

Dial B for baby delivery at old phone company

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Want to call someone in Wallowa to get a baby delivered? Try dialing the old Home Independent Telephone Co. building downtown.

Actually, the historic building is where Eleanor “Nora” Hawkins has moved her midwifery practice, Wallowa Mountain Midwifery, from where she both visits with expectant mothers and reaches out to them in their homes.

A midwife specializes in child delivery, pre- and postnatal care. After returning to school to become a midwife and then practicing briefly in Central Oregon, she moved home and opened her practice in 2017. She has seen clients primarily in their homes until now.

“Midwives practice a model of care that focuses on individualized patient care and a thorough, informed choice about every step of pregnancy and birth,” she said. “Rather than having a baby at home, a birth center or in the hospital, midwifery care is the standard in much of the world.”

Hawkins said the U.S. is one of the only places where physician care is the standard for low-risk pregnancies.



Nora Hawkins sits on the bed in one of her two examination rooms Sept. 29, 2021, at her recently opened Wallowa Mountain Midwifery in Wallowa.

“But in Europe, in Australia, in Canada, you go to your midwife,” she said. “Having an OB (obstetrician) is something you’d do only if you had a complication — a risk factor — in much of the world.”

She said midwifery care very much parallels the care an obstetrician would give.

“We do the same prenatal visits, the same blood work, lab work, the same ultrasounds, the same vitals and statistics to monitor both fetal

and maternal well-being,” she said. “It differs in that midwives are just specialized in the childbearing year of a woman, so I don’t do all of the other things a doctor does.”

That “childbearing year” is the nine months of pregnancy and the first three months of a child’s life.

Also, since a midwife specializes in child delivery, pre- and postnatal care, she does not do or have training in many of the other skills a

general practitioner does.

Historic preservation

Hawkins obtained a matching grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, which administers the Diamonds in the Rough grant through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. She said the grant helped refurbish some of the building’s exterior.

With the grant — and her own funds — she was able to get new awnings and

WALLOWA MOUNTAIN MIDWIFERY

Who: Eleanor (Nora) Hawkins
What: Midwifery
Where: 301 E. 1st St., Wallowa
Hours: Open Wednesdays or by appointment.
Phone: 541-263-1724
Email: info@wallowamountainmidwifery.com
Online: wallowamountainmidwifery.com

masonry work done. She elected to keep the word “TELEPHONE” at the top of two sides of the historic building.

Since buying the building Hawkins said she also put on a new roof and has completed a full remodel of the inside.

“It was in a state of disrepair,” she said.

Open for business

Prior to opening about a month ago, Hawkins set up two examination rooms — one with a double bed and the other with a typical medical examination table — and a couple of sitting rooms. The front room has a small table and toys to keep older siblings occupied while mom is getting examined.

Hawkins has her office day on Wednesdays. Winding Waters Medical Clinic in Wallowa has also started leasing the building on Thursdays for its clinic to have a space in Wallowa as they prepare to build its own place.

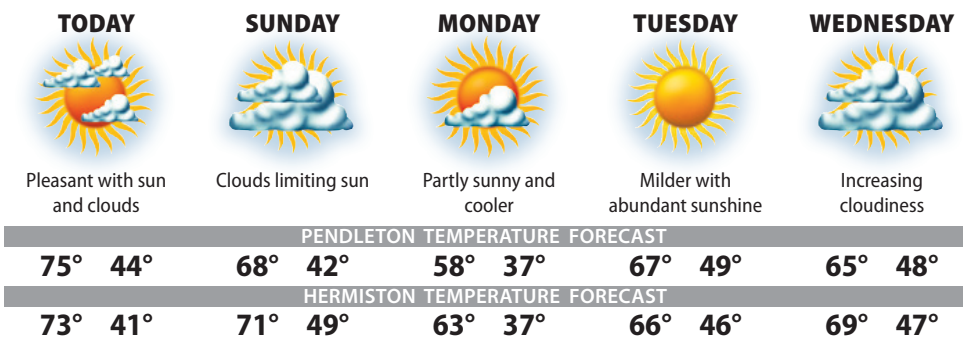
She hopes to have both massage and acupuncture available in the building soon, as well.

Hawkins received training and national certification as a certified professional midwife, state licensure as a licensed direct-entry midwife and certification as an internationally board-certified lactation consultant.

She said she believes she’s the only licensed midwife in Northeast Oregon. Although she gets calls from all over Eastern Oregon, she only serves Wallowa and Union counties, working closely with Wallowa Memorial Hospital and Grande Ronde Hospital and their practitioners.

