

Eastern Oregon - Story Ideas for 2011

What's Happening with Eastern Oregon...

EVENTS that are special?

66th Annual Chief Joseph Days Celebrates Cowboys & the Nez Perce Indians In the Bronze Haven of Joseph, Oregon

(Joseph, Oregon) Way off the beaten path, four hours from a moderately sized airport (Boise), well over an hour from the nearest McDonald's, at the end of a highway that dead ends into Oregon's Eagle Cap Wilderness, you'll find the Wallowa Valley. Once home to the Nez Perce Indians led by famous Chief Joseph, who uttered the memorable words "I will fight no more forever," the town at the end of this road will host its annual Chief Joseph Days Rodeo & Celebration July 21-25.

Still a one street western town, Joseph's population (1,000) swells to nearly 10,000 with cowboys and spectators, and Nez Perce tribal members celebrating with a salmon and buffalo Friendship Feast (bring a potluck to share) and showcasing their traditional dress in the Main Street Grand Parade.

Joseph's Harley Tucker Memorial Arena, named for the famous stock contractor who founded the rodeo in 1946, is located within walking distance of town, and hosts four nightly PRCA rodeos, filled with nonstop action and world class entertainment. Music and dances at the nearby Thunderroom follow the rodeos, and keep the party going until the all-you-can-eat cowboy breakfast kicks in at midnight on Saturday.

Today, Joseph retains its authentic western flavor, but you'll find a dressed up Main Street featuring an industry the town has become known for: bronze. Lined with small galleries and bronze sculptures depicting western scenes, Joseph's award-winning Main Street Art Walk celebrates the cowboy, the Indian, and the wildlife native to the region.

For more information, visit www.chiefjosephdays.com, or call the Joseph Chamber of Commerce at 541.432.1015, or the Wallowa County Chamber at 541.426.4622. Contact: Stacy Green; 541.426.2065 or Chief Joseph Days Rodeo 541.432.1015



What's NEW & UNIQUE in Eastern Oregon?

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute

New Field Center welcomes visitors in Fossil, OR

Take a Trip Back in Time...About 50 Million Years!

(Fossil, Oregon) EXPLORE, DISCOVER, EXPERIENCE Oregon's Ancient and Living Landscapes at the new OPLI Field Center in Fossil, OR. The Field Center opened to the public on July 3, 2009 and marked the installation of the first major interpretive exhibit "The Mitchell Plesiosaur Project - Tiger of the Cretaceous Seas" with a formal Dedication on September 12. The Field Center supports OPLI's mission to protect, promote, and educate about Oregon's ancient and living landscapes through unique regionally based hands-on exhibits and activities, and providing information for visitors. Many exhibits will showcase the work of schools and students participating in OPLI programs. The 1,400-square-foot building is headquarters for the Institute, housing staff offices, interactive displays about Oregon's fascinating geologic history, exhibits, and a small book & gift store.

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SANDY'S SOUPS & CATERING

SHERMAN CO. HISTORICAL MUSEUM

WILSON RANCHES RETREAT B&B

OREGON PALEO LANDS INSTITUTE

CYCLING ECO-TOURISM FINE DINING
FISHING FOSSIL HUNTING HIKING HUNTING
MUSEUMS PHOTOGRAPHY RAFTING
RANCHING WINDSURFING AND MORE!

Founded in 2003, OPLI is devoted to helping people understand the ancient and living landscapes of the John Day Basin. The region is rich in fossil history, and is home to the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The non-profit institute provides educational resources to students and teachers, works with visiting professionals, offers scheduled programs and hikes, and also offers day trips to explore geology, natural history, art, writing, and photography with custom itineraries for families and groups. OPLI also is working closely with counties and communities in the John Day Basin to develop more tourism and promote the John Day Basin as one of the most unique places on the globe to peer back millions of years.

Contact: Anne Mitchell, Executive Director

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute; (541) 763-4480; Email: Anne@paleolands.org

Location: 333 Fourth Street, Fossil, OR; Visit our website www.paleolands.org

What's NEW & UNIQUE in Eastern Oregon?

RESTORED 1950s TEXACO STATION OPENS IN LA GRANDE, OREGON

I believe you may find a new business in La Grande of interest to your readers. After years of careful restoration by a retired La Grande priest, Father Hank Albrecht, the downtown La Grande Texaco Station is now open for business. The authentic 1950s service station quietly started pumping gas from vintage-style pumps and repairing cars earlier this month. The station's attendants wear period uniforms and they take the term "service station" seriously. A 1950s vintage candy counter will soon be installed in the station's office, which also displays shelves of Texaco collectibles.



