

CJD

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The CJD board has wrestled with the decision to cancel or to hold the rodeo since early March when it became apparent that lots of public events were likely to be scratched due to state-mandated COVID-19 social distancing requirements and stay at home orders. “The first thing we thought of was that we would have to cancel this year. That would have been the easy thing to do,” Jones said.

But as they considered the economic and social repercussions of cancellation, it became evident that the “easy” solution was rife with complications. For one, Jones said, 18-25 percent of the total tourism revenue for businesses in Wallowa County, especially restaurants, bars, and lodging, is generated during Chief Joseph Days. That’s a lot of financial support for local businesses and sponsors that are already struggling mightily. It’s pretty

THE CJD COURT, CORONATION, AND TICKETS

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

Coronation is tentatively scheduled for June 6th. Court members will continue selling tickets until at least May 22nd. Selling tickets has been a new and challenging experience for the girls this year. “No door to door sales were allowed this year,” Jones said. “But the girls have worked very hard and are doing well under the current conditions.” Tickets will be fully refunded should the rodeo be canceled,” Jones added. “The court girls will however still get paid for their commissions even though the ticket sales may have to be refunded. You can still support the court members by purchasing tickets from them by phone or on their website.”

Your ticket purchase through the court-members’ website or with a phone call serves as a vote for Queen for the court member of your choice.

On CJD website: <http://www.chiefjosephdays.com/rodeo/7531/three-special-messages-from-the-2020-chief-joseph-days-queen-contenders/>

Casidee Herrod: Website is casideeharrod.cjd2020.com, Phone: 541-263-1605

Brianna Micka: Website www.briannamickacjd.com, Phone: 541-398-0710.

Destiny Wecks: Website: destinywecksrodeo.wixsite.com/cjd2020, Phone: 541-263-1497

big,” Jones said. So if Chief Joseph Days was canceled, especially this year, Jones thought the economic consequences could be a poten-

tial disaster for business. “You might just as well hit ‘em over the head,” he said. “I think this year a lot of people are looking at the

revenue from Chief Joseph Days visitors as their profit for the year, like my family did when they ran Russell’s at the Lake long ago.”

For another, CJD is more than a rodeo. For many, it’s a time when far-flung family and friends visit. It’s time when Wallowa County expats—those who were born here, but now live in distant place—return home for a week.

“For the economic impact alone, we just couldn’t cancel,” Jones said. “Then we began thinking of all those other things, and we just had to hang on and hope.”

The fates of the three young women on the CJD rodeo court proved another consideration. Casidee Harrod, Brianna Micka and Destiny Wecks have invested a tremendous amount of time, energy, and thought into preparing for court activities, including preparing talks, training their horses, and of course selling tickets. “For each of them, it’s been a life-long dream,” Jones said. “We just couldn’t take that away

from them.” This particular court, he said, was composed of three very talented, very well-qualified young women who would do a superb job of representing CJD at all the events they normally would attend, from the St. Paul rodeo to the Spokane lilac festival. “It’s not fair to deny them the chance to represent CJD elsewhere, or, especially, here at home,” he said.

Could the CJD board just postpone the rodeo for a few weeks? Or more?

That’s not likely. Everything—livestock, announcer, filming crews, entertainers, and everything else—has been contacted for that specific, last weekend in July, Jones said. “We have top national performers who are in demand across the country,” Jones said. “They’re already contracted through the summer, so once rodeos can start up again here and across the country, we wouldn’t be able to get them signed for a later date.” The same would be true of the cowboys and barrel-racers. Could they reschedule

and just go with any available talent or stock? Jones is concerned that the quality of the rodeo and its entertainment would be much lower, and it just wouldn’t be the same. “People wouldn’t be very happy with it,” he said. And a later date would conflict with other Wallowa County summer events already planned.

So the CJD board is sticking with their traditional, last weekend of July dates. And keeping their fingers crossed that by then, the state will be more open, allowing generous crowds to fill the grandstands, the riders, ropers, and performers to assemble, along with the broncs, bulls, and steers. “We owe it to our sponsors, the community, the businesses and all the wonderful people who have put this rodeo on now and for all the years it’s been going,” Jones said. “It’s not just a rodeo. It’s about people and this community. We owe it to them to make this the best rodeo and gathering we can — especially this year.”

Grants

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NEOEDD’s Lisa Dawson. “But here, we don’t have the government resources to respond in the same way. This is a Wallowa County way of responding.”

The organization is the brainchild of Wallowa County commissioner John Hillock.

“What spurred me to do this was that Commissioner Roberts and Lisa Dawson of NEOEDD were working on a USDA grant to support local business. But when I looked through the application, it was so full of criteria that most local people aren’t going to be able to qualify,” he said.

When Hillock got his \$1200 coronavirus check, he realized that a lot of small businesses needed that money more than he did. And, he thought, there were probably others in the county who’d also be willing to give their government largess to keep some Wallowa County businesses afloat in these hard times. He sent out an email. In response, eight people promptly offered to donate their CARES payment. With about \$10,000 promised as a start, WCBF was on its way to being born.