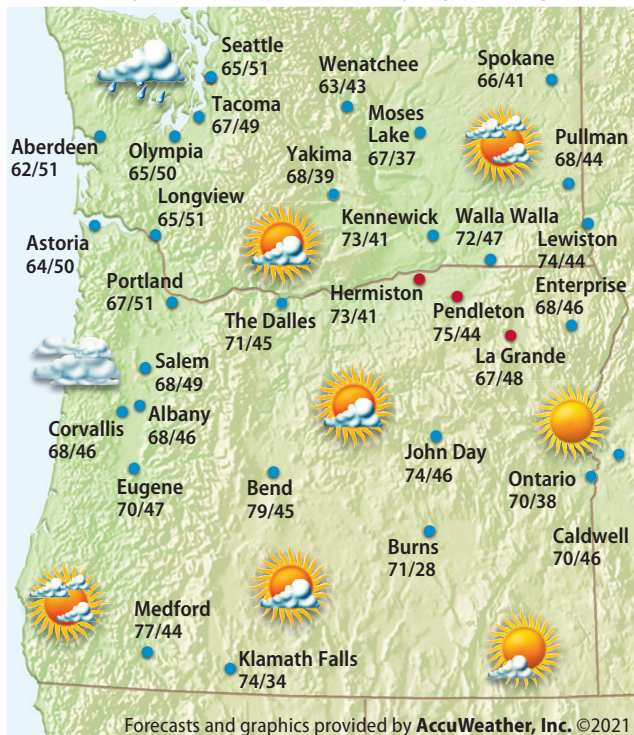
She said she generally charges \$4,000 for the package of her services, which includes prenatal care, birth and postpartum care. She said that is less than a mother would pay for a hospital delivery.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