The Texaco Station is located at the corner of Adams Avenue and Greenwood in the heart of La Grande's downtown National Historic District. It has been the site of the Friday Night Cruise In for over a year; a weekly gathering for visiting and resident car enthusiasts to show off their vehicles, eat free hot-dogs, visit and swap car stories. The Friday Night Cruise In has ended for the season, but will begin again next spring when the weather is friendly. In the meantime, La Grande residents are happily supporting the business.

The Texaco Station is a perfect complement to Hought's 24 Flavors Ice Cream just a few blocks west on Adams. It didn't take much to restore Hought's when it reopened five years ago. The traditional ice cream parlor and burger joint had been boarded up for a couple of decades, with all of the 1950s furnishings intact. It is now a very popular stop for delicious burgers, shakes, curly fries, ice cream and other comfort foods at bargain prices. Visitors to La Grande won't want to miss either of these delightful businesses when on their next trip along Interstate 84 in northeast Oregon.

La Grande is located 265 miles east of Portland and 175 northwest of Boise, Idaho. It is a portal to the popular Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, designated an All-American Road by the Federal Highways Administration's National Scenic Byways Program in 2000. Surrounded by the state's largest national forest and abutting Oregon's largest wilderness area, La Grande is the ideal jump-off for outdoor recreation and sightseeing in the Wallowa and Blue Mountains and exploring Oregon Trail historic sites.

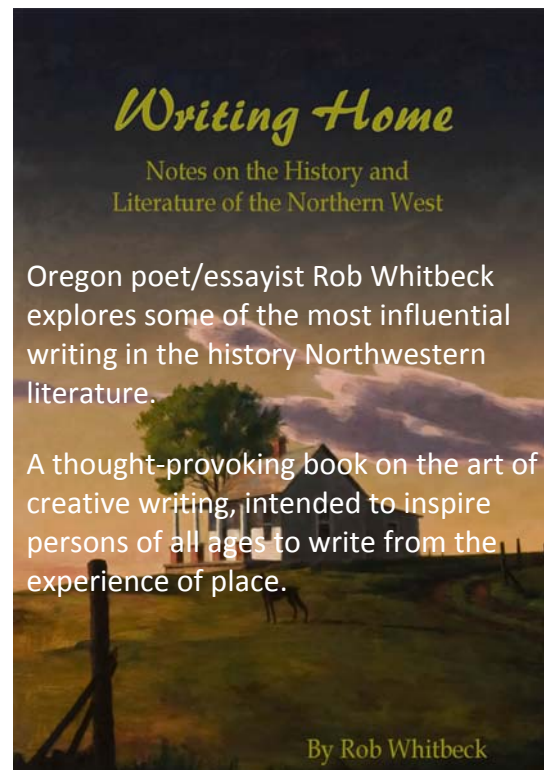
What's NEW & UNIQUE in Eastern Oregon?

Read, Taste, Touch Your Way Through Eastern Oregon

The far eastern side of the Oregon offers visitors an amazing, and somewhat surprising array of cultural and culinary experiences. From the thriving arts community in Historic Baker City displayed at the Crossroads Arts Center, to the huckleberry salmon prepared at Raphael's in Pendleton, there is a sagebrush culture that might just surprise the metropolitan palate.

Read What They Are Writing:

- "Wild Beauty: Photographs of the Columbia River Gorge 1867-1957" is a co-authored by John Laursen, which illuminates the photographic heritage of the Columbia River Gorge for more than a century, with 134 images by three dozen photographers.



Taste Your Way Through Eastern Oregon's Back roads and Scenic Byways:

- **Titanic Dinner at Foley Station in La Grande.** What would it be like to set sail on the world's finest, brand new luxury ocean-liner in 1912? With emotions high you board the Titanic! The sites, the sounds, the aromas wafting from the kitchen, and the pure excitement of sailing the ocean. Join Foley Station restaurant and John Lamoreau historian in La Grande, Oregon to experience the Titanic as few get to Re-live the true story of the unsinkable ship sinking on her maiden voyage...the life and death struggle to enter a lifeboat... the world's richest people willingly giving up their seats to third class children... the band playing on knowing they were to die... and so much more.. Read actual letters written by passengers, view artifacts from the Titanic itself and then dine from the same menus as the rich and famous did on that fateful night.



