

Area sees first whooping cough case in a decade

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Unlike many Oregon counties that have seen a recent upsurge in cases of whooping cough, or pertussis, Wallowa County recently treated its first case of the disease in more than a decade. Several Oregon counties and the state of Washington are experiencing minor outbreaks of the illness.

Whooping cough, a contagious disease affecting the respiratory tract, is caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. The disease generally affects children, although it can affect adults, as it did in this single case.

Wallowa County Public Health Department Administrator Laina Fisher said, "You have more difficulty with this if you're under age one. Infants, babies and preg-

nant women are more at risk. They give boosters to pregnant women, so the baby is protected and the disease isn't brought home."

Fisher also said she has worked for public health since 2002, and this is the first case she's ever seen.

Early signs are similar to the common cold, with runny nose, mild cough, low fever among the early symptoms, which can last as long as one or two weeks. The "whooping" part of the disease stems from long coughing fits which empty the lungs of air, and the resultant gasp or "whoop" to obtain oxygen immediately afterward. The accumulation of mucus in the airways can also lead to difficulty breathing.

Fisher said milder cases may not include the "whoop," and can heal without treatment. She also said the cough

can seem worse at night while lying flat on a bed because of the pooling of fluid in the lungs. "The person may even turn a little blue due to the lack of oxygen," she said.

The disease has a vaccine, but it loses efficacy with time. Fisher said a booster is available for both teens and adults. She added that a person who suspects a case of whooping cough should call either the health department or the doctor to allow them time to prepare because the disease is contagious and spreads through sneezing or coughing. "You have to be in close quarters for an hour or more or living with someone to catch it. If you're just passing someone with it in the grocery store, you're not at that high a risk," Fisher said.

Fisher said there is no cause to think the county is currently faces an outbreak or epidemic.

New pastor at Methodist Church

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph United Methodist Church recently welcomed new pastor, Cherie Johnson, to its pulpit. Johnson comes into this area from Pocatello, Idaho, where she served as director of Lifespan Ministries for nearly four years. Johnson arrived in Joseph on July 1.

Sitting and relaxed in the midst of her half-unpacked office, Johnson, who can be called Pastor Cherie or just Cherie, (pronounced like cooking sherry) is very congenial and laughs easily. Her background as a child whose army father moved the family from base to base helped prepare her for her present occupation. "It's given me an opportunity to meet all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds and living in different communities and learning local cultures," Johnson said.

Johnson graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., in 2011 and didn't originally attend seminary with the idea of becoming a pastor. "My emphasis was in Christian education, so I took a lot of bible study courses called exegesis classes. At the time, I was a lay speaker in the church, and if I was going to be working as staff, I wanted to be useful as possible," Johnson said.

Johnson holds a Master of Theological Studies degree. Although most pastors hold a Master of Divinity degree, much of Johnson's first year and a half of studies were virtually identical to those offered in the divinity program. As theological studies had many electives, Johnson tried to match her coursework to that of the divinity degree requirements.

Despite the theological studies degree, Johnson has preaching experience. Besides taking preaching courses in seminary, she preached once a month during her last year in Pocatello, and before that, at least once per quarter.

The Methodist church assigns its pastors of the Oregon/Idaho Conference, of which Joseph is a part. "The Bishop's Council has certain slots they need to fill and they match a pastor's talents or gifts with the need of a particular church, and they selected me for Joseph," Johnson said.

Living in towns, or even military bases with smaller populations than Joseph made Johnson a better fit than other

candidates for the position.

When Johnson was up for appointment to a church she was asked to list demographics for the type of church where she would feel comfortable, and Joseph was one of those places that fit.

Johnson visited the Wallowa Valley in May to meet with the local church leadership. "I like the "Main Street kind of local shopping here — it isn't franchise city. Going to the mall every week has never been a priority in my life," Johnson said.

The senior pastor at the church in Pocatello had previously served in Joseph, so Johnson had already heard plenty about the community before her May visit. Johnson also knew about the popular Methodist church camp at Wallowa Lake.

The camp is managed by the Oregon/Idaho Conference, not the Joseph church. Johnson did say she will offer her services to the camp and hopes to get involved.

Johnson said that although the country and people of different faiths can appear deeply polarized at times, she tends to view people as more alike than different. "People tend to want the same things: take care of their kids, do better and want their kids to do well. It helps me see the commonality and goodness in people."