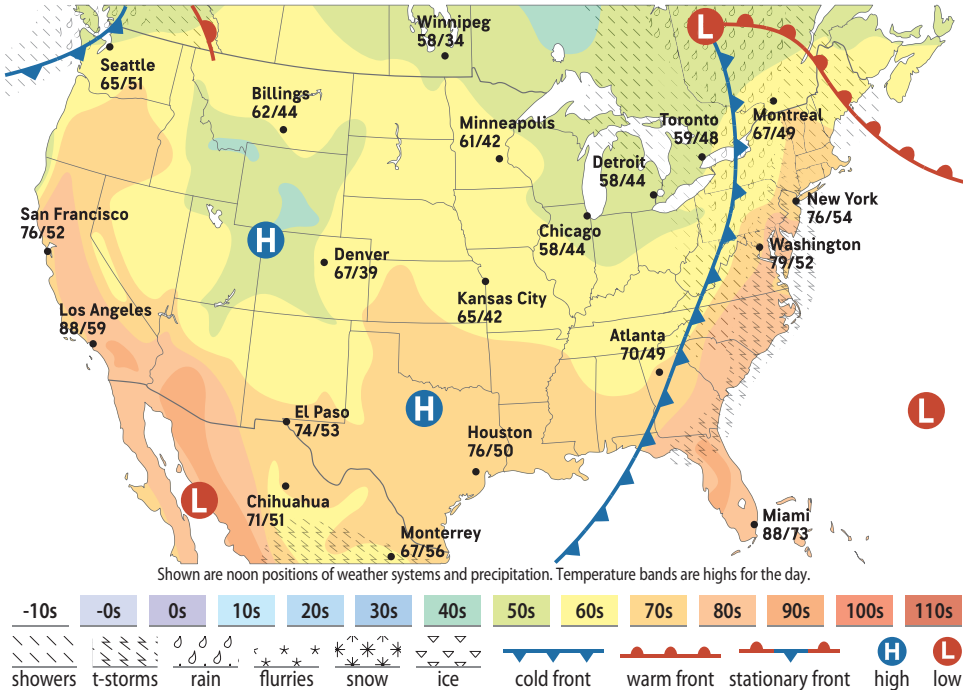
ALMANAC

| PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest. | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| TEMP. | HIGH | LOW |
| Yesterday | 68° | 43° |
| Normals | 65° | 42° |
| Records | 84° (1991) | 23° (1897) |
| PRECIPITATION | | |
| 24 hours ending 3 p.m. | 0.00" | |
| Month to date | 0.06" | |
| Normal month to date | 0.48" | |
| Year to date | 5.06" | |
| Last year to date | 9.26" | |
| Normal year to date | 9.69" | |
| HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest. | | |
| TEMP. | HIGH | LOW |
| Yesterday | 69° | 43° |
| Normals | 67° | 39° |
| Records | 84° (1963) | 20° (1969) |
| PRECIPITATION | | |
| 24 hours ending 3 p.m. | Trace | |
| Month to date | 0.04" | |
| Normal month to date | 0.34" | |
| Year to date | 2.71" | |
| Last year to date | 2.00" | |
| Normal year to date | 6.01" | |
| WINDS (in mph) | | |
| Boardman | SSW 3-6 | WSW 4-8 |
| Pendleton | W 4-8 | WNW 4-8 |
| SUN AND MOON | | |
| Sunrise today | 7:13 a.m. | |
| Sunset tonight | 6:07 p.m. | |
| Moonrise today | 5:03 p.m. | |
| Moonset today | 2:42 a.m. | |
| Full | Last | New |
| Oct 20 | Oct 28 | Nov 4 |
| | | Nov 11 |

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday’s National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 97° in McAllen, Texas Low 8° in Eagle, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



College Place eyes monthly utility fee to shore up EMTs

By **EMRY DINMAN**
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

COLLEGE PLACE — Facing increased call volumes and overworked ambulance staff, College Place is considering a monthly utility fee of \$8.52 per unit in order to hire four more firefighter/emergency medical technicians to service city residents.

The city, which started a basic life support ambulance system at the end of 2018, has one paid EMT on-duty every day, 24/7, supplemented largely by volunteers. This system can fail when there are multiple calls at once or when staff are sick or on vacation, and it puts undue pressure on staff and volunteers, said Chief David Winter at a city council meeting Tuesday, Oct. 12.

“We’re at a crisis point where we need some help from you for funding authorization to get some more staff-

ing so that we don’t burn out our volunteers,” Winter told council members.

The utility fee of \$8.52 across 4,273 units would pay for an additional EMT to be on-duty 24/7, Winter said, and would make the city’s ambulance system more reliable. With call volumes increasing 20% in the last year, and with each call taking longer during the pandemic, the backup is greatly needed, he added.

The city’s ambulance services is funded from four sources, Winter said. It receives part of a countywide emergency medical services property tax, and it receives federal funding to subsidize the transportation of Medicaid patients who can’t pay their full bill, though it only makes about half of the lost revenue.

The ambulance service also receives revenue by charging a flat fee for trans-

porting patients, either \$695 for county residents or \$895 for patients who do not live in the county. However, on average, Winter said, the ambulance service only receives about half of that after dealing with insurance companies, averaging about \$350 in revenue per transport.

Whatever doesn’t get covered by these three funding sources is covered by the city’s discretionary fund. Without a utility fee or other new revenue source, covering the salaries and benefits of another four EMTs would cost the city’s general fund more than \$436,000 per year, said city Finance Director Brian Carleton during Tuesday’s meeting.

The city has discussed the utility fee several times in the past, and Winter suggested he would dance if it passed.

“You might get to see that Adventist interpretive dance at the next meeting,” he joked.

IN BRIEF

Yakima man charged with rape, threats to kill at Walla Walla Sleep Center

WALLA WALLA — A man accused of sexually assaulting a woman at the city of Walla Walla’s Sleep Center last week is in Walla Walla County Jail facing three felony charges.

Will A. Stubblefield Jr., 46, was arrested Oct. 6 and charged with first-degree rape and first-degree burglary, both Class A felonies, and with harassment, a Class C felony.

Stubblefield, whose permanent address is listed by the courts in Yakima, is accused of entering the woman’s hut at the Sleep Center, 1181 W. Reese Ave., at around 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 5, raping her, stealing a \$5 bill from her and threatening to kill her.

Drivers should be ready for lane closures near Meacham

MEACHAM — Motorists driving on Interstate 84 between Spring Creek and Meacham next week should be ready for lane closures because of road restoration work by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The left lanes in the westbound and eastbound portions of I-84 will be closed, starting Monday, Oct. 18, between milepoints 237.5 to 241.5. This span starts at Meacham and runs 4 miles east. The lanes will be closed to allow for the installation of a concrete barrier in the center median, for cable rail construction and bridge work. Weather permitting, striping is tentatively planned for late in the week, according to an ODOT press release.

—EO Media Group and Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

CORRECTION

The A1 story “Pumpkin patch fundraiser to help struggling infant girl,” published Thursday, Oct. 14, misstated the age of Parker Rakestraw. She is 5 months old.

CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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