- **Whole new meaning to the phrase...PUB CRAWL!** Eastern Oregon is home to several fabulous, awarding-winning micro breweries. *Barely Brown's* in Historic Baker City has won over 40 national awards, and the food served up to complement the beer is equally satisfying. *Terminal Gravity* in Enterprise is a favorite for locals and visitors, for peddlers and motorcyclists, for grandpa and mom! Located in the charming mountain town of Enterprise, and nestled along the banks of a little creek, the beer matches the splendor of the environment. Not to be out-done by the hops, the grapes are here too. *Gilstrap Brothers Winery* near La Grande has an amazing appeal as you sit in the gazebo, sip a Merlot, and watch the sun go down on beautiful Grande Ronde Valley. *Hamilton Wines* and *Blue Mt. Cider* will tickle the sweeter tongues with huckleberry wine from John Day area, and hard cider from Milton-Freewater. *Muscat Dun* Vineyard is another unique experience, offering horseback rides through the vineyards, ending with a delicious meal with many locally grown, organic products.

Finding Out "Where Good Food Comes From"

Trips are designed for curious, active thinking citizens of the world who want to gain firsthand knowledge of agriculture in the Pacific Northwest and enjoy inspiring scenery, good conversation and delicious local foods along the way. They provide insiders' access to rural communities and the farmers and ranchers who grow our food. The tours visit working farms and ranches and converse with a diverse group of growers who raise a variety of crops and each have their own unique philosophy. Source Tours helps the visitor become a participant in the sustainability of the community by supporting local economies in choosing local lodging, dining, and service providers. And Source Tours compensates the farmers and ranchers who host us. Source guests come from around the world and from across the street. Some grew up on farms in other parts of the country, others just want to get to know their home region better. All enjoy good food and gaining a better appreciation for today's sustainable farming practices here in the Pacific Northwest. Source Tours: www.sourcetours.com



What's UNIQUE in Eastern Oregon?

Girlfriend Getaways with Your Horse

There is something about the relationship that gals have with their horses, sometimes dogs, and definitely with their girlfriends! Eastern Oregon is a great 'getaway' for women and their favorite things. Look at combining a horse back experience, with the pleasures of the many fine B&Bs in the region, that cater to accepting dogs and horses.



Boulder Creek Ranch, near John Day

(John Day...Oregon) For those in the "get away from it all" mood, eastern Oregon offers many great vacation opportunities. New to the John Day area is Boulder Creek Ranch, providing the perfect escape for friends, families, or even girl friend get-aways! Come stay in the shepherders camp wagon. www.bouldercreekranch.net

(Joseph, Oregon) Nestled in the far northeast corner of Oregon is a place of awesome beauty, a deep heritage, and a rich culture of artists and ranchers. The Wallowa Valley was the home of Chief Joseph and was revered by him as a sacred 'Homeland'. It is a place where the



Barking Mad Farm near Joseph

high mountain peaks of the Wallowa Mountains tower over you on one side, and the Zumwalt Prairie stretches to the other, finally tumbling into the rivers that lead to Hells Canyon.

It is here that Diana and James Hunter came to start the ***Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast.***

Diana comes from England and spent time crewing on yachts before becoming chef at Montpelier Hotel on Nevis in the Caribbean and then managing the exclusive Nesbit Plantation Inn. Her passion is trail riding and working cattle on horseback (with faithful hounds in tow!) James heralds from British Columbia, and has worked over 20 years in Hollywood as a screenwriter. His passion is fishing.

The couple discovered Wallowa Valley as they searched for a place to uncover that allowed for open country on which to ride horses, and rivers, lakes, and streams to fish. The perfect combination was found in Oregon.

In 2006 they opened the Barking Mad Farm B&B. The name came from Diana's British heritage where people who are a little crazy are often said to be "barking mad". They also wanted a name that reflected the willingness to provide accommodations for dogs.

