes has a set of qualities which really suit him to be judge. He works hard and is always prepared, arrives early and leaves late. He has a deep love for the law and for ethical standards.

Most important, he is a true gentleman; he treats everyone with respect — not only judges and lawyers and court staff, but also his opponent's wit-

nesses, even those who look as though they haven't bathed.

I believe those traits are part of his character, and I'm confident that he'll carry them with him when he's elected. Wes is uniquely qualified to be a Circuit Court Judge in Eastern Oregon.

Martin J. Birnbaum
La Grande

Birnbaum is a retired Union County District Attorney

Mona K. already a judge; keep her

Gov. Kate Brown appointed Wallowa County District Attorney Mona K. Williams to the position of Circuit Court Judge in mid-2018 after conducting a thorough review and vetting of professional credentials and personal background checks of all candidates. Judge Mona K. Williams was the best qualified lawyer at the time of the appointment and nothing has changed.

While serving as the Union County District Attorney 2006-14, I worked regularly with Mona and her staff. I had many opportunities to observe her in personal and professional roles.

She is thoroughly enjoyable on a personal level and this carries through into her professional life. She possesses impeccable integrity, a comprehensive knowledge of criminal and civil law and an admirable work ethic.

Most importantly, Mona has a well-developed sense of fairness, justice and accountability. These qualities must be utilized in the correct measure to insure fair litigation and resolutions to parties before the Circuit Court.

Litigants need fair hearings, victims should be heard and supported, public safety should be promoted, and offenders need to be held accountable for their actions.

I urge citizens in Union and Wallowa counties to support Judge Mona K. Williams.

Timothy R. Thompson
Dallas, Ore.



WES WILLIAMS
FOR JUDGE

Integrity,
Fairness,
Experience

Business booming in Wallowa County

Center's numbers are up overall

By Kathleen Ellyn

Wallowa County Chieftain

Four new businesses, 11 new jobs and \$313,510 in increased sales have been reported in Wallowa County in 2018.

Those numbers, compiled by the Wallowa County Small Business Development Center, are even more impressive when compared to the reports from 2016. In less than two years, 20 more clients have availed themselves of free counseling; three times the hours of counseling have been booked by entrepreneurs; and training events offered have increased from one in 2016 to seven in 2018.

In just five months of 2018, center advisers Dennis Sands and Kristy Athens served 118 clients in 269 sessions for a total of approximately 192 hours.

Recent clients were Roots Salon, Joe Trolley, Pioneer Portraits and The Vanilla Stag Bakery.

All this had been accomplished in Wallowa County on a budget of \$12,000. Wallowa County Board of Commissioners regularly votes to support the center from video lottery funds, and pledged \$10,000 at a recent meeting. Other expenses are covered by donations, a \$30,000 grant from the Small Business Association and other sources.

WEBSITES TOPIC FOR CLASS

Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a program, "Grow Your Business by Growing Your Online Presence," 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2 at the chamber, 309 S. River St., Enterprise.

The session will provide information on how to maximize your investment in an online presence. Katherine Cleland is the instructor.

Individuals who are clients of Small Business Development Center can make arrangements ahead of time to have a website review completed.

Preregistration is required. Course fee is \$59. Visit contact@203FR1M.

Training events have included classes on Quickbooks and Quickbooks Payroll, marketing basics, marketing on a budget, introduction to social media, website tune-up and more. Businesses are surveyed to learn their greatest needs to determine what trainings will be most useful, and the center obtains grants to support services and reduce workshop registration fees.

The Wallowa County SBDC office is at 401 Northeast First Street in Enterprise, inside the Wallowa Resources building. Call 541-278-5864 or email sbdc@bluecc.edu.

MCCAIN

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less successful but persistent attempts to improve immigration policies.

McCain ran for president twice, in 2000 and 2008. His primary battle against George W. Bush was thwarted in South Carolina, after a particularly venomous smear campaign against him took its toll. He lost an honorable battle against Barack Obama in 2008.

One of his best moments in that campaign came in response to a voter who accused Obama of being "an Arab." McCain politely but bluntly replied, "No ma'am. He's a decent family man, citizen, that I just happen to have disagreements with on

fundamental issues."

McCain was a man of principle, but also one who knew the value of respect and forgiveness. It is a lasting tribute to his spirit that he honored both President George W. Bush and President Obama by inviting them to deliver eulogies at his funeral. His pallbearers included friends from both sides of the aisle.

It is also telling that he requested that President Trump and his former running mate, Sarah Palin, not be invited to his funeral. Even as he faced death, McCain understood that our country deserves a high standard of dignity and tolerance among those who are expected to make a good faith effort to solve the nation's problems.

WALLOWA COUNTY
Health Line

Wallowa Valley Eye Care
519 W. North Street, Enterprise
541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

#Be There

You can help veterans, service members and their families by sharing that suicide prevention starts with the simple act of support: Be There.

- ✓ Send a text to a friend
- ✓ Stop by a friend's house
- ✓ Be a gym buddy
- ✓ Meet for coffee

When emotional issues reach a crisis point, Veterans and their loved ones should contact the Veterans Crisis Line or Wallowa County's Crisis Line, (541) 398-1175.

Learn more at www.veteranscrisisline.net

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE

for weekly advertising is **5pm Friday** for the following week. Ad copy is due on **Monday at 10am**. Ads must be approved by **Tuesday at 12pm**.

Contact Jennifer Cooney today for all your advertising needs!
jcooney@wallowa.com
541-805-9630

Wallowa County
CHIEFTAIN
209 NW First St., Enterprise • 541-426-4567