Hillock not only rounded up willing donors, but also took the idea of a locally sourced fund to the Wallowa County nonprofits that could help generate, accept, administer, and award the funds.

“They were all enthusiastic,” he said. The fund, they agreed, would provide small grants of under \$1000 to businesses that desperately needed cash. “It could

GET INVOLVED

Donations to the Wallowa County Business Fund:

Gifts in any amount are accepted by 501c3 non-profit Wallowa Resources, and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Mail checks, payable to Wallowa County Business Fund to WCBF, Wallowa Resources, 401 NE 1st St., Enterprise, OR 97828, or through the Wallowa Resources website: <https://www.wallowaresources.org/donate-1> Donations in any amount may also be made at any Community Bank, with the caveat that no receipt for your donation will be available.

Applications:

To be eligible, a business must demonstrate being negatively affected by COVID-19, be legally organized in Oregon, have a physical location in Wallowa County and have or anticipate a 25% or greater decline in revenue. “If you applied, but didn’t get PPP or EID money, you’ll have a little bit of preference,” Hillock said.

Eligible businesses are encouraged to fill-out a simple application form at: <https://forms.gle/VHpaLd5TJCndUNc6>. If you need a paper copy of the application, you can pick up an application at the back door of the Wallowa County Courthouse on the bulletin board. If you have questions, you may address your questions to lisadawson@neoedd.org or 541-426-3598. Applications received by 5 p.m. on May 18 will be included in the initial review. Awards are expected to be \$1,000 or less.

be,” Hillock said, “that a restaurant has managed to make enough to pay the rent, but then doesn’t have enough cash to buy food so they can serve their (take-out) menu.”

“Some of the relief money we are working on at the county level is so restricted it will never get to the small, local businesses that need it the most,” Hillock said. “We wanted to make funds simpler to get and quickly available. And show local businesses that the whole community supports them.”

“If people could make their donations before May 18th that would be great,” said Wallowa Resources Development Director Larz Stewart. “That way we can award grants to businesses by the end of this month.”

The coalition’s goal is to put community donations into the hands of local businesses, including sole proprietorships, as quickly as possible to meet any needs they might have. Any legally registered business based in Wallowa County that has been measurably impacted by the efforts to curtail COVID-19 is eligible for support. At this time, the fund will not be used to support nonprofits.

Soroptimist and Rotary will help garner donations. NEOEDD will set up and receive all applications, determine eligibility based on the criteria set up, and the meetings of the partners to award grants.

Wallowa Resources will accept the funds, and write the checks. Donations to the WCBF will be accepted at any Community Bank drive-up window as well as Wallowa Resources’ website and of course, by mail.

“We want to keep it simple, we want to get it out quick, we want to help people,” Hillock said.

“I think this shows how the community recognizes that our small businesses are a vital part of Wallowa County and that many of them have been left behind by the federal government,” Dawson said. “I’m really proud to be part of Wallowa County. People care.”

While the WCBF was started with the idea of making a single donation to support the immediate needs of small business, there’s the potential for a longer-lived project, Hillock said. “If people want to provide support for however long this may last, they can make additional or even monthly donations to the fund.”

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P.O. Box 555, Enterprise OR 97828
Info call: Randi Jandt, 541-426-7131

Don't forget to write "PANDEMIC POTATO DRIVE" on your check

Open

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Pendleton Roundup.

Brown’s response, “We’re working on that and it’s on our radar screen. September is a ways off. The challenge for Oregon is to predict these things. We don’t have a sense of what will happen when we start to open. So we need to look at the science behind that. It will be a few

days — a couple of weeks before we make a decision on that.”

Roberts addressed Brown with concerns about Chief Joseph Days.

“We and other communities out here have some important events coming up in July,” Roberts said.

“I know you don’t want to set a date, but what are we supposed to tell those folks?” she said. “They’ve got to be able to start working toward those events the first of June.”

DESTINY WECKS
Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Queen Candidate

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WALLOWA COUNTY Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

ENTERPRISE	JOSEPH Cont.
MONDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	WEDNESDAYS Noon Grace and Dignity (Womens Mtg) Joseph United Methodist Church 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement
TUESDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St. 7-8 p.m. Enterprise Group (Big Bk Study) 113.5 E Main St.	THURSDAYS 5:30 p.m. Grapevine Meeting Joseph United Methodist Church 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement
WEDNESDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	<i>Al-Anon Family Group (support for family and friends of alcoholics) meets Tuesday evenings at the Joseph United Methodist Church (basement on north), 6pm-7pm.</i>
THURSDAYS 12-1 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St. 7 p.m. All Saints (Mens Mtg) 113.5 E Main St.	WALLOWA
FRIDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	SATURDAY Noon Wallowa Meeting Church of Christ 504 W 2nd Street
SATURDAYS 7 p.m. Enterprise Group 113.5 E Main St.	SUNDAY 5 p.m. Wallowa Meeting Church of Christ 504 W 2nd Street
JOSEPH	
MONDAYS 6 p.m. Grace and Dignity (Womens Mtg) Joseph United Methodist Church 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement	