



**A WALLOWA GAL**  
KAT STICKROTH

## The Compound, my very own retreat

A large part of this new adventure was about me making my own choices for the first time of my life and proving I could do this successfully.

Before going south to get my things, I chose a manufactured home with two feet of snow blanketing the large lot.

"I'll have a lot to mow in the summer, but I'll deal with that then," I thought.

Enclosing all of this property was an impenetrable metal fence and a tall lockable gate, providing much needed security.

Though others commented how brave I was to make this change, deep inside I was terrified.

Arriving after a seven-day journey in the rental truck, I pulled up to the new abode, which now had no snow.

Instead, a large gravelled lot with a small patch of grass around the house lay before me. I met my neighbor soon after unpacking and inquired about the gravel.

"It used to be a salvage yard, with abandoned cars and trucks," he said.

I laughed at myself. My first big decision, and I had landed in a junkyard.

I mused, "I hope my boys never find out."

As the days passed, I realized for the first time in my life, I was alone. With no obligations, I was completely responsible for my life and the direction it would take. Pen and paper in hand, I reflected on my past. I thought about what worked, and what didn't for the last 56 years.

Taking breaks, I began to meet friendly people and would join them for coffee or excursions into this beautiful, wild land.

They were amused at my parting comment, "Well, got to get back to The Compound."

This place had become like a self-imposed retreat, to quiet myself for a time of soul-searching.

I found beauty in that former scrap heap. Upon a full moon night, the broken glass from countless shattered windshields shimmered as a field of diamonds.

During the day, I wandered about, picking up various shards of colorful plastic and chrome.

A killdeer couple nested three clutches of babies. A family of quail gathered on my porch to eat the bird seed tumbled from the feeder overhead.

One day, I awoke to the property owner dismantling the gate.

He had said from the beginning he planned to do so, but I still panicked. Then an image came to mind, as though God was saying, "OK, little birdie. It's time to leave the nest."

Friends helped me find a home with a breathtaking view of the mountains.

Settled in now, and with a new confidence, this Wallowa Gal couldn't be happier.

Kat Stickroth is a freelance writer and vendor for Pika Press publications. She may be reached at [awallowagal@gmail.com](mailto:awallowagal@gmail.com).

## BACK IN TIME: Elk at Wallowa Lake, 1925-1942



Bob Bull collection

Since elk season is currently going on, this picture might serve as a reminder to those hunters that never see anything just what a bull elk looks like. This postcard shows a young bull elk along with an extremely large bull elk at the park at Wallowa Lake, where they were protected naturally. The stamp box on the back of the postcard indicates the picture was taken sometime between 1925 and 1942.

JOSEPH

## 'State of Giving' to encourage communities

■ Authors retell stories of nonprofit organizations, volunteers that have played role in Oregon history

By Katherine Stickroth  
For The Observer

JOSEPH — A panel discussion led by authors Greg Chaillé and Kristin Anderson highlighted the publication of "State of Giving: Stories of Oregon Volunteers, Donors and Nonprofits."

Through storytelling, this book features nonprofits and community members throughout the state who have played a vital role in Oregon's history and its present.

Local entities such as Wallowa Resources and Fishtrap are portrayed in the book.

A recounting of the project to restore the Wallowa River to its original channel on the property of Lostine rancher Doug McDaniel is also included.

"With Wallowa County having more nonprofits per capita," Anderson said, "we felt like we were preaching to the converted."

However, more than 50 people from the community attended the event held at the Joseph Center.

With "giving" meaning both monetary donations to nonprofits and time offered by volunteers, the book tour event was to



Anderson

show people "that anyone, no matter who you are, can make a difference, and that Oregon's future depends upon more people realizing that and getting involved," Anderson said.

"Nonprofits as a whole are in a crisis mode," she continued. "With many organizations maxed out in personal capacity, the oft asked question is 'how do we attract a new generation of volunteers and donors?'"

"State of Giving" highlights people who have made a difference, with the intent being to inspire others to get involved in their community.

Over 350 people from all walks of life throughout Oregon were interviewed for this book.

"The work of donors, volunteers, and nonprofit staff, and of other civic leaders is transformative," Anderson said.

"It changes lives and landscapes and improves our daily experience. We wanted to share these stories and show how their innovations and generosity are strengthening our state."

At this meeting, it was announced that December 1 has been designated as "Giving Tuesday" across Oregon. More information is available at [oregonians-give.org](http://oregonians-give.org).

U. S. Senator Ron Wyden says, "State of Giving" is an inspiring, essential, and



Courtesy photo

The two authors of "State of Giving" visited Wallowa County to talk about the encouraging stories of nonprofits and volunteers who have played a role in Oregon's history.

"With Wallowa County having more nonprofits per capita, we felt like we were preaching to the converted."

— Kristin Anderson, co-author of "State of Giving"

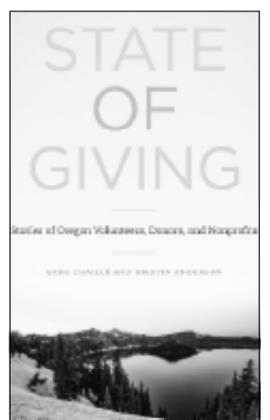
accessible history of the unique community spirit that makes Oregon the special place we call home."

The Ford Family Foundation, through their Select Book Program, offers this book for free to the public.

"We'd also love for folks to go to our website to submit their own stories about why they give, and how, and to whom," Anderson said. "We want your story told, too."

**"State of Giving: Stories of Oregon Volunteers, Donors and Nonprofits"**

To get a free copy of the book, order it online at [www.tfff.org/select-books/book/state-giving](http://www.tfff.org/select-books/book/state-giving). To share your own story, email [stateofgiving@gmail.com](mailto:stateofgiving@gmail.com) or go to [www.stateofgiving.com](http://www.stateofgiving.com)



Courtesy photo

A story from Doug McDaniel, out of Wallowa County, is included in the book.

## Introducing Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Adrian Davis

Dr. Davis will be based in La Grande; he will see patients at Wallowa Memorial Hospital four days per month, starting in November

- Sports medicine, orthopedic trauma, hip/knee osteoarthritis
- Dr. Davis served as physician for the USA Rugby Team, and several other professional Pittsburgh sports teams
- Education: medical school at Indiana University; orthopedic surgery residency at St. Louis University; sports medicine fellowship at Alleghany General Hospital

Ask your physician for a referral today!



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