

## Center: Long-planned project becomes a reality

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Today, the Wallowa band's descendants are spread across the Lapwai, Umatilla and Colville Reservations. At the new center, you can learn about their lives today as well as in the past.

The center includes historical artifacts and reproductions, a teepee that kids delight in, and a "please touch me" collection of materials, from feathers and cured hides to roots, important to the Nez Perce. The season cycle of foods, or "First Foods" is also featured in the exhibit. If you've ever wondered what time of year is traditional for eating Chinook salmon, or deer or Qwos, this is the place to find out!

For those who love maps and geography, there's a



Exhibit fabricator J.R. Rymut looks over the 3D map of the Wallowa Band Nez Perce territory that she fabricated while Ron Cameron traces the route on the Wallowa Band's flight toward refuge in Canada. The new center opened May 25.

3D relief map that shows the extent of the Walwáama band's lands, including Hells Canyon, the Imnaha, and the Wallowas. It shows major trails and the Nez Perce names for many places. J.R. Rymut fabricated the map

and other exhibit pieces in her new studio in Enterprise.

The Oregon Heritage Commission funded initial planning for the center. The generous support of many individual donors as well as grants from the Meyer

Memorial Trust, Oregon Cultural Foundation, Wild Horse Foundation, supported remodeling and exhibit production.

The Wallowa Band Nez Perce Visitor's Interpretive Center is located at 209 East Second Street in downtown Wallowa. A short walk from the center leads to a new bridge across the Wallowa River and into the Tamkaliks grounds. Summer hours at the new center are noon to 4 PM on weekdays. The center is looking for a few more dedicated volunteers who could help keep the facility open for visitors on weekends.

For more information, call the center at 541 886-3101 or contact Angela Bombaci at [angela@wallowanezperce.org](mailto:angela@wallowanezperce.org).

## Memorial Day: Faithful make Memorial Day something to remember

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Its observance started as a sort of unofficial commemoration of the dead shortly after the nation's own peculiar Armageddon, the Civil War. The ensuing years saw more conflict and war. The tradition did not abate. It finally became a federally recognized holiday in 1971.

Wallowa County has the highest per capita veteran population in the state. These men and women know the meaning of duty, and many, members of either the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion, make the rounds

of the county's cemeteries on the last Monday of May each year to ensure none of the fallen lay forgotten.

The culmination of the observance ends at the county courthouse, the grounds that harbor the Fountain of Honor, with its inscribed walls, benches and bricks a reminder of those who serve and have served.

After the raising of the flag, the singing of the anthem, the warble of trumpets, the reading of the names of the departed over the past year and the parting salute by rifle fire, one thing is clear: We in Wallowa County remember.

## Farmers Market: Dozens of people attended the market at new location

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say, "Thank you for supporting the market." Now they have a better place to congregate with more parking. Dan Stein couldn't have been a kinder or more big-hearted person by letting us have this place for the market."

Joseph resident and frequent market customer Meg Bowen thought the new venue a great showcase for the market.

"I love it," she said. "I love it because I live close enough that I can look out my front door and see that the tents are up and the market is open and ready. I feel like Stein's and the Blythe Cricket have fully embraced us in our new location."

She said she also loved the fact that people were coming into town and stopping at the market, evidenced by the dozens of cars parked in the area. Bowen added that the community support for the market was phenomenal and it was her hope that market attendees would continue into town to give business to local merchants as well.

"I think this is the best situation that could have happened given the light of the decision that the market had to move on such short notice," she said. Bowen noted that Stein's Distillery had done a great job of advertising the event and that adjacent restaurant, Blythe Cricket was also doing brisk business as well.

"This market is an incubator for brick and mortar businesses in town, and anybody who can't see that is crazy," she said.

"We're the scrappy little farm market that could," Bowen said. "We may be moved, but we're back now, stronger than ever."



TOP: Calico Bones lends a happy beat to the opening of the 2019 Wallowa County Farmers Market on Saturday, May 25, at its new location at Stein's Distillery. LEFT: Market supporter Meg Bowen examines the ware of Lostine silver smith Anne Robinson. ABOVE: The Wallowa County Farmers Market debuted in its new location in the Stein's Distillery parking lot. Dozens of people attended the market and several vendors had their best opening market day ever.

Steve Tool/Chieftain

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[aguilarjaa@gmail.com](mailto:aguilarjaa@gmail.com)

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