

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

Ta 'c ki iye pi ihekin. It's good to see each other. Welcome home!

The unveiling and consecration of Doug Hyde's emotive sculpture 'etweyé-wise, "I return from a difficult journey" at the Josephy Center this week marks a turning point in the presence of the walama NiiMiipoo, better known as the Chief Joseph Band Nez Perce, in Wallowa County. After more than a century of abuse, war, and genocide, the people who had lived here, "for 10,000 years, maybe 20,000 years, from time beyond memory," as Ferris Paisano III, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee member said as Barbara Rounsavell returned a Nez Perce mortar that her family found in Hells Canyon long ago, "we are coming back, finally, to our home."

This return has been sparked by Wallowa County citizens, especially residents of the City of Wallowa. In 1989, the City of Wallowa invited Taz Connor, a Nez Perce and descendent of Chief Joseph, to help plan a Native American Festival. That led to Tamkaliks, which led to the Homeland Project, which grew to 320 acres of publicly accessible land, a longhouse built with love and respect by Wallowa County locals, a sweat lodge, and this year, a salmon habitat restoration proj-



Ellen Morris Bishop

Doug Hyde's sculpture depicts a Nez Perce woman returning to the Wallowas.

ect, and grand opening of a first-class educational exhibit at the Homeland Project in Wallowa.

Along with their presence at Chief Joseph Days parade and Friendship Feast, exhibits and a library at the

Josephy Center, and Nez Perce Fisheries offices in Joseph, the statue at the Josephy Center heralds that the Wallowa Band, Nez Perce now are assuming their rightful place as part of a more diverse Wallowa County population. In the future, the Wallowa County Chieftain plans to honor its name and masthead with a column by, and occasional news from, Chief Joseph Band members at Nespelem and elsewhere, as well as other Native American voices from within our community.

We, the sooyáapoo (non-Indians) welcome the return of the Wallowa Band, Chief Joseph's people, from a very difficult journey, which is not complete yet. There is room in the county and in our hearts for your more permanent presence, and so very much we can learn from you.

Ta 'c ki iye pi ihekin. It's good to see each other. Welcome home! We will honor Chief Joseph's words:

"Whenever the white man treats an Indian as they treat each other, then we will have no more wars. We shall all be alike — brothers of one father and one mother, with one sky above us and one country around us... that all people may be one people"

— Hinmatóowialahtq'it (Chief Joseph), 1879

For the good of the county, wolves must be contained

As usual, Amaroq Weiss has blown out of proportion a part of the Revised Wolf Plan that allows for specific lethal removal of a wolf or wolves who have been deemed chronic depredators. The rewording of this section of the Plan has very little change from the previous one. There is a long and rigorous process of determining if a wolf pack has not only become chronic depredators of livestock, but if there is value in removing those wolves depending on the frequency, location, structure of the pack, potential for continuing depredations, etc. Then the request will now go through a regulatory process to yet be determined by the Wolf Commission, before a person will be assigned to lethally remove those wolves.

The fear that this process will lead to the legalized trapping or hunting of wolves in a way similar to the state of Idaho is so farfetched it's to the point of ridiculous. The Plan also emphasizes the use of non-lethal deterrents and requires them before consideration of removing wolves. The Plan still has in place in Phase 3 (which we are in) the ability to shoot wolves ONLY when they are found in the act of chasing or biting livestock or guard dogs. Since most attacks occur at night, it's a rare opportunity to actually catch the wolves ripping apart an animal before it's even dead. Plus the criteria placed on ODFW employees to determine if a kill is wolf caused, is quite complex and requires the presence of enough left-over tissue from a scavenged animal to find tooth impressions, scrapes, pre-mortem hemorrhaging and evidence from the site before a kill is confirmed, resulting in many being called probable or other/unknown with no recourse by the rancher for compensation.

What is striking is the absence from Ms. Weiss and Ms. Adkin's articles in the Chieftain is their concern for anything except the survival and spread of the wolf itself. No concern for the safety and welfare of our rural citizens who are the ones most affected by the wolf being allowed to propagate within our state. No con-

GUEST COLUMN

Connie Dunham

cern for people visiting our county who travel into our forests and campgrounds in remote areas who could be contacted by a wolf pack intent on satisfying their hunger. No concern for children on ranches who could be caught outside and easily become prey for a pack. There is ample evidence that in our pioneer past, full grown men, even those carrying weapons, have been taken down by wolves, i.e., Wikipedia: "Wolf attacks on humans in North America."

The myths about how beneficial wolves are can be blown apart by the very science that these promoters of wolves claim as fact. Yet they deny the expertise of those like Valarias Geist, Professor Emeritus with the University of Calgary, who have hammered the point that wolf genetics will be lost forever if wolves are allowed to live in close proximity to humans, due to interbreeding with dogs and coyotes. We are already seeing this happening in our county with wolves coming into barns, animal enclosures, pastures close to Joseph, and near confined dogs, even the killing of some dogs near rural homes. Wolves habituate to people and will become braver about approaching people. Don't mistake this for an outreach of friendship. If you do, you may be their next meal. The fact that wolves carry up to 35 diseases — some of which they can spread to domestic dogs — is something they and ODFW have not found important enough to warn people about. Research *echinococcus granulosis* and the cysts that can develop in deer, elk and people.

The overreach of people like Weiss and Adkins in pushing for wolf populations without considering the impacts on rural communities, human safety, economics, game and prey animals and the future is appalling. The future of this county is on the line, and wolves must be contained for the higher good.

