

# Palus Museum News

## Nathan Riley Exhibit Ends December 17th



Artist Nathan Riley

On Saturday, October 1st, a half dozen people stood outside waiting for the Palus Museum to open. The reason? It was the *Dayton on Tour* event and folks wanted to meet Nathan Riley, the featured artist who was at the museum to tell about his ag-inspired photography and metal sculptures.

Throughout the day, visitors from

the Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, and Lewiston—as well as Dayton and Waitsburg—stopped by.

And none were disappointed. Nathan, who now lives and works in Walla Walla, arrived that Saturday with one final addition for the exhibit dedicated to his grandfather.

It was a letter Nathan had written to his Grandpa “Skip” Thronson, thanking him for those summers at the Thronson ranch where he not only learned a lasting work ethic, but received inspiration for the art work he creates today.

“Wow! Look at this!” and “How’d he do that?” and “Cool stuff” were a few of the comments guests made while viewing the stunning show.

Nathan finds beauty in old sheds and equipment. He zeroes in on



A picture may speak a thousand words, but there's nothing like the real thing! Nathan's bronze wheat plaque has been a real crowd pleaser, but his art must be seen to be truly appreciated.



### How can barbed wire be so beautiful?

Members of Nathan Riley's family admire one of his large sculptures. L-R Louise Gordon, Karen Thronson, and Shirley Shandy listen to Nathan's mother Joan Thronson Riley talk about her son's talent. Joan, Shirley, and Louise made a special trip from Salem, Milwaukee, and Portland, Oregon, to see the exhibit.

fascinating patterns and has a real eye for color and composition that reveal 3-D texture in two dimensional photographs.

The exhibit, *Photo Images and Metal Sculptures Inspired by Rural Columbia County Landscapes and Vintage Farmsteads* by Nathan Riley, can be seen at the Palus Museum (426 E. Main, Dayton) Friday and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. through December 17. Admission is free, donations welcome.

## Kevin Carson to Speak December 5, 2011 at Legion Hall

Nationally-recognized author and artist has Dayton roots.

The Blue Mountain Heritage Society is ushering in the holiday season with a soup supper and very special



program at its 2011 Annual Meeting. Kevin Carson, author of *The Long Journey of the Nez Perce: A Battle History*

from Cottonwood to Bear Paw, will be the featured speaker. This program *will be different* from previous presentations Kevin has given in Dayton.

Released this fall, *The Long Journey of the Nez Perce* is drawing attention nationwide. Two book clubs offer it as a recommended selection. Local reviews are enthusiastic.

Kevin graduated from Dayton High School in 1976. He has degrees from WSU, the US



Photo by Lael Loyd

Kevin Carson personalized books for fans at the Wenaha Gallery October 15, 2011.

topographical maps enrich the text. The author's sense of fairness and straightforward writing style have resulted in the tragic story of the 1877 Nez Perce War being told in a compassionate, compelling way.

Kevin has donated his original drawings of key people in the saga to the Palus Museum. These portraits are not published in the book. See many of them on display December 5<sup>th</sup> at this special event.

Join us at Dayton's American Legion Hall located at 211 East Clay Street.

A very short meeting to elect BMHS officers will precede Kevin's 7:00 pm presentation. And, copies of his book (\$28.05 tax included) will be available for Kevin to sign.

### 2011 BMHS Officers

**President:**  
Karen Thronson

**Vice President:**  
Karla Boggs

**Secretary:**  
Jacque Sonderman

**Treasurer:**  
Paula Moio

**Directors:**  
Brian Black  
Rose Engelbrite  
Juanita Hoffman  
Elizabeth Thorn

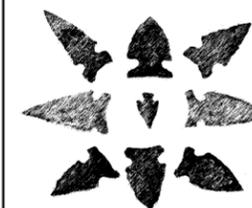
### Newsletter Production Crew:

Jacque Sonderman, Elizabeth Thorn,  
Diane Longanecker

## The Palus Artifact Museum

**Fridays 1 pm to 4 pm**  
**Saturdays 1 pm to 4 pm**  
**March – December**

Or Year Round By Appointment Call:  
Elizabeth Thorn  
**(509)382-4820**



426 East Main Street  
Dayton, Washington

## Blue Mountain Heritage Society

- Meets Monthly (except August)
- 2nd Thursday – 9:00 am
- Delany Building, Dayton

*Everyone is  
Welcome!*

### — Calendar Notes —

**Friday & Saturday, November 25 & 26**  
Palus Museum Christmas Kick -Off  
Open House: Friday 1-7 pm; Saturday 1-4.  
Receive a complimentary arrowhead!