WALLOWA COUNTY B&B'S



1910 Historic Enterprise House Bed & Breakfast

Gourmet Breakfast, All Private Baths,
Walk To Terminal Gravity Microbrewery
508 First South St. | Enterprise, OR 97828
(541) 426-4238
enterprisehousebnb.com

A Barking Mad Farm and Country Bed and Breakfast Inn

Pet & horse friendly, WiFi,
Gourmet fare, Private baths, Best views
65156 Powers Rd. | Enterprise, OR 97828
(541) 426-0360
barkingmadfarm.com

Belle Pepper's Bed & Breakfast

Private baths, wireless internet, quiet street,
near downtown, bordering river
101 South Mill St. | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-0490
bellepeppersbnb.com

Bronze Antler Bed & Breakfast

Private baths, Air-conditioned, In-town, German spoken, WiFi
309 South Main St. | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-0230
bronziantler.com

Chandlers' Inn Bed & Breakfast

Celebrating 25 years of hospitality
700 South Main St. | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-9765
josephbedandbreakfast.com

Cowboy Riverfront Retreat

Pet, Horse and Character friendly
810 Russell Ln. | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-1775
cowboyriverfrontretreat.com

Creekside Country Haven

Pet Friendly and horses welcomed
83326 Joseph Hwy | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-2703
creeksidecountryhaven.com

Imnaha River Inn Bed & Breakfast

Beautiful Imnaha, the best kept secret of Walla
73946 Rimrock Rd. | Imnaha, OR 97842
(541) 577-6002
imnahariverinn.com

Little Ranch Bed & Breakfast

Quiet country comfort. Pets welcome
62483 Little Ranch Rd. | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-3706
littleranchbb.com

North End Crossing Barn & Inn

Step back in time to a pioneer bed and breakfast
80903 College Ln. | Flora, OR 97828
(888) 897-8020
northendcrossing.com

Whitetail Farm Bed & Breakfast

Spectacular Mountain Views on the River,
Great Country Breakfasts!
PO Box 1066 | Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-1630 | whitetailfarm.com

"Family Adventure Unplugged!" -- Leave the Technology Behind with a Backcountry Horsebackriding Adventure with Del Sol Wilderness Adventures

If you want a true family vacation – one free from fights over texting, laptops, and mindless tv watching – take your family deep into northeast Oregon's backcountry, into land only accessible on horseback, with Del Sol Wilderness Adventures.

With Del Sol, you'll leave the technology (and the battles!) behind as you saddle up your friendly mount and enjoy a leisurely guided trail ride into some of the most gorgeous backcountry the West has to offer. Pristine rivers, alpine lakes, and majestic mountain peaks await you and your family; and so do comfortable, roomy canvas wall tents, three delicious camp cooked meals a day, and warm and inviting showers, with water naturally heated by the sun. Throw in the chance to explore nature, both on foot and on your friendly, well-trained horse, and you've got a guaranteed stress-free vacation.

Del Sol Wilderness is perfect for a multi-generational family gathering. With no decisions to make about activities, where and what to eat, or how to keep the kids from getting bored, Del Sol offers an ideal way for family members of all ages to come together.

If you're seeking a true escape and a chance to get back to nature, enjoy family, and share an experience of a lifetime, call Shay Mann at 541-912-0340 at Del Sol Wilderness Adventures, or visit www.delsolwildernessadventures.com

T&T Ranch – All Women's Retreat

This is the ultimate girlfriend getaway, where not only do you have great fun with your 'gals', eat wonderful food featuring locally grown organics, play in the mountains, swim in the reservoirs, chase after cows...you do it all with maybe learning a thing or two about yourself and your horse. Under the guidance a well-known horsemanship clinician, Alice Trindle, ladies are treated to an experience that participants call "special, spiritual, and life-changing".

www.tnthorsemanship.com



What's UNIQUE in Eastern Oregon?

Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum – A Time Box

(John Day, Oregon) Instinctively lowering your head, you step up and through the small but sturdy-framed door. You shake off the bright summer sun, straining to focus through the darkness. You welcome the coolness but question it's source. The first thing you see is a gaudy colloqued wall of faded peacock feathers and gilded paper flowers. On another wall you see a row of trundled cots. You cringe as you sense the haunting presence



of opium pipe dreamers, sprawled out before you. Composure is gained as the curator guides you into another room and past the altar of the Kitchen God. You wonder if you should bow? Herbal concoctions and hundreds of medicine bottles rally in dust under an incense blackened ceiling. You look around - you feel a mystical spell, you smell the musk of ages, and it dawns on you; this is the catalyst of Grant County, Oregon. This is the shining light of the magical celestial beings . This is quite possibly the greatest treasure of Oregon. This is the Kam Wah Chung.

(<http://gesswhoto.com/chung.html>)