



THE WEEK IN PHOTOS
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WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



136th Year, No. 46

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Wallowa County Voices



Taylor Miller
Enterprise

Moving here 'just like moving home'

ENTERPRISE — Moving back to Enterprise a year and a half ago has been “just like moving home,” Taylor Miller said. “It’s kind of a homecoming for me.”

She grew up in Lostine and spent eight years going to college in Corvallis and then spent time in Beaverton. But she came back.

“I wanted to raise my kids here,” she said. “There’s no better place to grow up.”

Her husband, Chris Miller, works from home while they raise their 5-year-old twins — a boy and a girl. She’s both a veterinarian and a mental health counselor.

“I’m juggling two different careers right now,” she said.

Miller shared her thoughts on living in Wallowa County recently.

What’s your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

I know everyone says this, but the community really is why I’m here, why I want my kids to grow up here, I want them to learn about what it means to be a neighbor, what it means to be a community member. I want them to feel like they’re a part of the place, not just a resident. Also, there’s the natural beauty and the fact that we have seasons. Living over on the west side for all those years, I got really tired of all the green. I love the snow here. I know in a couple of years it might wear off, but for now I like the snow.

What challenges do you believe Wallowa County faces?

I feel like there’s not a lot of margin for error here in the careers people have — the businesses and farming, there’s a thin line between success and disaster. Anything that happens that affects the ability to survive, to have a life here can hit really fast and really hard.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

All I can do is compare it to what my life would’ve been like if I’d stayed in Beaverton in a two-bedroom condo with no yard and two 5-year-olds. So the fact that I’m here and I have a yard and we have this entire outdoor world to play in, I can’t be anything but thankful.

Do you plan to get the vaccine against COVID-19 or are you hesitant as some people are?

I got my second injection this morning and I feel safe and healthy.

What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

I would say that half of everything that’s good about me I learned because I’ve lived here.

What’s your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

You move here because you want to be here and to thrive here. You have to integrate and be a part of the community. You can’t live here and not — well, you can, but it won’t work. If you’re going to live here, you’ve got to know your neighbors, get involved, read the paper, be part of the community.

—By Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

A saddle bronc rider gets a good start in the 2019 Chief Joseph Days Rodeo, but did not make a qualifying 8-second ride. After being canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, the rodeo’s board of directors has confirmed that the rodeo will be run in 2021 and is leaving no room for doubt with the announcement, according to board President Terry Jones.

Return of the THUNDER!

CJD board confirms the rodeo will run for the 75th time

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Save the dates! The 75th Chief Joseph Days rodeo is a sure thing for the last full week in July 2021.



Jones

At its Monday, Feb. 8 meeting, the Chief Joseph Days board of directors made a unanimous decision to hold the rodeo this summer Tuesday, July 27 through Sunday, Aug. 1. They are making detailed plans for the event that include the bucking horse stampede on Tuesday, junior parade on Friday, and the grand parade on Saturday. The evening Thunder Room gathering will go on. And, of course, all the buck-

ing horses, bull riders, team ropers and other events that make rodeo an integral part of Western culture will happen in the Harley Tucker Memorial Rodeo Grounds.

“The board wanted to be sure there was no room for doubt,” CJD Rodeo Board President Terry Jones said. “We are going to have a Chief Joseph Days rodeo. I’ve called all our contractors and they’ve all agreed to be here.”

That includes the livestock contractor Tim Bidwell, who provides the bucking horses, bulls and calves that are essential to the rodeo. Other contractors and performers who’ve committed to this year’s CJD Rodeo include long-time announcer Jody Carper, rodeo bullfighters Nathan Harp and Chuck Swisher and specialty act Magic in Motion Equine Productions with Madison MacDonald. Her trick riding and daring horseback leaps through flaming hoops thrilled CJD rodeo goers in 2018, and has appeared at the National Finals Rodeo nine years in a row.

“The board wants to let our supporters and fans to know that we are having the 75th CJD Rodeo, even though it is the 76th year,” Jones said. “Some of our performers and contractors have been asking, ‘What’s Joseph going to do?’ Other rodeos, including many in Texas, the Midwest and the Dakotas are planning to hold their events in 2021. So I called our contractors and said that we’re having the CJD

Rodeo and we want you all here. And they’re all going to come. We have signed with them all.”

That’s important because this is the time of year when advance ticket sales to the permanent seat holders start. Assurances that their seats will have a rodeo to watch are considered critical.

“We try to have the permanent seats paid for in the middle of March before the court starts selling tickets at spring break time in late March,” Jones said.

This year’s CJD court remains the same as last year’s: Destiny Wecks, Casidee Harrod and Brianna Micka. In 2020, each member of the court ranked equally with the others as an honor court. This year, Jones said, that designation will continue.

“We are going to keep the honor court designation. They’ll sell tickets and receive commission as usual. But it will not be competitive,” Jones said. “And we’ll offer the court members some incentives, based on the number of tickets they sell as a group.”

Jones and the board recognize that there might be some COVID-19-driven changes in an otherwise normal rodeo. But they also anticipate being able to adapt.

If there are some regulations that, for exam-

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Recycling efforts are showing progress

Commissioners hear updates from task force

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Significant strides are being made in recycling in Wallowa County, according to an update on the program presented to the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners at their Wednesday, Feb. 17 meeting.

“We still have a lot of work to do with this whole system,” said Peter Ferré, a member of the Wallowa County Recycling Task Force. “We need to increase revenues and further manage costs. We need to do both.”

Ferré emphasized his “reduce, reuse, recycle” philosophy that he promotes in the task force’s efforts to deal with waste in the county.

“It’s a bigger job than any of us really imagined — how do we continue to increase the revenue we generate and decrease the costs? But there’s been a lot of interest and a lot of action involved, and we’re making a difference,” he



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts, left, listens as Peter Ferré, of the Wallowa County Recycling Task Force, gives an update on the efforts at recycling in the county. Randi Jandt, right, assisted in the presentation.

told the commissioners.

Commissioner Todd Nash agreed, as he thanked the task force and others who assist. He said he often hears from county residents who appreciate the recycling efforts.

“We as a county, as we struggle to make ends meet, it’s a program

that does mean a lot to a lot of people,” he said, adding that the economics of it are still difficult. “But it’s a financial loser; there’s just not two ways about it. Without your participation, it would be much worse.”

Task force member Randi Jandt, who joined Ferré in the

update, said that they’re already seeing improvements over last year. She said there’s been a significant increase in volunteer labor hours donated at the recycling center. Last year, there were 492 hours of volunteer labor donated. At an estimated value of about \$27 an hour, that comes to a value of more than \$13,000.

However, she said, that could be a bit misleading when compared to figures they’ll see this year, since the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions forced them to start midway through the year.

Citing a statistic that he read a few days prior, Ferré said the whole recycling industry is proving a financial boon.

“The reducing, reusing, recycling process — someone did a study on it — and it generated 757,000 jobs in the process of doing that and \$36 billion in wages,” he said. “So, it’s good for the economy as well.”

The recycling center accepts cardboard, various kinds of paper, glass, tin, aluminum and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics. The latter has proven to be a problem, Ferré said.

“I’m not disputing the fact that

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