Tiger, Koepka, and Woodland: The greens are looking good this year

Last August, I wrote a column that focused on two of golf's best players, Tiger Woods and Brooks Koepka, who finished second and first in the 2018 PGA Championship. The main point of my article was to say that Tiger's comeback was genuine this time, but that the less sensational Koepka was really the man to beat in major tournaments these days. And I finished off by suggesting that golf fans should keep their eyes on Tiger as he went hunting for his fifteenth major at the 2019 Masters Tournament.

Well, at the risk of dislocating my shoulder by patting myself on the back too much, I have to say that I might be better as a golf prognosticator than I am at predicting presidential elections. A month after my column came out, Tiger won for the first time in five years on the PGA tour by snagging the prestigious Tour Championship, and if Justin Rose hadn't birdied the final hole, Tiger would have stolen away the even more lucrative Fed Ex Cup as well.

Then in April of this year, Tiger thrilled fans and critics alike by finally capturing that elusive fifteenth major at the Masters Tournament. And even though I had suggested the possibility, I'm not sure I really believed Tiger would ever win another major after a nearly ten-year drought until he actually did it.

But who do you suppose was right there at Augusta, nipping at Tiger's heels in a tie for second place? Yup, that tenacious majors contender, Brooks Koepka. And then in this year's PGA Championship, which was moved from August to May to generate more interest in the spring, Koepka became a back-to-back winner in that event, dominating the field, while Tiger, who hadn't played since his win at the Masters, looked rusty and failed to make the cut.

Koepka's PGA Championship gave him four wins in the last nine majors, a hot streak that has not been matched by any golfer besides Tiger in the last twenty years. So coming into this year's US Open, Koepka, the two-time defending champion

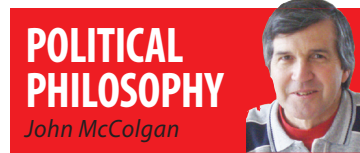
in that event as well, was on a mission to try for the three-peat — which hadn't been done in the US Open for more than a hundred years, and never by an American.

But standing in Koepka's path this Father's Day weekend was another gentle giant named Gary Woodland. Like Koepka, Woodland was a multi-sport athlete in high school and college, and he looks more like a linebacker than a golfer. But his golfing skills were on full display at this year's US Open, as he took the lead on Friday and fended off challengers throughout the weekend, especially from the grinding Koepka, who had a chance to catch him right down to the 72nd hole of both their rounds.

Prior to Woodland's first major tournament win at this year's US Open, his biggest previous tour victory had come in 2018 at the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

As the defending champion at that event this February, Woodland took the opportunity to play a hole alongside a twenty-year-old golfer with Down syndrome named Amy Bockerstette. If you haven't seen the clip of Amy playing on the par three 16th hole as Gary encouraged her, you owe it to yourself to google that video. Amy hits her drive into the greenside bunker, and then as she reminds herself, "I got this," she hits a neat sand shot onto the green. Woodland suggests to her that the putt might go a little left, and then says, "Why don't you just sink it?" Amy replies quietly, "I got this," and calmly sinks her ten-foot putt for par in front of a gallery of cheering fans.

Many viewers will rightly commend Gary for the way that he encouraged Amy that day, but they might underestimate the effect that Amy's positive spirit had on Gary as he faced his own mental challenges on the weekend at the US Open. After his victory, he credited Amy's energy as his inspiration for his first major tournament victory. Her mantra is now his — "I got this!" — and any golfer, and every caring person, can benefit from the lesson that Amy has taught US Open Champion Gary Woodland.



Walden to hold Town Hall Meeting Sunday, June 30 at Wallowa Senior Center

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden will hold a town hall meeting in Wallowa on Sunday, June 30, 3:45 p.m. The meeting will be at the Wallowa Senior Center dining room, 204 E. 2nd Street, Wallowa.

Continuing a series of

town hall meetings across Oregon's Second District, Representative Greg Walden (R-Hood River) announced today he will hold town halls in Josephine, Jackson, Umatilla, Wallowa, Union, Baker, Malheur, Grant, Wheeler, Crook, Deschutes,

Jefferson, and Hood River counties beginning next week. Details on the meetings are included below.

"I'm looking forward to hearing from people throughout the Second District at these 13 town halls. These meetings provide just

another opportunity to hear from Oregonians and provide an update on the issues I'm working on back in Congress. In addition to the over 70,000 letters, emails, and phone calls I have responded to over the past year, these town halls help me stay

updated on the issues people are facing in our communities. This is a top priority for me," said Walden.

These 13 meetings will bring Walden's town hall total to 35 in 2019, the most of any other lawmaker in the U.S. House of Representa-

tives so far this year according to Town Hall Project.

Walden's upcoming town halls will bring his overall total to 183 since 2012. For a complete list of Walden's previously held and upcoming town hall meetings for 2019, please click here.

WALLOWA COUNTY
CHIEFTAIN

VOLUME 134

USPS No. 665-100

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Wallowa County's Newspaper Since 1884

MEMBER OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Published every Wednesday by: EO Media Group

General manager, Jennifer Cooney, jcooney@wallowa.com
Editor, Ellen Morris Bishop, editor@wallowa.com
Publisher, Chris Rush, crush@eomediagroup.com
Reporter, Stephen Tool, steve@wallowa.com
Administrative Assistant, Amber Mock, amock@wallowa.com
Advertising Assistant, Cheryl Jenkins, cjenkins@wallowa.com

Periodical Postage Paid at Enterprise and additional mailing offices

Subscription rates (includes online access)	1 Year
Wallowa County	\$45.00
Out-of-County	\$57.00

Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

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