

Brunkow enjoys Joseph photography business

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Due to its inherent beauty, Wallowa County tends to attract a lot of photographers. David Brunkow is one of the latest to set up shop in Wallowa County at his storefront at 207 N. Main St. in Joseph.

Born and raised in Portland, Brunkow eventually made his way to Lake Oswego and moved to the Wallowa Valley about three years ago. He remembered vacationing at Wallowa Lake State Park as a boy.

"That's when the hook got set," he said. "I learned a lot about the culture and a lot about the people, and how can you not like the landscape, even as a young person?"

As he became a corporate photographer, he hired on with Cycle Oregon for 15 years, which allowed him to make more trips to this area, which reinforced his idea that this was where he wanted to be.

"My story is, I said to myself: 'When I grow up, I want to live over here,' so I figure I'm almost grown up and maybe I'm a little ahead of the game."

Brunkow said he fell into the craft purely by accident. He started attending college to pursue a dentistry degree and realized it wasn't where he wanted to be. He went to



Steve Tool/Chieftain

At your service — photographer David Brunkow set up shop at 207 N. Main St. in Joseph. The shop has Brunkow photos as well as coasters, cards and other items that feature his photography.

work in a factory and a girlfriend who worked in a hotel gave him a camera that a customer left and never returned to claim. The camera was an old Kodak 35 mm film camera that had to have the back taped shut.

"I took some pictures that I liked and other people liked, and little by little, I started doing some landscapes, not really knowing what I was doing," he said.

A friend eventually hired him to do a daughter's wed-

'I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, BEING ABLE TO DO PHOTOGRAPHY.'

David Brunkow

ding. Brunkow also found an opportunity to further his skills at a darkroom rental business in Portland. There, he saw the work of other photographers and gleaned more information and skills from them, including his most important lesson:

"Photography is all about the light — it has nothing to do with what kind of camera you have; it's your eye and the light," he said.

His biggest break came when he got hurt at his factory job and became friends with his physician. The two eventually became skiing partners and photos he'd taken of his friend were noticed by the doctor's wife, who happened to work as an executive secretary for Toyota's

general manager of the Portland region. In 1983 they hired him to take photos at a presentation ceremony and set his career path. Nike eventually hired him, and the two companies became his two biggest accounts.

The biggest change Brunkow has seen over the years was the change from film to a digital format, and he was initially reluctant to make the switch. He noted some issues during photography assignments with the Ladies Professional Golf Association when digital couldn't shoot fast enough to take several photos during a golf swing. Once that issue was resolved, he never looked back.

Rather than use Photo-shop on his work, Brunkow's photos are composed using High Dynamic Range, which combines five exposures together for the photo. He said famed nature photographer Ansel Adams used a similar method. The photos are created with a program called Photomatix.

Brunkow said photographing Toyota's president's awards are his favorite shoots because it allows him to travel around the country. He noted the company treats him well and the opportunity allowed him to see places he wouldn't have seen otherwise.

Asked his favorite place to shoot locally, Brunkow laughed.

"Anyplace," he said. "I like it out at Hat Point, I like it at Buckhorn. You can't go wrong up at the lake; there's so many views there." He noted many of his photos locations are easily accessible by car.

"What I'm really trying to do here is promote Wallowa County and the beauty of it," he said.

Brunkow said that he opened his Joseph storefront, which he shares with two other businesses, in October of last year, and it's his first. Along with his excellent photographs, he also sells tile murals, dishwasher-safe ceramic mugs, coasters, magnets and cards. His photos are printed on fine art paper with fade-resistant ink. Brunkow noted Epson tests show the ink should last about 200 years.

"If it only lasts 100 years come back and see me," he said with a laugh.

The photographer knows how fortunate he is to turn a hobby he loves into an opportunity to make a living.

"Truly, I'm blessed and happy as heck," he said. "I'm the luckiest guy in the world as far as I'm concerned, being able to do photography. I'm here where I want to be and have a shop on Main Street in Joseph — I could die a happy man tomorrow."

Contact Brunkow at the shop, or by telephone: 503-784-2566

IN BRIEF

'Chasing the Moon'

On Thursday, June 20, at 7 PM, the Wallowa City Library will present an American Experience film that documents the historic first American moon landing, 50 years ago.

It includes previously unreleased videos and other information about Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's experiences and their historic walk across the lunar surface. Admission is free. The hour-long film will be shown in the Wallowa City Hall's meeting room.

"It was such a monumental event," said librarian Debbie Lind. "It's important that we remember it, and learn from it."

Lind worked hard to bring the film to Wallowa County. "I talked to the people in charge of distributing it. They were in Minneapolis. They said they only were providing it to places where the audience was 50 or more people. I didn't want to sound snooty, but I said that this was a small town, and, well, if they didn't think we deserved to see the film, they didn't have to send it." The DVD arrived in Lind's mailbox this week.

Concert helps fund new library mural

The weather was perfect for the evening show



Ellen Morris Bishop

A young concert-goer dances to the toe-tapping music of GhostWind at the Wallowa City's fund-raising concert last week.

by Ghost Wind, the Wallowa musical duo of Larry and Peggy Haney. Their concert was a fund-raiser for a new outdoor mural for the west-facing wall of the library building. About 40

people of all ages listened to the toe-tapping country and folk refrains of the group.

"We've wanted to do a new mural on the wall for a long time. And this was one

way to get the community involved, have some fun, and raise some money," said librarian Debbie Lind.

Library board member Mary Hawkins obtained a grant for \$7000 to prepare the surface of the outside wall for painting. Artist and board member Anna Vogel has agreed to create the artwork.

"We raised \$330 at that one event," Lind said. "I'm thinking we might have more summer evening concerts in the library garden."

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

"We took our daughter to Dr. Allen on several occasions, and we were extremely happy with the care we received..."

-Enterprise Mom

Dr. Allen is a family practice physician and doctor of osteopathic medicine.



**Call Dr. Allen to schedule your appointment today!
541-426-7900**

Mountain View Medical Group
603 Medical Parkway (next to Wallowa Memorial Hospital)
Enterprise, Oregon 97828

Wallowa Memorial Hospital
We treat you like family
601 Medical Parkway, Enterprise, OR 97828 • 541-426-3111 • www.wchd.org
Wallowa Memorial Hospital is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



The Joseph Center for Arts and Culture
Invites you to a celebration
and installation of

'etweyé·wise "The Return"

A sculpture in granite and bronze
by Nez Perce artist Doug Hyde

**Saturday,
June 22, at 2:00pm**
Drums - Words - Salmon



403 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 949
Joseph, OR 97846
541-432-0505

True Value
BARGAINS OF THE MONTH[®]
While supplies last.

\$3.99
regularly \$4.99
While supplies last

SuperSoil Potting Soil
1 cubic foot
Sku #72751490

M-F 8AM-6PM • SAT 8AM-5PM • SUN 9AM-3PM

Hurricane Creek Road
Enterprise, Oregon
541-426-3116

GRAIN GROWERS

BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value
Sale Ends 6/30/19

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINES

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.**

Our Offices will be Closed on the 4th of July

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

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