



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Willowa County Chieftain

Construction is nearing completion on the new \$7.4 million, 18,932 square-foot Hearts for Health Integrated Care Center on Medical Parkway in Enterprise. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

FACILITY

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20 and June 17. The tours will be at noon and 5 p.m., said Wellness Center Public Relations and Development Director Tosca Rawls.

To reserve a place on one of the tours, call Rawls at 541-426-4524, ext. 1031.

The project is under budget, Rawls said. Its funding includes \$800,000 in support from people and businesses in Willowa County, \$2.5 million from the state of Oregon, and funding from the M.J. Murdock Memorial Trust, Lewis Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation and the Wildhorse Foundation.

Lem McBurney, project liaison, said the facility is planned to optimize privacy while getting patients to the care they need.

“Even though everything’s together, there’s kind of a medical side and a mental health side,” he said.

But it’s the integration of these until-now disparate branches of medicine that makes the HHICC unique among rural health centers.

“When someone has a mental health break, dental issues will push forward the mental issues,” McBurney said. “The same is true of other conditions, including urinary tract infections. So mental health and medical health are very closely tied together. The idea here is to take care of everybody’s whole health.”

The HHICC also has a teaching kitchen. It can be used to prepare meals for events, but its more important role will be providing cooking and nutrition classes.

“We want to participate in what the hospital got started with their Blue Zones (program),” McBurney said. “The idea here is to teach people skills and lifestyles that prevent illness — mental or physical — from happening. So the idea is that a therapist could come in here,

cook a healthy meal with somebody, and then they could go out on the patio and sit and eat it, and talk about life skills. It’s taking therapy outside an office and giving people new skills and perspectives.”

The large conference room, with a capacity of more than 100 people, will be able to host public and private events, from actual conferences to birthday parties.

“We send our staff across the state to attend trainings,” Rawls said. “With this facility, we can bring the trainers here, to us (either in person or on the large screen). That could save organizations here a lot of money, save us a lot of money and we’re going to have the technology to provide those services.”

The HHICC will have lots of other innovative facilities, from a meditation room to a counseling room set up so that parents can keep an eye on their children in an adjacent playroom while talking with a therapist and an area where people in need can do laundry, iron clothes and take a shower. The facility will be helpful for people who are in crisis.

“Our crisis team does things day and night,” McBurney said. “There’s been 25-50 crisis actions within the past three weeks. But people don’t know that because the crisis team does the work so quietly.”

And, of course, there’s plenty of conventional medicine and dentistry, including four dental operatories, five medical exam rooms and 17 clinical rooms. The parking areas also will be available to people who are using the adjacent Jensen ball fields, McBurney said. There will be a total of 2 miles of walking paths.

“We’re leading the charge on a new model of integrated health care, especially in rural areas,” Rawls said. “We’re really excited to show other providers how this works.”

guardians, Steffey said, explaining it will give residents a chance to receive child care while they are working.

Solar energy will be another Timber Ridge feature. Steffey said the apartment complex will receive much of its electrical energy from solar panels, which Leet Development of Enterprise will install. He said the availability of solar energy will significantly reduce the electrical costs of power for Timber Ridge residents.

“There will be no spikes in heating costs in the winter,” Steffey said.

A portion of funding for the construction of Timber Ridge Apartments would come from the state’s Local Innovation Fast Track program, also known as LIFT. The Oregon Legislature approved the program about two years ago and it is providing funding for affordable housing projects throughout Oregon.

ICONS

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with her family.

“My mom used to push me around the grocery store, and I would sing the Oscar Mayer song,” Pitman said. “This is my ‘90s dream come true.”

Blockbuster was the third out of four stops in Central Oregon for the Wiernemobile. The traveling hot dog made an appearance at Fort Rock Park in Sunriver on Thursday, April 22, in downtown Bend on Friday, April 23, and traveled south again to the Village at Sunriver on Sunday, April 25.

The Wiernemobile has been on the road since 1936.

Today, six Wiernemobiles travel around the country at all times.

The Wiernemobile that came to Bend travels the West Coast and averages about 500 miles per week, said Tommy Derken, a “Hotdogger” who drives the Wiernemobile.

