



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain  
**Police chief candidate James Episcopo, all the way from Illinois, at the meet-and-greet at Community Connection on Oct 1.**

## Police chief offer made

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

If Enterprise City Council gets its wish, a big city boy (who, nevertheless, can ride a horse) will be the new chief of police.

In a unanimous vote Monday, the council decided to make a conditional offer to James Episcopo, a police lieutenant from Brookfield, Ill., a Chicago suburb.

Episcopo has 27 years in the field and is currently patrol commander overseeing 21 officers on three shifts.

He impressed both Enterprise law enforcement and the selection committee not only with his background, which includes training at the FBI National Academy, but with his sincerity and interest in rebuilding the Enterprise force.

"I believed him," said Mayor Steve Lear after the vote. Lear had nothing but praise for the interview committee, which included representatives from business, mental health professionals and schools in addition to Sheriff Steve Rogers and District Attorney Mona K. Williams.

"Having a really great cross-section able to ask about things this city needs from their own areas really made a difference," he said.

Chief Brian Harvey of La Grande, moderator for the interview, was "a master of the interview," Lear said. "All of this really took the intuition right out of (our decision) and gave us the information we needed to say, 'this guy is the right fit for us,'" Lear said.

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# FROM THE ASHES

## Reynolds family rebuilds after devastating fire



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

It may look like his luck has all run out, as Darrell Reynolds shifts through his burned out tack shed, but the ever-plucky Reynolds figures he just got "downsized" for retirement real quick.

**THIS IS NOT THE TIME OF LIFE THAT YOU WANT TO SEE THIS HAPPEN.**

Darrell Reynolds

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Tammy and Darrell Reynolds never expected the Grizzly Bear Complex Fire to come all the way to Grouse Flats, eight miles above the tiny town of Troy — a 90-minute drive from Enterprise on primitive to near primitive roads.

"The fire was clear over in the Wenaha Wilderness, five miles as the crow flies," said Darrell.

But as flames roared down on Troy and spread across the high benches Aug. 20, the Reynolds found themselves sitting with other neighbors near the town of Flora, west of Troy, after having been evacuated from the family farmstead under a level three evacuation order.

They sat with their four dogs and pot-bellied pig, Sissy, and watched the fire roaring in the Wenaha Wilderness adjacent to Troy. Then Darrell saw a spot of fire by Iris Mallorey's place.

Iris lives "down the road," a colloquialism in this remote area that can mean anything from a quarter mile to six miles.

"It was just a little fire, about a half acre," Darrell said. "But there was nobody to put it out and the wind was blowing right up the canyon below our house. I thought right then, 'there goes our place'."

He was right. "It burned so hot that they said if any firefighters stayed there they'd get hurt," recalled Tammy. "We got out and came back and it was devastating."

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### DONATE

A bank account for the Reynolds has been set up at Bank of Eastern Oregon. You can donate at any branch by specifying the account in their name.

## Options presented for youth health issues

### Collaborative group established to move forward on proposal

By Stephen Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — More than 60 people attended the second meeting pertaining to the possible creation of a school-based health center at Enterprise School.

The proposal has been met with stiff opposition from some community members.

Winding Waters Medical Clinic, the organization that proposed the health center, hosted the meeting Oct. 1 at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

In justifying the need for the facility, Dr. Elizabeth Powers, of Winding Waters, said 600 of the county's 1,300 children live at or below 200 percent the poverty level. Approximately 38 percent of Enterprise school students receive free or reduced lunches.

To illustrate the possibility of underserved children, Powers said that of her clinic's 400 Medicaid children, 100 had not been seen by a care provider in the last year.

Powers said the Local Area Community Council, an entity charged with forming a Community Health Improvement Plan, has identified four youth health problems the community needs to address, including physical



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Maria Weer, executive director of Building Healthy Families, explains her views on the proposed School Based Health Center at an Oct. 1 meeting held at Cloverleaf Hall to address the issue.

activity/obesity, dental health, mental health and alcohol consumption.

One audience member asked Powers why the community was asked to approve a school-based clinic with no hard data to prove the clinic would help alleviate any of those problems.

"How can you quantify having this health care center in the school and asking the public to agree to it based on inaccurate information?"

Powers said the clinic is just one

idea to meet student needs, not necessarily the only or best way.

"I'm not asking the public to agree to anything except that we need to come together to find a solution to these things," Powers said.

Maria Weer, director of Building Healthy Families, said she supported the clinic, although she understood the opposition. She also said she didn't care if a clinic was off-campus or not, but the primary reason for the

clinic was to help children.

"I see kids in our community that have a need and their parents are not helping them fill that need," she said. "These are our kids, and whether it's 18 or 25 or two kids, we need to worry about those kids because they're the ones who'll be sticking around here and we'll be paying for our entire life."

Audience member Mike Falk said that he thought everyone wanted to help underserved children, but he didn't like the idea of a business on campus and preferred an off-campus site.

Shannon Vernam asked how the program would fare if the parents of underserved children signed the opt-out form that prevents treatment from the center.

Enterprise School counselor Julie Garland replied she could not recall a parent ever refusing her request to counsel a child.

"I have to believe it's like that with the medical care — that if it's right there, we can connect some of those kids, not all, and meet needs there," Garland said.

Powers raised the possibility of other options available to provide care for underserved students, including providing a shuttle to and from primary care providers and a school nurse. The school nurse idea in particular seemed to gain some traction with the audience.

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