**Monday, December 5**  
American Legion Hall, 211 E Clay, Dayton  
BMHS Soup Supper 5:30-6:45 pm;  
Silent auction open until 6:45 pm;  
Author Kevin Carson presentation 7:00 pm

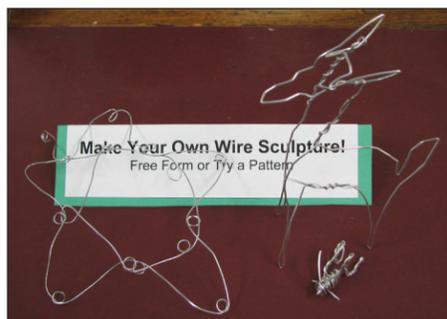
**Saturday, December 17**  
Last day of Riley exhibit when the Palus  
Museum closes for a winter break.

**Saturday, January 28, 2012**  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual BMHS Ground Hog Sausage Fest

**Friday, March 2, 2012**  
Palus Museum opens for 2012 season

### Hands-On at the Palus:

What would you like to make?



Make Your Own Wire Sculpture!  
Free Form or Try a Pattern



EJ Rising Sun shapes a wire cricket.

Can you match each grain with its main use?



### New at the Palus:



Reproduction Dance Rattle donated by Jacque Sonderman

# Smith Hollow School What a Difference a Year Makes

Jim McCary and his daughter Laurie Dillard are doing fabulous work bringing the Smith Hollow School back to its former glory. The restoration is well underway and progressing nicely thanks to many generous private donations and grants.

A timely “power surge” came from Columbia REA’s hefty in-kind donation toward the electrical utility service hook ups.

This summer BMHS received two significant grants: \$2,500 from the Dayton/Columbia County Washington Fund to shingle the schoolhouse (happening now) and a Washington Heritage Capital Projects Fund grant of \$30,000 to rebuild the addition with a handicap accessible ramp and restroom.

The Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund requires a two-thirds match in cash and in-kind donations.



The school now rests on a full perimeter foundation, instead of rocks at each corner.

We have been working like beavers, but are \$3,000 shy of meeting the \$30,000 cash match—the in-kind match has been met. Please consider a special emergency donation! It would take six angels making a \$500 contribution, 12 at the \$250, or 25 at the \$125 contribution level for us to meet this need by December 15, 2011.

Use the enclosed donation/membership form to



November 2010—Triumphant last leg of the long planned move to town.

make your special contribution. Any amount is greatly appreciated! And, you can choose if you would like your donation to be part of the ongoing DHS Class Challenge.

We are sincerely appreciative for all the in-kind donations, volunteer labor and cash. Thank You!

There will be lots of sanding, scraping, clean-up, painting and landscaping to do in 2012 to refurbish the interior and improve the grounds. Every contribution moves us closer to our goal to restore this country school treasure and portray the rich educational history of Columbia County.



November 2011—Looking like a school again with new rafters, restored cupola, rebuilt addition and modern utilities. (No, you won’t have to use the outhouse.)



## DHS Class Challenge Update

Which Dayton High School graduating class will win the 2011 challenge? This year’s class giving the most dollars to support restoration of the Smith Hollow School will be honored at the DHS Alumni meeting and have its name added to the annual winner’s plaque to be displayed in the finished museum. So far in 2011, all classes combined have contributed \$5,255.74.