Derken graduated from University of Southern California in May and hit the road in the Wiernemobile in June.

Driving the Wiernemobile is the perfect job for a recent college graduate, since it’s good public relations and marketing experience and a good way to see the country, Derken said.

“And you are a celebrity everywhere you go,” Derken said.

Derken and another Hotdogger, Nina LeBrun, spent Saturday handing out stickers and Wiernemobile whistles to the crowd. The two Hotdoggers also took families’ pictures, signed autographs and helped children pose behind cardboard cutouts of hot dogs.

No food was served during the event, which is a common misconception, Derken said.

“We don’t sell hot



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

A crowd gathers Saturday, April 24, 2021, to look at the Oscar Mayer Wiernemobile during its stop at the Bend Blockbuster.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Ruby and Brewer Mottern stand with their two dogs Griz (behind cutout) and Luna as their mother, Jody Mottern, takes their picture Saturday, April 24, 2021, while visiting the Oscar Mayer Wiernemobile at the Bend Blockbuster.

dogs,” Derken said. “We just look like one.”

Bend resident Helen Guerrero-Randall came early on April 24 and could not contain her excitement as she watched the Wiernemobile park in front of Blockbuster.

Guerrero-Randall, a retired medical librarian for St. Charles Health System, always loved the

old advertisements for Oscar Mayer on TV, but never had a chance to see the Wiernemobile in person.

“I didn’t know they still had this going around,” she said. “They are actually still doing promotions. I’m thrilled.”

Guerrero-Randall enthusiastically sang the entire Oscar Mayer song,

took a picture with the cardboard cutout and got Derken’s autograph.

She soaked in the nostalgia of Oscar Mayer and Blockbuster, where she still has a membership card to rent movies.

“It’s nostalgic in a really good way,” Guerrero-Randall said. “It’s that positive nostalgia. The endorphins are flowing.”

DISTRICT

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Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia lost seats.

Democrats hold a 218-212 majority in the House. Five seats are vacant.

How the district lines will be drawn differs from state to state. Oregon is among 33 states where the Legislature controls all or most of the process. Eight states — including California and Washington — use independent commissions to do redistricting. Two do a mix.

Data from the U.S. Census required to draw districts that meet federal

and state voting rights laws won’t arrive until late August or September, up to six months behind schedule. Census officials said the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the counting of the population and the ability of staff to compile the numbers.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled April 9 the Legislature will have until Sept. 27 to submit maps for the state House and Senate seats, as well as congressional districts.

If they cannot agree on new districts, Secretary of State Shemia Fagan will draw the legislative districts while a special judi-

cial panel determines congressional seats. If Fagan’s maps are found wanting under legal review, the Oregon Supreme Court would draw the lines.

Bend had the largest population growth in Oregon — about 25% — over the past decade.

The other largest concentration of growth was the ring of suburbs around Portland, with Gresham, Troutdale and Sandy in the east showing strong population increases and less dense population growth in the southeast toward Estacada. On the west side, smaller but dense clusters of growth are in Beaverton, New-

berg, Tigard and, to the northeast, St. Helens.

Congressional candidates do not have to be residents of the district they represent and reapportionment has led to “district shopping” for congressional seats.

One name to take out of the mix for Oregon’s new congressional seat is Gov. Kate Brown, according to her longtime political consultant Thomas Wheatley. He said after the census announcement that Brown is not interested in running for the seat.

“I don’t even see a crack” of interest from Brown, Wheatley said.

COMPLEX

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“It will look at the efficacy of the model,” Steffey said.

C.B. Const, Inc. of La Grande will be the general contractor for the Timber Ridge project. Plans call for the Timber Ridge complex to have 36 one-bedroom, 32 two-bedroom, 32 three-bedroom and four four-bedroom apartments. It also would have a large community building, which will house a classroom.

Eastern Oregon University Head Start plans to operate an Early Head Start program for children and infants up to age 3 in that classroom, which the development is providing at no cost.

The program will do more than boost intellectual development. It also will make daily life easier for parents and

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