

Ice rink ready for skaters

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

All that hot-mopping (hot water applied to even out the surface) of the Wallowa Valley Community Ice Rink has paid off: The surface is smooth and skating is good.

The rink was open for the Dec. 24 Skate with Santa event with Santa and Boom Boom the Elf. There was a great turnout of skaters and families of skaters. The weather was perfect and Bill, Kiyomi, Kai and Kana Oliver set up a welcome hot drink and cookie station.

Regular rink hours for the season are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, weather permitting. Open skating is permitted when it does not conflict with adult coed hockey — 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, and 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday.

Helmets are required and there is no safety attendant — skate at your own risk.

Skates can be rented at R's Consignments on the corner of River and Main in Enterprise. They are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Sunday. The ice rink also has an ice-skate lease program for kids ages 2 to 14. For \$20 participants get a pair of figure skates for the whole season.

For information, email info@wallowavalleyicerink.com.

There no longer is a rink hotline, so visit the Wallowa Valley Community Ice Rink page on Facebook to check on the current rink status.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

An ad hoc hockey team forms spontaneously at the Skate with Santa event on Christmas Eve.



FAR LEFT: That tongue biting helps with the focus as a young skater learns the ropes.

LEFT: Candy cane? Check. Snow pants? Check. Helmet? Uh Oh. A fast moving little skater dodges the checklist at the Skate with Santa event on Christmas Eve.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Wallowa mother sentenced to 18 months for sharing marijuana with a minor

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Judge Brian Dretke sentenced Stephanie Larae Rhodes, 35, of Wallowa to 18 months in a state corrections facility after Rhodes pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful delivery of controlled substance to a minor, a Class A felony, during a Dec. 16 Wallowa County Circuit Court sentencing hearing.

The sentencing closed a crime chapter that started with the March 31 arrest of Ethan Powers Boone, who was living with Rhodes. Boone was arrested on numerous charges including sexual abuse of a minor and delivery of controlled substance to a minor. At the time, Rhodes was charged with delivery of controlled substance to a minor and endangering the welfare of a minor.

Boone is serving a 75-month sentence after pleading guilty to three sexual abuse charges earlier this year.

Rhodes spent the majority of the Dec. 16 hearing looking at the desk where she sat as her attorney, Rick Dall, and Wallowa County District Attorney Mona Williams argued over whether she deserved a sentence of 18 or 36 months.



Stephanie Larae Rhodes

West noted Rhodes' unwillingness to take responsibility for her actions, and Rhodes did not offer any additional explanation.

Although Rhodes originally was charged only with the delivery of a controlled substance to a minor, Wallowa County District Attorney Mona Williams added subsequent charges of aiding and abetting sexual abuse of a minor and additional counts of endangering the welfare of a minor as well as another count of delivery of a controlled substance to a minor during a hearing on April 8. Rhodes was released into the custody of her parents two weeks later.

Williams said she opted not to pursue the aiding and abetting of sexual abuse for the sake of the victims' emotions.

Dall argued that Rhodes had no prior criminal history and cited her good behavior during her release as reasons for the more lenient sentence. He also asked for a delay until early February before remanding Rhodes so she can attend to a family illness.

Dretke denied the request and sentenced Rhodes to serve 18 months on each count. She will serve the sentences concurrently.

Additionally, Rhodes will have three years of post-prison supervision. She was not required to pay a fine or attorney's fees, and was immediately remanded into custody.

Start the year off with a great read

The Song of Hartgrove Hall

by Natasha Solomons

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Wallowa County

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