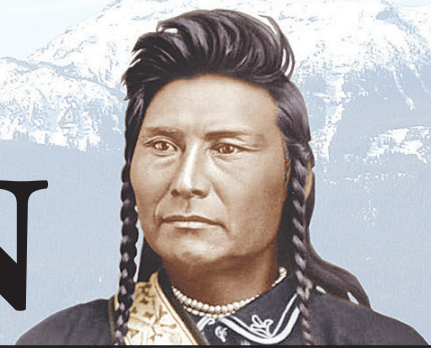




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



137th Year, No. 14

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Wallowa County Voices



Katch Josephy
Joseph

A passionate musician with a familiar name

ENTERPRISE — Katch Josephy was in downtown Enterprise recently, and yes, hers is one of the better-known names around Wallowa County.

The daughter of Alvin Josephy, for whom the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture was named, she lives on a ranch at the north end of the East Moraine her family has owned since 1962. At first a summer-dweller here, she's lived here since 1980 and raised her three children here. She has three grandchildren.

She's worked as an in-home care provider, but music is her passion. In addition to singing with a couple other local ladies, she plays guitar, flute and piano, when she can get one. For now, she's recovering from spinal surgery.

Katch shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The people and the land — not landscape, the land. The natural land.

What fun plans do you have in the county for this summer?

Finally being with family and friends and we have a lake at the ranch. But in a drought like this, when the ranchers around our lake need water, they come first.

What are your thoughts now that fire season is here?

We've managed to be safe so far, but we don't know. Look at the mountains. They're looking like Chief Joseph Days mountains (as the snowpack melts.) We've been lucky. For years, everyone around us has had drought and fire, but we've been lucky. I just don't know how long our luck's going to hold out.

How has the coronavirus pandemic affected you?

It's been scary, but I've had to go to physical therapy so I was lucky; I got my shots. The hardest part of it has been being away from friends and family for a year.

What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

How to grow things, and how to appreciate ranchers and their livestock and the natural land.

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

Don't. But before you move here, look into the history — not just the Native American history, which is vitally important, but the history of everyone who's always lived here. You can't just show up and act like you have a lot of money. That doesn't work.

— Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wecks earns title of Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon

By RONALD BOND and
BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — It's almost as if Destiny Wecks was destined for this title.

Wecks, one of the three queens for Chief Joseph Days, which rides for the 75th time later this month, won the title of 2022 Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon at the

Junior Miss and Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon Pageant on June 26 at the Tillamook County Rodeo.

"She represents rodeo at the teen level for the entire state of Oregon," said Lois Forester, second vice president of the Miss Rodeo Oregon Inc. Foundation. "It's quite an honor."

As Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon, Wecks will travel

the state in 2022 promoting the sport of rodeo in parades, personal appearances and rodeo events.

It's the third state honor the 17-year-old has won during what already is building up to be quite the rodeoing career.

She said she was named Miss Rodeo Sweetheart when she was much younger — at ages 6 and

7 — and in 2015 she was selected as Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon in 2015.

"It's been my dream to go on this sequence," she said. "Now I'm hoping to go on to (be) Miss Rodeo Oregon and Miss Rodeo America. When I got a chance to try out, I had to take it."

Wecks, who will be a senior at Enterprise High

School starting this fall, will serve in her role for the entirety of 2022. Until her coronation, she is called the "lady in waiting."

Barb Carr, who serves as the lady in waiting adviser, listed a rigorous set that was before Wecks.

"The girls go through a pageant, and different

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Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain
Ron Meyer serves lunch to Murna Downing of Enterprise on Monday, July 12, 2021, as the senior lunch program put on by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon returns to the Enterprise and Wallowa senior centers. Monday was the first time lunch was served in person in more than a year with the service shut down due to the pandemic.

Lunch is served again

Senior lunch program up and running after more than a year of being shut down by COVID

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The buzz of seniors talking while sharing meals together can again be heard at the Wallowa and Enterprise senior centers.

The senior lunch program that had been shut down by COVID-19 restrictions for more than a year began operating once again Monday, July 12, at the two centers operated in Wallowa County by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon.

COVID restrictions were lifted June 30, but Connie Guentert, CCNO's county manager, said the entity needed an additional OK before it could resume its lunch program.

"As an area agency on aging operating a congre-



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain
After more than a year away, the senior lunch program put on by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon returned to Enterprise and Wallowa Monday, July 12, 2021.

gate meal site, we are held to a high safety standard due to the population we serve," she said. "We had to wait for feedback and approval from DHS and OHA."

Adjusting to the pandemic

During the last year, CCNO's Meals on Wheels program had expanded greatly to reach more seniors during the height

of the pandemic. Pick-up-to-go meals were also available.

"We were still trying to serve our seniors that were not on Meals on Wheels that did not want to be on Meals on Wheels," she said. "Anyone who came to our centers or wanted to come to our centers, we actually offered them Meals on Wheels the last 15 months. We expanded the service greatly outside normal guidelines to be able to serve people."

There were two extra Meals on Wheels routes added by CCNO. Guentert said they expect a large percentage of those people to be back with the center open again for lunch.

"Ninety percent of those people are coming back to the center — which is wonderful," she said.

There won't be an immediate shift back to pre-COVID-19 routes, though. Any transitions back to normal there will be more gradual.

"We're meeting people where they are at," she said. "What that means is those people that were on the COVID route, meeting them where they are at as far as their comfort level."

That means they will continue delivering meals to those on the expanded route if they are not yet comfortable returning to the center.

"We're just moving them over to the normal Meals on Wheels route," she said.

Back in action

The return of the lunch

See Lunches, Page A5

Entrepreneur program celebrates 10 years

By ANN BLOOM
For the Wallowa County
Chieftain

The Mentor Match Teen Entrepreneur Program is 10 years old. The important milestone was celebrated in May with a small ceremony at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church, honoring the participants of this year's Mentor Match Teen Entrepreneur Program. There were six Wallowa County juniors and seniors who participated in the program.

Stacy Green, the program's adviser, said the

program is a way to encourage teens to think about entrepreneurship opportunities. It began at a time when many teens were leaving the county to pursue other opportunities in other parts of the state and not returning to Wallowa County bringing with them the skills they had acquired. She said she saw this happening in the early 2000s as many teens left to pursue careers in education. She saw the program "as a way to get more teens interested in entrepreneurship and the skills business owners need to grow," she said.

"We were losing the best and the brightest to other states and communities," she said.

She conceived of the program to introduce teens to career fields in business such as accounting, sales and entrepreneurship.

Program's purpose

The program introduces teens to the nuances of being an entrepreneur as they learn about marketing, pricing a product, time management, customer service, public relations and more.

According to a press release supplied by Green,

Bayden Menton, an incoming senior at Joseph Charter School, earned the award for Top Producer for his business Old School Cutting Boards, which earned more than \$6,000 in revenue. Menton produces cutting boards from the scrap wood taken from the old gym floor of the school after the fire in January 2020. The boards initially sold for \$75 apiece. However, after it was pointed out to Menton by fellow participants, Trace Evans and Zoey Leith, that what he was really selling were memories of the school (i.e., state sports champi-

onships, school dances, etc.), and looking at the cost comparison of class rings and lettermen's jackets, it was decided to raise the price to \$250.

"There's a lot of things that need to be taken into account when pricing your product, he said.

The program draws teens from the Joseph Charter School, Wallowa High School, Enterprise High School, alternative education and homeschooled students. Green estimates that over the past decade, approximately nine to 10

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