

FUNDRAISER: Enterprise Safeway manager honored for EEF partnership

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Steve Hunter, manager of Enterprise Safeway was presented with an award of thanks for his years of partnership with EEF through the eScrip program. Through that program up to 10 percent of qualifying purchases go to the customer's charity of choice.

"Last year alone we received over \$15,000 from the program," Aschenbrenner said. "Since 2007 the total has come to \$113,745 in donations."

One of the requirements of the eScrip program is that EEF earmark a portion of proceeds for health and nutrition projects. This year, high school health teacher Lisa Farwell was awarded \$2,000 to develop her "interactive classroom" which will feature stand-up desks, balance boards and 12 exercise balls that can be used to sit at a desk.

Aschenbrenner reminded the attendees that pet projects that directly benefit the kids or school can be presented to the board by individuals interested in raising money themselves. Potential donors present their ideas to the board and, if approved, allow EEF to manage the bookkeeping, thereby making their fundraising efforts

tax-deductible.

New this year, in addition to the eScrip program, donors can use the Amazon Smile app. If one downloads the app and chooses EEF as the charity of choice, half a percentage point of all purchase prices are donated to the Foundation.

"Last quarter we received over \$40 through the Amazon Smile app and we only had six people registered," said Aschenbrenner.

The Foundation has also purchased a shirt press that allows for the individualization of athletic shirts. Interested persons can contact any member of the board for more information.

And last, but certainly not least, there was the addition of the "Dessert Dash" to the evening's events.

This dash for the dessert table turned out to be a favorite of all in attendance, with serious dessert-lovers scouting the table of donated goodies in advance of the "dash" and making their first-, second-, and third-choice selections; that little diversion netted the Foundation \$1,100 and a lot of laughs.

Few desserts made it home whole after the event as most winners and their table of friends fell upon the goodies immediately.

The auction portion of the event saw perennial favorite "The Mark Keffer 4th Grade Bench," which features kid-designed brands on a split pine log, go for \$1,000. That wouldn't have been the record for a Mark Keffer Bench except that after Nick and Jen Cameron took the bid, Kate and Court Sent asked if they could match the price for a second bench. Naturally, Keffer agreed to make a second bench and that brought the total to a record-breaking \$2,000.

Another top contributor for the night was Joe Stangel who bid \$850 for the metal art light box created by his artist son, Chad Stangel. Joe said he purchased the one-of-a-kind artwork because (in keeping with the old saying about cobbler's kids having no shoes) there was no way he'd ever get another chance at one.

The hall tree covered with children's hand prints made by Donnie Rynearson and Chad Stangel for Mrs. Yost's kindergarten class was also a top seller, fetching \$850.

Another special art project were the state-of-the-art clocks made by Petra and Tyler Evans. The Black and English walnut clocks feature advanced quartz motors that receive radio signals up to 12

times a day to insure accuracy. The second grade kids of Mrs. Evans' class traced their hands and those hand prints were plasma-cut from metal for further decoration of the clocks. The clocks fetched \$375 each.

Bidding was vigorous on all of the offerings and no classroom project went unappreciated.

The top moneymaking item on the silent auction tables was a "survival package" of liquors donated by Stein Distillery. That brought over \$250.

Robert Butterfield was the winner of the 243 rifle donated by Nick and Jen Cameron of Wallowa County Ace Hardware.

Zane and Jess Anderson cooked the plenteous prime rib dinner (meat donated by Chris and Mary Cunningham and Rockn J Ranch), assisted by assistant chef Marc Christman, kitchen manager Bellinda Kuntz and numerous volunteers.

A musical interlude was provided by violinist Gracie Carlsen, accompanied on the piano by her mother Leslie. Gracie played tunes from "Fiddler on the Roof."

"Appreciation cannot be over-expressed," said Aschenbrenner. "This county always gives to the causes it finds important. We walk into that auction never knowing what to expect and to come out with over \$20,000 consistently, every year. It's inspiring."

City weighs trail support, pot regulation

Oregon law unclear on dispensary placement, city attorney says

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Penny Arentsen, vice-president of the Joseph Branch Trail Consortium (JBTC), has asked the City of Joseph to endorse the 63-mile rails-with-trail project. The project would link Joseph to Elgin via a bike/pedestrian trail along the rail line and right-of-way currently owned by the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority (WURA).

Arentsen told the Joseph City Council at its April 2 meeting that she was part of the group studying the feasibility of the project and getting information about it out to the communities and property owners along the rail line. She said the JBTC wanted a letter of support from the council for the project and said the City of Wallowa had signed such a letter. Arentsen said a letter of support could help convince WURA, comprised of commissioners from both Union and Wallowa counties, to greenlight the project.

Arentsen said the group has received mixed feedback from landowners along the rail corridor, citing possible issues with trespassing, littering, dogs and privacy.

Councilor Teresa Sajonia asked who would maintain the project and Arentsen replied the county owned the line, but until the project galvanized, she couldn't give definitive answers.

Mayor Dennis Sands said he'd like to see the feasibility discussions move forward and appreciated that JBTC tried to garner as much public input as possible. Someone asked who was responsible for law enforcement along the trail and Arentsen replied it was also undetermined.

After some discussion the council decided it did not

have enough local input to provide a complete letter of support for the project, but ended up unanimously voting to provide a letter of support for continuing the feasibility study of the project.

Marijuana was another issue on the council's agenda this month. With the current Joseph moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries set to expire at the end of April, as well as the recent passage of measure 91, which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana, the council debated how to meet the challenges posed by legal marijuana. Wallowa County District Attorney Mona Williams attended that portion of the council's April 2 meeting to assist and supplement the discussion, as did Joseph City Attorney Wyatt Baum.

Sands opened the discussion saying the council needed to consider whether to allow either medical or recreational marijuana dispensaries.

Williams said she had discussed with councilor Sharon Newell whether the council had the authority to place an outright ban on medical marijuana dispensaries as Joseph's current moratorium on the issue expires at the end of April.

Baum said no one is completely certain the Oregon Legislature has "occupied the field," meaning it's unclear whether the Legislature has total authority on regulation and placement of dispensaries. He said Sean O'Day, counsel for the League of Oregon Cities, said Oregon is a "Home Rule" state, which means if no law on the books specifies the Legislature has "occupied the field," then the Oregon Constitution allows cities to legislate their own rules.

Baum said that, for the moment, many cities are waiting on the Legislature to make amendments to Measure 91 before attempting to regulate dispensaries. He added that the Oregon Court of Appeals decided in 2010 that community regulations on medical marijuana are not necessarily incompatible with state law simply because they're more stringent. Baum also said that because the west side of the state is far ahead of the east side in legal challenges, a west side lawsuit could soon determine parameters for dispensary regulations.

The city could also vote to ban dispensaries during the 2016 election cycle, according to Baum. The council elected to have Baum write an ordinance that severely curtails the possibility of the establishment of a medical marijuana dispensary within the city limits.

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Jay Van Tassell, PhD • Professor of Geology, EOU

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Cheryl Jenkins
We appreciate all you do for all of us with professionalism, a smile, and a sense of humor!

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