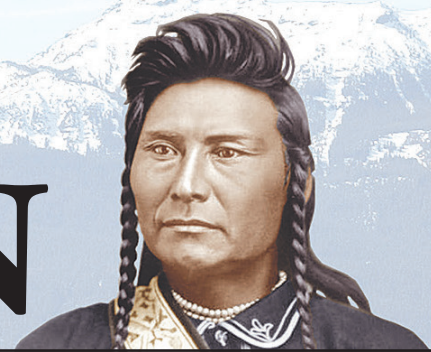




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



138th Year, No. 13

WALLOWA.COM

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Wallowa County Voices



Eric Wright
Enterprise

Jackpot propels man to county

ENTERPRISE — Eric Wright won the jackpot to propel him to Wallowa County.

He's lived here nine years, having moved from San Diego, after which he went to the University of Phoenix (Arizona.)

"After I graduated, I went to the casino and I won \$18,000 and that's what brought me up here," he said. "I came up here to visit my mom ... and I fell in love with the place — 'this is heaven to us; don't drive like hell through it' and I fell in love and moved up here."

He considers himself a bit of a retiree, but works at the Little Store in Enterprise.

The fishing here is one of his favorite things about Wallowa County and wants to keep it for locals.

"We don't appreciate people coming here and overindulging our five-fish limit," he said. "Please respect our heritage here. No. 1, we have to remember Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce, which is a big part of our community. ... A lot of people here are good, wholesome people. We go out of our way to help each other."

His activities this summer will likely revolve around work, which will keep him away from the Wallowa County Fair as it did Chief Joseph Days. He did go to CJD on Veterans Night.

"I met a lot of wonderful people who spend thousands of dollars to come here for a week — and we live here," he said.

As for the food vendors at CJD, he speaks highly of the local breweries and delicatessens. Since the Oregon Department of Forestry increased restrictions because of fire season Aug. 1, Wright's main concern is nonlocals coming here.

"I worry about tourists coming here and not knowing the fire regulations," he said. "If you go up to Salt Creek Summit and there's a wind like today and you want to have a fire, please observe our rules and regulations."

When it comes to people interested in moving to Wallowa County, Wright advises them to beware of the limited housing to rent or to buy.

"Be sure you do your homework before you come," he said.

— Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR

'Some of everything'

Longtime fair exhibitor encourages others to exhibit

By ANN BLOOM
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Barbara Warnock has a lot of memories from the Wallowa County Fair. After all, the Wallowa County native has been entering her quilts, jam, jellies and pickles in the fair for "a long time."

One of Warnock's most memorable memories of exhibiting was the time she and her granddaughter, Bo Dean, both received the Homemaker of the Fair Award. Dean won the Junior Homemaker of the Fair and Warnock won the adult honor. Dean was 13 years old at the time and she is 31 years old now.

"It's not many times a grandmother and a granddaughter get to do it together," Warnock said. "That was fun."

To be eligible for the Homemaker of the Fair Award, a participant must enter something in all open class divisions of the fair — floriculture, baked goods, clothing and/or textiles and food preservation. A person is eligible to compete for the award once every five years. It comes with a \$50 cash prize.

Born in Flora, Warnock and her family then moved to Wallowa. From there they moved to Hermiston, where she graduated high school. She married her

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Ann Bloom/For the Wallowa County Chieftain
Barb Warnock holds a jar of her first-place dill pickles in the Cloverleaf Hall at the Wallowa County Fair on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. The Imnaha resident has been entering exhibits at the annual fair for many years.

'Fun while it lasted'
Dog, handler go home with ribbons from Wallowa County Fair

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — For her final year in 4-H, Carrin Yaw put her dog, Cookie, through his paces at the 4-H Dog Show at the Wallowa County Fair.

"My mom thought I should do dog this year," she said.

This is actually her second year in the Dog Show with 3-year-old Cookie, a Dutch shepherd, which is not unlike the more-common German shepherd.

According to a-z-animals.com, German shepherds are one of the most common and well-recognized dogs in the U.S. Although similar but a bit smaller, Dutch shepherds are rare in the U.S. and are mostly bred in the Netherlands. These breeds are similar in body shape, temperament and trainability. Both bred for herding, they're brilliant, loyal dogs that can take on a range of jobs — but they must have something to occupy their minds and bodies.

A dog show can be just the ticket for a dog like Cookie.

"They're a high-drive dog," Yaw said.

And unlike livestock that get sold for slaughter at the end of a county fair, Cookie just reclaimed his place as the family pet.

Yaw said Cookie did pretty well in Saturday's Dog Show, although the pair didn't come out on top. She said he did "really good" in obedience.

"It's just something we do all the time," she said. "It's how we train."

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Some object to politics at rodeo

Letter says remarks made it a 'Trump rally'

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Politically charged banter coming from the announcer's booth and the rodeo clown at the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo has stirred up objections from some in the audience, even to the point of decisions to not return to CJD.

One letter to the editor in today's Chieftain suggested the announcer keep his political views to himself.

"It's a rodeo, not a Trump rally, pardner," David Olmos of Portland wrote.

He was one who said he wouldn't return "until you get back in the saddle of showing respect to all of your patrons."

Mike Mercer of Joseph wrote in the Aug. 3 Chieftain that "the announcer, Jody Carper, needs to leave his continued cheap political shots out of the event. He seems to be playing to a TV audience in order to improve ratings, rather than lifting up what makes the rodeo and this community special."

Another Joseph resident, Eric Pippert, wrote in an open letter to the CJD board for this week's paper, "This wasn't my first rodeo, but I promise you it is my last of your rodeo I'll attend," adding that he'd heard similar complaints about "Jingoistic, dog whistle political commentary, with a sprinkling of misogynistic and racial tropes by the announcer and rodeo 'clown.'"

Board President Terry Jones said



Wallowa County Chieftain/File Photo

A Tuckerette brings the American flag into the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena during the final night of the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo on Saturday, July 30, 2022. Some who attended objected to the political banter between rodeo announcer Jody Carper and clown/barrel man John Harrison.

he understood how some rodeo fans might object, but hopes to eliminate concerns fans may have.

"I'll visit with our announcer," Jones said Aug. 4. "We'll deal with it. It's OK for some people to say political things and it's not OK for others."

Clown and barrel man John Harrison defended his statements.

"We are in the entertainment business. Just like not all movies, comedians, singers, music genres appeal to all people we may not appeal to all," he said. "The autograph lines,

handshakes, comments of how much people enjoyed the show far outweigh the negative, but that wouldn't make a sensational news story, would it?"

Carper, who bills himself as the "patriotic announcer," was unapologetic in his response to critics. He said he's been criticized in print twice in the 31 years he's been announcing, both times in the Chieftain.

"I like to put a little humor with my announcing and choose to make fun of some of the things that are happening in our country," he said in an Aug. 5 email. "I understand that some of the people in this world cannot take a joke and they want every event or concert to only say what they believe. I don't think every comedian is hilarious and I don't like the food at every restaurant. But I don't waste my time complaining about it or trying to cancel someone. But that is the beauty of our country. Everyone has freedom of speech. It is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution. It's called an opinion. And thank God we can have an opinion in the United States of America, because there are a lot of countries that don't allow you that privilege. I will continue to stand up for the red, white and blue, our military, first-responders and the greatest country in the world, the United States of America. Sorry if it offends you and have a great day."

Jones was a bit philosophical about the controversy and eager to see the event not be controversial.

"It goes on every time someone opens their mouth," Jones said. "I try my best to put on a good show for everybody."

