

100 Years:

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squawked and didn't have much fun," Liza Jane said. "But now you're going to face that fear."

"That's one thing I'm going to do before I die," Wanda said.

Journalist and teacher

"Then Dad got a job in Redmond and had a small farm behind a reindeer ranch," Liza Jane recalled.

That's where Wanda obtained her teaching certification — no small feat while raising five kids.

She also continued her journalism career, in Corvallis; McMinnville; Hel-

ena, Montana; and at the Muscatine (Iowa) Journal for two years where she was publisher.

She particularly enjoyed her time in Helena.

"I had a really good time there," she said. "I liked it. I liked the people. And then they jerked me back."

During her journalistic career, Wanda repeatedly won awards at the national, state and local levels. In June 1981, she was listed as one of Oregon's most powerful women in the Oregon Magazine as the sole woman daily newspaper editor at the time.

She was the first woman elected as the president of the Oregon Association of Press Executives. In 1988, she won the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association's highest

honor, the Amos E. Voorhies Award, at the time just the second female winner since the award was established in 1938.

She also got to interview some big names in history, such as President Richard Nixon and longtime Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"You told me about Henry Kissinger when you interviewed him that he was very charismatic," Liza Jane reminded her mother.

Wanda remembered Kissinger and Nixon, but not the "charismatic" comment.

Liza Jane recalls her mom's fastidiousness and attention to detail as a journalist.

"I remember Mom fact-checking everything before she'd let it go to

print," she said. "I was sharing some of my frustrations with the media with her and she said, 'Well, maybe it's time for me to go back to work.'"

Secret to a long life?

"You just go from day to day and like people," Wanda said of her secret to living a long life.

Another secret is having fun at whatever's she's doing — such as on the ranch.

"We had fun. I like animals, I really do. I like kids," she said.

She also remembered more recent fun, such as helping Liza Jane open the farm stand outside their old century farmhouse.

"That was fun," she said. "We did a lot of things

that were fun."

Some of her most fun experiences have been away from home. Her travels have taken her to Israel, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Costa Rica, Thailand, India, San Juan Islands, China, Tibet, Kiribati in Oceania, Cook Islands, The Galapagos off Ecuador, Italy, Sicily, Belize, Mexico's Copper Canyon and Australia. Also, in 1996, she took a trip down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon and in 2000, took ski outings to Hoodoo Ski Area near Sisters.

"I had a pretty good time," Wanda said.

Her second hundred years?

Wanda still has plans for the future. Liza Jane prom-

ised her the summer after she turns 100, she'd take her mom camping.

But sleep on a cot or a sleeping pad? Not for Wanda.

"She wants to sleep on the ground," Liza Jane said. "I sleep on a pad or in the car."

"She's a sissy. It's so nice, to see the stars and smell the grass and here she is in her car," Wanda said. "I like it to be on the grass."

She's also going to tackle her lifelong fear of horses.

"I'm still going to ride a horse," she asserted.

But most of all, it's continuing to have fun.

"I'll just go from day to day and like people — and smack Liza," she said. "I have fun."

Boats:

Continued from Page A1

contingent upon having the boats water-worthy."

She said that ceremony consists of a special finish to the boats.

"You awaken the dragon by painting its eye so he can see on the water," she said.

Turner said the plan is to launch the boats at the gated dock near the Wallowa Lake Marina where the club has two slips where the boats tie up.

Racing and fitness, too

The boats generally are crewed by 22 people, who sit in close quarters rowing. Each boat has a helmsman to steer and a caller who sets the pace for the oarsmen. Smaller dragon boats have 12-person crews, Turner said.

The boats lift a bit out of the water during the race, which is a quick, one-minute sprint. She said they race at about 45 mph.

"The boat has to rise out of the water and get to the other end quickly," she said. "It's quite a popular sport."

The racing aspect of dragon boats "burns a lot of calories, like running fast," Turner said. "We're hoping to have involvement from physical-fitness trainers to help improve not only our physical bodies, but also our paddling skills."

But, she said, it's not all about racing. She said



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

A dragon boat paddles hard during the Dragons in the Wallowas race in 2018. After being mothballed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the dragon boats are being resurrected this year.

dragon boat crews use not only their arms to row, their legs and hips get a workout, too, as they twist and move to use the oars.

"It has a lot of fitness effects," she said. "This year we're more of a recreational team and focusing more on fitness. There are several of us who race. And use it as practice."

The club

Right now, the Dragons on the Lake Paddle Club only consists of three people — Turner and co-presidents Denny Kolb and Amy Gulzow. They're hoping to get more members, particularly as it takes about 12 people to move each boat.

Turner said the boats are owned by the Wallowa Lake Tourism Association and in order to use them and pay for their upkeep, the Dragon Boat Club has to form its own 501(c)(3) group. They also have to join the Pacific

Dragon Boat Association.

"That's partly so those members who want to race with other clubs can do so, but mostly because we get a group rate for insurance that specifically covers our sport," she said.

Other costs are associated, such as slip fees, life-jackets, paddles, a place to store the boats during the off-season and other items.

But the big cost right now is what she estimates will be \$1,200 to repair four of the boats.

"We'd also like to plan for upgrading equipment, everything was pretty old when they were first acquired in 2016," Turner said.

International concept

The dragon boat concept came from China after President Richard Nixon reopened relations with the communist country during a visit in 1972, Turner said. That led to a sister city rela-

tionship between Portland and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in 1988, with one of the benefits being the introduction of dragon boat-racing to the United States. Thus began the annual tradition of the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races on the Willamette River each June, hosted by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.

The international facet also extends to Venice, Italy, renowned for its canals where the Vogalonga race is held each year with a dragon boat component. She said she's seen a photograph of a dragon boat from Portland going under the famous Bridge of Sighs in Venice.

"I would love to see a team go from here," Turner said. "That's my personal goal."

Turner just might see that goal come to fruition. She emphasized that anyone of any age can race.

"I'm 75 years old and I can compete," she said. "I just want to make sure people have the chance to race."

For more information, contact Turner at 541-432-1121 or dragonsonthelakepaddleclub@gmail.com.

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