



## Wallowa County Voices



**Kit Tyler**  
Enterprise

### COVID made her 'more aware'

ENTERPRISE — Kit Tyler has lived in Enterprise for 45 years, having moved here with her now-late husband, Dennis Tyler, from the Portland area for the opportunity of him teaching school in Joseph.

Dennis taught there for 32 years, while Kit worked in medical records at Winding Waters Clinic for about 18 years.

The Tylers raised three children here and have one grandchild. They've all moved on from Wallowa County, however.

She recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

#### What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

I would say the beauty, the quiet, the people, everything about it, actually. I'm not too crazy about winter, but other than that, I like it.

#### What are your thoughts on multiple allegations of harassment of employees by Joseph City Council and its alleged "dysfunction"?

I have not paid a lot of attention to it. I've read about it, but I really don't have any thoughts on it. I'm just glad it's not happening in Enterprise. I wouldn't want to see it happen anywhere.

#### How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

It's made me more aware. It's something I didn't want, but I see some good that's come out of it, such as being more careful, which we all should be about being around others. I have had my first shot and get my second shot next week. The Pfizer shot.

#### What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

That it's a very caring community of people. It's nice to live away from all the hubbub (of big cities) and that people are willing to help each other.

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

Make sure there will be a job waiting for them, I think. Once you move here, there's a chance to find a job, but I think that to have plans ahead would be a good idea.

— Bill Bradshaw,  
Wallowa County Chieftain

### MEMORIAL DAY 2021

# Remembering the fallen

*Prayers said, salutes given, flags planted*

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Representatives of veterans' groups salute as taps is played Monday, May 31, 2021, during Memorial Day ceremonies on the lawn of the Wallowa County Courthouse. From left are Jim Henson, Bob Masters, Melanie Harvey and John Roberts.



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Melanie Harvey, adjutant for VFW Post 4307, places a wreath at the VFW memorial in Enterprise during a Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 31, 2021.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

VFW Commander, Jim Henson, salutes after planting a U.S. flag before wreaths on the lawn of the Wallowa County Courthouse on Monday, May 31, 2021, during Memorial Day ceremonies remembering those who gave their lives for their country.

ENTERPRISE — More than 40 Americans from Wallowa County who had fallen in service to their country were remembered Monday, May 31, during solemn ceremonies on the lawn of the Wallowa County Courthouse.

The ceremonies were led by members of veterans' groups, including the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion chapters. Taps was played and a prayer read by Randy Morgan.

Among the 45 wooden "head stones" laid out on the courthouse lawn were the names and hometowns of veterans from wars dating back to the Black Hawk War — a brief, 1832 Indian war in Illinois and Michigan Territory that gave Abraham Lincoln his only military experience, although he saw no combat. Also listed on the head stones were veterans of the Mexican War, both sides in the Civil War, the Indian Wars of the late 1800s, the Spanish-American War, both World Wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The veterans listed came from all over Wallowa County.

More than 50 people showed up Monday to hear the tributes to the fallen veterans and the Guard of Honor as its four members took turns firing a shot as each name was read.

See *Fallen*, Page A1

## Hands reaching across the continent

### Wallowa County, Costa Rican county seek Sister Cities tie

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wallowa County is reaching out internationally and hoping to establish a sister cities relationship with a city and county in Costa Rica, where top-quality, premium coffee beans are grown and processed.

On Thursday, May 27, officials in Wallowa County and Tilaran Canton (county), Costa Rica, met to discuss the proposal via a Zoom conference.

Lyman Warnock, of Enterprise, has joined with an old friend — and his wife, Mildred's uncle — Gustavo Rodriguez, to spearhead the project. They've approached city and county officials, as well as those of the chambers of commerce in both counties.

"It's part of the Sister Cities program," Rodriguez said Wednesday, May 26. "Tilaran has other Sister Cities already. One of them is Durham, North Carolina, and now after about a year and a half, I fell in love with this place so I told Lyman this would be a nice town to see if we can get a Sister City with Enterprise or Joseph."

#### Similarities to Wallowa County

Tilaran, Costa Rica, is the county seat of Tilaran Canton. It is located in Guanacaste, a state in the northwest portion of the country. Like Wallowa County, it has a rural lifestyle that is based largely on agriculture and tour-



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Reaching out to Tilaran, Costa Rica, locals held a Zoom teleconference Thursday, May 27, 2021, to discuss the possibility of establishing a Sister Cities relationship the the Central American city and county. From left, are Lyman Warnock of Enterprise, Gustavo Rodriguez of Tilaran, Scott McDonald of Enterprise and Wallowa County Commissioner John Hillock.

ism. Also like Wallowa County, Tilaran has a sizeable lake — Lake Arenal — that, at nearly 33 square miles, has a much larger area than Wallowa Lake's 2½ square miles. But both lakes draw considerable numbers of tourists to their communities, whether for water sports, hiking or bicycling around the lake. Tilaran also boasts horse races, rodeos, music festivals

"Tilaran trying to boost their tourism," Warnock said, adding that the city hopes to get ideas from Joseph on how to do that.

"They've got a big lake like ours, only bigger," Warnock said. "It's 85 miles around," Rodriguez added.

Another element of exchange is education. Warnock told of a businessman in Imnaha who sold his holdings here and plans to go to Costa Rica to set up a school to teach people trades.

Tilaran's agriculture is largely

cattle — beef and dairy — as well as hay, though not alfalfa like most of that found in Wallowa County.

"For example, the ranches here have a lot of cows," Rodriguez said. "In my country, we produce a lot of cows for milk and for meat, and agricultural products like hay and fruits and vegetables. Also, horses."

Both counties are strongly into the arts, Warnock and Rodriguez agreed. Also, both counties have active recycling programs.

"Those similarities are the ones that make an interest in the possibility of a sister city," Rodriguez said.

#### Getting to know us

The Costa Rican has had years to become familiar with the United States.

"I love this Oregon state since

See *Hands*, Page A9

## Merkley addresses issues during town hall

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Thanks for his past work, forest, climate change, the Snake River dams — and the ever-increasing price of candy — were among the focuses of a virtual town hall held by U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, on Tuesday, June 1, that was attended by more than 20 callers.



Merkley

"My dad told me there used to be penny candy," said one Enterprise sixth-grader. "Why is the price going up?"

Leave it to a sixth-grader to fluster a U.S. senator.

"I've never been asked about the price of candy, but you're right, it goes up," Merkley agreed.

He recalled similar stories from his mother of inexpensive goods during the Great Depression. Ultimately, he blamed it on inflation.

"There's no such thing as penny candy anymore," the senator agreed, saying inflation is now low and he doesn't expect it to go up much.

"The good news is you won't see price of candy going up too much," he said.

Introduced by Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash, who expressed the commission's appreciation the work of Merkley and his fellow Democrat Sen. Ron Wyden in facilitating the moving of fed-

See *Merkley*, Page A9

