

Center for Wellness moves toward centralized care

Mental health clinic secures commercial zoning for land near hospital

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

This 3.86-acre property across from Wallowa Memorial Hospital has been purchased by Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness for a future site of a planned Integrated Health Services building.

Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness (WVCW) has received approval from the Enterprise City Council for rezoning on their 3.86-acre property directly across from Wallowa Memorial Hospital. The center purchased the property, originally zoned R3 residential, from Viridian Management, which owns the apartment complex backing the property.

Enterprise City Council wholeheartedly supported the zoning change to commercial on the recommendation of staff — although no zoning change was actually necessary. In reviewing the request, they noted that in keeping with the city's plan, a care facility of any type could be placed in any zone. Nevertheless, rezoning just made sense, councilors decided.

"We've basically approved it and it's been approved by the city council," said Enterprise Planning Commission Chair John Lawrence. "Now the city lawyer will have a finding of fact (to make sure everyone's ducks are in a row with regard to state goals and the council's decision) and a second hearing in front of the

planning commission and council will be planned in June."

No difficulties are anticipated. The center paid approximately \$305,000 for the property. The high cost reflects the value of the development around it — all medical facilities costing millions of dollars.

"No developer would make money on this property for residential use," said attorney for WVCW, Richard G. Hobbs of Lostine.

It is only because the nonprofit center is the mental health provider for the county and attractive to grantors that a purchaser was found, Hobbs said.

The center has served Wallowa County for almost 30 years, beginning as a county mental health

clinic and transitioning into a nonprofit organization in 1995.

The zoning change will complete step one in a plan to erect an approximately \$3.5 million integrated Health Services Center that will make the most of the proximity to all care facilities.

The property is ideally positioned for patient care and provider convenience, and WVCW has seen a rapid growth in patients in need of integrated care that can parse out physical and mental conditions and provide the best possible care across the board.

"We have grown exponentially in the last year," said WVCW Executive Director Chantay Jett. "We've literally grown into all of our locations: WVCW offices on

First Street in Enterprise, the annex in the old Wheatland Insurance building in Enterprise."

The center's mental health crisis team already is located in the medical office building and that has worked out well, Jett said.

"It's been a real win-win for all of us."

For that reason it is likely the crisis team will remain in the medical office building, Jett said.

The new building will house WVCW main offices, the annex, Building Healthy Families, other medical providers and hopefully a dentist who can accept Medicaid.

There is only one dentist in the county who can accept Medicaid and he is extremely busy, Jett said.

Funding for construction will be raised through grant writing and other sources. The first, primary grant of approximately \$1.5 million is expected to be a federal grant.

That grant must be "passed through" the county and because another Infrastructure Finance Authority (a Community Development Block Grant) is still being completed, WVCW must wait for the next cycle to apply. A county may only handle one such grant at a time.

Because the building completion date is so far out — estimated for 2020 — many other changes may be made in the meantime to streamline care for individuals with mental health issues.

GEMS plans to unveil Enterprise sign May 27

Wallowa County Chieftain

Greater Enterprise Main Streets (GEMS) is planning a celebration to present the recently completed gateway entry sign to the city of Enterprise. The unveiling ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 27 at the sign's location at the top of the hill overlooking Enterprise from the west on Highway 82 (across from Eagle's View Inn & Suites).

For traffic safety, park in the Baptist church parking lot adjacent to the sign's location.

The monument, four years in the making, was completed through the effort and support of many. As the GEMS group was forming in 2011, a need was identified to give Enterprise more recognition than it currently receives from people traveling through the valley. The purpose of the sign is to strengthen the city's identity and welcome visitors.

From individual donations to larger contributions — from Community Bank, Pacific Power, Wallowa County, Glenn Martin, the Wallowa County Cultural Trust and the city of Enterprise — the project was truly a community effort.

The monumental sign was crafted from products that reflect Enterprise. The Bowlby stone, quarried by Melville Stone, ties in to the historic buildings downtown. The wood represents the importance of natural resource economy (timber, farming, ranching, outdoor recreation). The wood was locally harvested and produced by JayZee lumber and was carved and painted by local artist Steve Arment. Ralph Swinehart generously drew up the blueprints needed. Darrell Brann was involved in the design committee work, organized the construction and laid the Bowlby stone columns with help from Tim Funk.

Fondest Memories

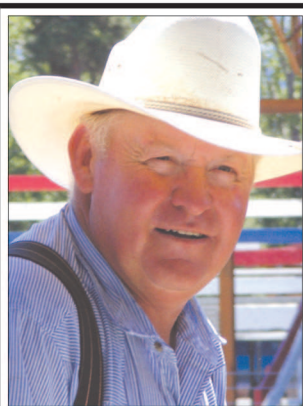


Jean Forrest Partarrieu

January 24, 1973 – May 22, 1991

Forever missed, never forgotten, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Mother Catherine & Sister Cathy



Bud Botts

2/22/1950 – 8/15/2015

We all miss you, so much!

Bud's Family



Janet Fields

6/16/1934 – 1/12/2004

You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.

Jim Fields



Jack Elliott

10/17/1924 – 5/31/2013

You were a light in our lives that burns forever in our hearts. You were the best! We miss you and will always love you.

Norma Elliott, Sandy Kinsella, Susie Wilkinson

Our angels above us,



Jim Nobles

1928-1999

Gladys Nobles

1931-2011

Eddie Nobles

1965-1997

Forever missed, never forgotten. Tim & Debbie Gilbert



Sy Gilbert

8/31/1918 – 1/27/2008

Dorothy Gilbert

1/2/1924 – 9/15/2014

You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.

Tim & Debbie Gilbert



Sandy Teilmann

December 20, 1936 - February 18, 2006

Wife, Mother, Grandmother
Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Harry, Cheryl & Kaylee



Zoemann Teilmann Perry

February 1, 1962 – November 29, 1997

Daughter & Sister

The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.

Dad & Cheryl



Ed Harrington

9/20/1927 – 12/31/2015

The 63 years we shared were incredible. May God hold you in the palm of His hand until I see you again.

Love, Joy



Doug & Betty Morgan

"We shall gather at the river, that flows by the throne of God"

In loving tribute from:

William Douglas, Henry James, John Micheal, Mary Katherine, Samuel Reid, David Robert, Ruth Ann, Susan Laura, Thomas George, Carol Rosemarie



Lester Earl Kiesecker

8/13/1917 – 11/30/2015

Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.

I'll love you always, Clarice