Johnson's ministry will focus on one basic message: Love. "I talk about love a lot —



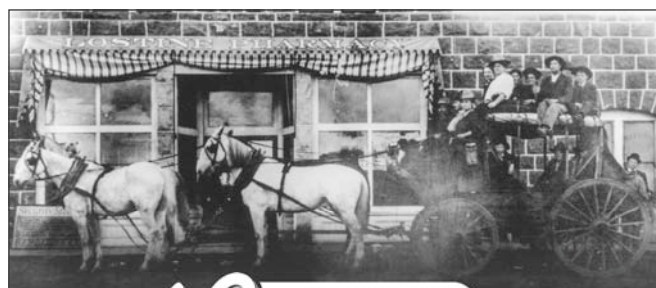
Johnson

how much God loves people. We need to remember that God is about love and taking care of everyone. I don't know who said this quote, but it's very Methodist, and something I believe in: 'In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, freedom; and in all things, charity.' That's how I like to have relationships with people in the community and people within the church," Johnson said.

Robin Martin, member of the church's Single Board Governance Team, said, "We are excited to welcome Pastor Cherie to Joseph United Methodist Church. We feel especially blessed to know of her excitement for our mission projects and her support for the development of our new Fellowship/Community Building. The congregation of Joseph United Methodist Church welcomes all in the community to meet our new pastor and hear her message."

Thank You

The family of Robert (Bob) Lewis would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and phone calls we received during this difficult time in our lives. We would also like to thank those who stopped by to offer a hug or a few kind words. The family would also like to thank those who provided food for the dinner or made a charitable donation in Bob's name. Your thoughts and kind gestures have helped make life a little more bearable as we deal with our loss.



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FCCLA KIDS VISIT D.C.



Courtesy photo

Eleven Enterprise FCCLA students, along with five chaperones, pose with U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, far right, on the steps of the U.S. Capitol July 8. The student group was in Washington, D.C., for the National FCCLA Conference.

Young students bake for cause

Teacher Petra Evans' 2nd and 3rd grade students at Enterprise Elementary School held a bake sale that raised more than \$200. They donated the money to Miracle Flights for Kids, a nonprofit medical flight organization.

"I'm so proud of my kids," said Evans. "It's nice for them to experience firsthand that hard work pays off ... and can be fun! Not only did they bond as a class, but

as a community. None of this would have been possible without the help of our wonderful principal/superintendent, Brad Royse, and the dedicated parents and grandparents."

Ann McGee, founder and

national president of Miracle Flights, said the Enterprise kids' donation "will go a long way toward allowing us to say 'Yes, we can help' when a parent asks to fly their child to a doctor who can give them the best treatment."

AROUND ENTERPRISE

Thanks to Chief Joseph Summer Camp and all the people who make this a great week for the kiddos.

We saw some happy small people during camp week, and that is great news for the whole family!

Thank You

The family of Cayle Krebs would like to thank all of our family, friends, neighbors, the lone, Wallowa and Arlington communities for the kindness shown to our family during this very difficult time. We can not find the words to describe our gratitude to the lone community for coming together to help put on the amazing Celebration of Life for Cayle. He loved his people and they loved him right back. Special thanks to Tom and Arlynda Gates, Marvin and Tanna Padberg, Ashley McCabe, the Ramos family, the Livingston family, Father Condon and the Sweeneys for their special help with the events of the day.

Sincerely,
Skye and Penny Krebs
Kip Krebs and Sarah Smith
Jason and Sybil Stewart,
Jett and Tripp, Janey McCormack

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BULL AND BUCK TAGS

To be donated to local charities

by the Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is currently seeking applications from Wallowa County charitable organizations interested in receiving a Landowner Preference Tag (LOP) for Bull Elk or Buck Deer on the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve property for the 2016 season.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of community members and ranked based on the following considerations: the benefit to the community; the marketing plan for raising funds with the LOP tags; and the ability to use the tags to leverage additional funds or support.

Interested organizations should request an application from Justin Jones at 850-982-9224 or e-mail jjones@tnc.org. The application deadline is August 7th, 2015.

Each year The Nature Conservancy donates LOP tags to qualified local organizations. The LOP tags for the 2015 season were donated to Divide Camp, Eastern Oregon University Range Club, Enterprise Elk Lodge, Enterprise Public Library, Hurricane Creek Grange, and the Wallowa Land Trust. Since 2002, this program has raised approximately \$320,000 to support charitable organizations in Wallowa County.



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