



SOFTBALL JUNIORS HANG TOUGH IN CONSOLATION

SPORTS, A9

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop

The string of bucking horses stampede through downtown Joseph to kick off the start of Chieftain Joseph Days — a tradition for the event's past 74 years.

CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS

The best, most economical and most fun things to see at CJD

Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Chief Joseph Days Rodeo in the evenings is world-class rodeo. But don't miss the other events during the day, which are just as much fun. And even better, most are free!

- Tuesday, Bucking Horse Stampede down Main Street in Joseph. 1:30 p.m. Starts at the south end of town, and proceeds to rodeo grounds, mostly at a fast walk or leisurely trot. Great place to watch some magnificent horseflesh.

- Wednesday: Little Buckaroos Rodeo: Harley Tucker Arena 9 a.m. Special events for special needs children. Lots of fun and smiles all around. Free.

- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: Slack rodeo, 2:00 p.m. (2:30 on Saturday) Harley Tucker Arena. Free. This is not a rodeo for slackers. It's a rodeo for all the riders, ropers, bull-doggers and other rodeo athletes who couldn't fit into the limited slots for evening performances. It's not uncommon that the overall winner of an event performs in slack, and has a better time than any of the evening performers. You get to watch world-class rodeo for free—without the distractions of special acts, rodeo clowns, and rodeo courts.

- Friday, Kiddie parade, 10 a.m. Charming, fun, and shorter than the big Saturday parade, you



Ellen Morris Bishop

See Preview, Page A7 Saddle Bronc riding is a favorite at Chief Joseph Days rodeo.

Wallowa County reins in the opioid crisis

New pharmaceuticals, new treatments and dedicated caregivers staunch the tide in this rural community

Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The first of a 4-part series. Opioid abuse and addiction, including use of heroin, is an issue in the national spotlight. In 2017, more than 47,000 Americans died as a result of opioid overdoses, including from prescription drugs, heroin, and fentanyl, a powerful synthetic heroin, according to the National Institute of Health. Nearly 2 million

Americans suffer from substance abuse disorders related to prescription pain relievers. While most people correlate it with urban settings, it is a national problem that has heavily impacted rural communities. The American Farm Bureau Federation says that 74% of framers and farm workers have been directly impacted by opioid abuse, either by knowing someone, having a family member addicted, or abusing opioids themselves. A 2017 study by the National Institutes of Health found that 40% of the population in rural and non-metropolitan communities used prescription opioids — while only 36% of urban communities population did.

While the precise number of people who have fallen victim to opioids in Wallowa County is unknown,

Wallowa County's success in providing treatment has drawn national recognition. That is largely because the non-profit Winding Waters Clinic, the Holistic Health and Healing Center, the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, and other components of the Wallowa County community have worked together to provide comprehensive care that includes treatments from newly-developed pharmaceutical intervention to acupuncture, massage, and counseling.

Farley notes that there are two very different populations involved in the opioid crisis. "The first group are people involved in the illicit use of heroin. The second are people who were sort of sucked into the vortex of the '80's and '90's medical philosophy that you treat to elim-

inate pain, not just control it." In Wallowa County, the first group, heroin users, is smaller than the second, pain-control population, Farley noted. Still, it's a significant number—estimated at fewer than 100 people—in a county with a population of only about 6,000. "In the population of heroin users, there's about 10 to 15 percent who either won't commit to a treatment program or who really can't follow the procedures for treatment to be effective," Farley said.

Heroin users are often refer themselves for treatment. Some also arrive via law enforcement or judicial routes and fewer are brought into treatment after admission to the hospital for treatment of an overdose.

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