



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

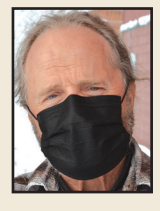
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Wallowa County Voices



Rance Morrison
Joseph

Snowstorm reminds him of Alaska

JOSEPH — Rance Morrison found last week's snowfall a bit reminiscent of living in Alaska, where he moved from nearly 16 years ago.

He and his wife, Gail, are retired. Morrison spends much of his retirement time restoring old cars and pickups. At present, he's working on a 1932 Ford pickup.

"Good parts can be hard to get," he said. Morrison said they moved here to come south to where they could be closer to family.

He recently shared his thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The mountains and the natural beauty.

What does Christmas mean to you?

Family and just trying to remember that we're a united nation and we need to love each other no matter what our political affiliations are.

Do you have a favorite Christmas song?

I don't have a favorite. I like them all.

Tell me about your Christmas traditions.

When our kids were little, we'd open one present the night before and told them they'd have to wait until morning for the rest. My wife decorates really well, so the house will always be Christmassy. When we lived in Alaska, we had a cabin with a wood stove and she had this big pot she'd put water in and cut spruce boughs and put them in the water and let them cook in that pot all day. It would smell really good.

What do you think of last night's snowfall (Dec. 13-14)?

It reminded me of Alaska a little. This much snow all at one time is more like when I lived in Homer (on the coast south of Anchorage). I spent 16 years out in the Aleutians and we would get some huge dumps of snow and it would be above 30 degrees because it's pretty far west and it wasn't nearly as cold as here, so we wouldn't get the coldness associated with the snow. It would usually snow and then rain.

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

There are certain things you don't have here. You don't have the choices for groceries and stuff like that. You should know that and be aware of the things you're going to give up and the things you're going to gain and figure out if it's something you want to do or not.

— Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain

First Christmas revisited

Enterprise church performs live Nativity

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — It was in a small town about the size of Lostine when, in about 4 B.C. the long-prophe- sied Messiah of Israel was born in Bethlehem of Judea, an event reenacted in Enterprise this year by the local Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This was the second year the church has put on the live Nativity pageant, welcoming all comers to watch church members reenact that first Christmas at the Wallowa Valley Eye Care Clinic on North Street. The event not only included the pageant, but live music, an invitation for spectators to join in Christmas carols and hot chocolate and treats. Pastor David Ballard, who served as narrator, also mentioned they'd accept donations that would go to Community Connection.

While hustling about making sure all the actors were in costume, Janice Bailey, personal ministries leader at the church who was in charge of the production, found a similarity in her production and the first Christmas.

"God's working miracles," she said. "We had several sick people and in the last hour we've gotten stand-ins, so it's awesome. They may be reading, but that's OK. By tomorrow night, they'll be pros."

The pageant was held in four, half-hour productions on both Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 18-19.

The actors, to a person, found their participation an honor and humbling.

Joseph and Mary

Although the Bible doesn't say, scholars believe Mary was likely in her teens when she became a mother.

Brandy Lindsay, who portrayed Mary, agreed that it must've been an amazing experience for a young Jewish girl.

"I agree with what the Bible says, and it's humbling to play her part," Lindsay said. "God worked through her in an amazing way to bring Jesus into the world. It's just really humbling to play the part."



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

The Magi, at left, bring gifts to the newborn baby Jesus and his parents as the shepherds watch at right during the first night of the live Nativity reenactment by the Enterprise Seventh-day Adventist Church outside Wallowa Valley Eye Care on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Shepherds — among the lowest of the low in first-century Jewish society — were the first to hear of the birth of the Messiah. These shepherds and their sheep reenacted their reaction during the first night of the live Nativity presentation put on by the Enterprise Seventh-day Adventist Church outside Wallowa Valley Eye Care on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021.

Wondering how she'd react in a conservative society as she turned up pregnant in such a mysterious way, she pondered how she'd explain it to her parents and to her betrothed, Joseph. After all, her virginity was essen-

tial to her standing in the Jewish community. By law, she could've been stoned as an adulteress.

"It would be nerve-racking," Lindsay said. "I think God gave her the courage to (deal with it.) It's unreal."

She also found Mary's other experiences "unreal," such as when she went to visit her relative, Elizabeth, who in her old age became pregnant with a son who would be John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah. The Bible tells us that as Mary arrived at Elizabeth's home, Elizabeth's child — about six months further along than Mary's — leaped in her womb. Elizabeth said, Scripture says, that she felt blessed to be visited by "the mother of our Lord."

"I think it's totally cool because it shows that God spoke to all these people and God used all these people and they didn't even talk to each other because they were so far away," Lindsay said. "It's amazing."

But how about telling Joseph? Scripture says he was a godly man, devoted to the Law of Moses, so he didn't feel right about marrying a woman pregnant with a child that wasn't his. But he loved Mary and didn't want to shame her publicly. Joseph's initial plan was to divorce her privately.

Dave Brandt, who portrayed

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Construction bid for Wallowa clinic approved

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA — Local construction company Wellens General Contractors had its bid to complete the remodel of the former Fox Archery location in Wallowa into the new location of the town's Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic accepted by the Wallowa County Health Care District Board of Trustees.

The approval, voted on Monday, Dec. 13, was announced Monday, Dec. 20.

"The people of Wallowa deserve to have a premier clinic that does not require an hour round-trip trek to garner health care services," Wallowa Memorial Hospital CEO Larry Davy said in a press release. "It is our mission to provide premier care to the residents of Wallowa County. A professional clinic in Wallowa is the next piece in delivering on that mission. We are so thankful for the community's support and the approval of the board."

According to the release from Wallowa Memorial Hospital and Clinics, the approval of the bid is



Wallowa Memorial Hospital and Clinics/Contributed Graphic

Shown is a model of what the new Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic — Wallowa location will look like once it is complete.

the next step in getting the roughly \$3 million project going.

"Today was a monumental win for the citizens of the lower valley who have been without a full-service medical clinic for the last decade. We couldn't be more excited to bring consistent, quality care back to the people of Wallowa," said Nancy Crenshaw, a Wallowa resident and Health Care District Board member since 2018. The new clinic, which is on

track to open sometime in 2022, will be a state-of-the-art clinic similar to the one recently built in Joseph. The roughly 5,400-square-foot building will have six exam rooms, a behavioral health room, a community conference room and a physical therapy room. The clinic will be open five days a week.

The purchase of the former Fox Archery location, at 701 W. Highway 82, was completed in July of this year.

Near-record snow falls in Joseph

NWS records 14 inches in the town, most ever in one day in December

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — One of the snowiest days on record in Joseph occurred last week, according to data from the National Weather Service's Pendleton office.

While totals of up to 2 feet of snow were reported in some areas around the town on Tuesday, Dec. 14, the NWS officially recorded 14 inches of snow. It recorded not only the most snow ever recorded on Dec. 14, but the most anytime in December and ties for the second-highest

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