With over a month left in 2011, there is still time for your class to move to the top of the list! On 11-11-11, these are the top five:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Class of 1940 \$1,100.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Class of 1966 \$ 676.26
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Class of 1956 \$ 611.76
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place Class of 1965 \$ 449.65
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place Class of 1954 \$ 258.54

Of course, this could all change by December 31, 2011. Why not send a gift now to give your class a boost? Include your donation on the enclosed membership/donation form.

Watch for the updated Report Card in early 2012 for the entire honor roll of contributors to our ongoing Smith Hollow School fund-raiser. Thank you one and all!

## Bits & Pieces

**Art Drawing winners:** *John Clement book and Nona Hengen poster:* Van Seney — *Papa Jon’s Flyins large barn birdhouse:* John Delp, Sr — *Bev Doolittle porcelain drum box:* Elissa Eastvedt.

**Renew** your BMHS membership for 2012—and recruit a friend!

**Go digital!** If you’d rather receive your newsletter electronically, please email your name and email address to Jacque Sonderman at jacquejs@bmi.net.

## Memorial Book on display at the Palus Museum

We so appreciate those who donate to BMHS to remember a loved one or friend. In 2011 gifts have been received in memory of:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Jan McQuary</i>      | <i>Charles Mead</i>   |
| <i>Steve Edwards</i>    | <i>Ryan Donohue</i>   |
| <i>Frances Strode</i>   | <i>Andrew Groom</i>   |
| <i>Liz Price Ankeny</i> | <i>Mae R. Shaw</i>    |
| <i>Joe Bush</i>         | <i>Olive DeRuwe</i>   |
| <i>Sarah Lyman</i>      | <i>Laurel McQuary</i> |

Please note that Memorial gifts given to the DHS Class Challenge will be recognized in the 2011 Report Card. The Memorial Book contains the names of *all* who have been memorialized over the years, either through gifts to the General Fund or gifts to the DHS Class Challenge. **Thank you!**

We also appreciate honorary gifts. This year we received gifts to celebrate Bud and Marilyn Groom’s 50th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations, Bud and Marilyn!

## Vol. 1: History of Columbia County

*Note: Columbia County History Book Series Accepting Info for Volume 1 through December 31, 2011.*

Did you know a town called “The Riviera” was platted along a Snake River beach in Columbia County? Or, that Riperia, spanning the Snake River, was located in both Columbia and Whitman counties?

Please share your interesting tidbits and photos about Columbia County and Dayton with Candy Jones 509-382-9152 or Elizabeth Thorn 509-382-4820.

The deadline to be included in Volume 1 is December 31, 2011. Volume 1 will showcase the land, first peoples, exploration, settlement, churches, businesses and organizations of the area. Volume 2 will relate family histories; Volume 3 will contain maps and documents.

## Fund-raisers Yield Results

Thanks to all who supported our fund raising efforts this summer and fall: the art drawing, Macy’s Shop for a Cause, patio sales and fair gate ticket sales.

Thank you fund-raising volunteers: Karen, Linda, Susan, Paula and Craig, Barbara, Candy, Anne and Terry, Jacque, Rose, Dave, Nathan, Tammy, EJ, Elizabeth, Juanita and Will, Brian, Owen, and Al.

## Columbia County Fair Booth

“Sunshine Days, Country Ways” was a perfect fair theme for featuring a scene from bygone days. The BMHS booth featured a circa 1900 tin washing machine with wooden “guts” (a gift from Rayleen and Chuck Sursely).

Jack Williams loaned wonderful photographs of early day scenes of



BMHS wins sweepstakes ribbon for its booth at the 2011 Columbia County Fair September 9, 10, 11.

Dayton, which were of great interest to those who visited the booth.

In addition, pictures of our BMHS projects were hung on the walls and on the clothes line: Sacajawea Bronze Statue, Palus Indian Artifact Museum, Smith Hollow School, Log Cabin, and Columbia County History Book.

**Thank You!**—Rose Engelbrite, E.J. Rising Sun, and Elizabeth Thorn for creating the BMHS fair booth and Karen Thronson, Jacque Sonderman, and Diane Longanecker for dismantling it at fair’s end.