



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain
Dr. Michelle Janik with a patient at Enterprise Animal Hospital.

Animal hospital welcomes vet

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

In her first week on the job at Enterprise Animal Hospital, Dr. Michelle Janik was introduced in a big way to the animal practice for which she had been longing.

"We kind of had a run on horses sticking their feet through fences," she said.

Fortunately, Dr. Janik has excellent sewing skills to go with her animal handling and social skills. It was that combination of skills that moved clinic owner Dr. Jerald Rice to hire Janik.

"After she left (following an interview and several days work), I asked myself if I had been that prepared when I graduated," Rice said.

Janik earned her degree at Oregon State University. She completed her bachelor's degree in just three years before tackling veterinarian school, which she completed in June.

Wallowa County and Enterprise Animal Hospital were immediately on her list to check out because she had heard that Enterprise Animal Hospital "had a good thing going," she said.

She wanted that combination of small-animal surgery and large-animal care.

Nowhere else appeared to have the broad combination of small and large animal clients that Wallowa County could offer. She appreciates a challenge and is prepared to deal with small animals requiring exceptionally precise surgery as well as large-animal issues, such as reproductive health and managing illnesses within a herd.

"Herd health is a big interest of mine," Janik said. "Managing populations to minimize or handle herd outbreak is an area I've studied seriously."

"Her surgery skills are very good," Rice said. "She also does a really good job of working up cases and pursuing diagnoses. When we add her skills and understanding of veterinary science with her people and client skills — it was a perfect match for Enterprise Animal Hospital."

Janik enjoys riding her 20-year-old Quarter Horse AllDun as well as "everything rural." She was homeschooled all the way through high school in Sandy, Ore., where her parents still live. Throughout her childhood and early teens she was deeply involved in 4-H.

"If there was a 4-H project, I was probably involved in it," she said.

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Like many folks who find their way to butterfly hunting, Brown began as a birder. She learned about the event from her science teacher at Eckstein Middle School.

"She told me to 'get the scholarship, you'll really have a great time.' And I'd like to more about insects," Brown said.

Her dad, Chris Brown, said they began noticing butterflies the moment they heard of the event and had already identified a Western Tiger Swallowtail beforehand.

Mallory Keenan's mom is a member of the club and is currently finishing a book for parents and children about butterflies of Vashon Island. Keenan and her parents have raised Painted Lady and Anise Swallowtail butterflies from caterpillars and released them into the wild. Last year they raised butterflies from eggs laid on a bull thistle.

"The coolest thing about butterflies is releasing them," said Keenan, who attends Chautauqua Elementary on Vashon Island.

The two scholarship students were the first to accompany the group and did so thanks to the generosity of a member who left the group scholarship money in her will.

Club members hunt, examine and photograph butterflies — they don't collect them.

In fact, Al Wagner of Seattle tells the story of how he originally got involved with the club and foolishly brought his butterfly collection (he'd made when he was 12) with him to his first meeting.

"The president of the club threw it in the trash," he recalled with a laugh.

The group enjoyed several programs in addition to their hunting trips, including a talk by Dr. David James, professor of entomology at Washington State University. Dr. James has written several butterfly books and co-authored others with David Nunally, who also attended. James also works with inmates serving life sentences at the Walla Walla State Penitentiary to breed, tag and release monarch butterflies.

That program has been going for five summers.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain
Mallory Keenan, 10, of Vashon Island crouches with her mother Kelly to identify two mating Police Car moths. Mallory correctly identified the moths' genders. Although the group was hunting butterflies, moths were equally interesting subjects.

"The men are remarkably enthused about this," James said. "And the prison loves it because it promotes prison harmony."

James said there are 89 species of butterflies in Wallowa County and diversity remains stable, although populations are "way down," most likely due to heavy spring rains and hot summer conditions.

Nunally scouted the locations in Wallowa County and despite rain and cold conditions on Sunday morning, the group found plenty of butterflies to photograph and discuss.

"Mount Howard is memorable to me because in 2010 pine white butterflies were coming down on me like snow," James said. "It was a mass eruption year and they sometimes get carried aloft by wind and then rain down

like that."

Two local butterfly fanciers signed up to accompany the group Sunday as they made their way up the back of Mount Howard.

In particular, locals can court fame my looking for various sulfur butterflies, James said.

"There are a lot of mysteries about sulfur butterflies in Wallowa County," James said. "I've heard reports

There may be large sulfurs that have not been scientifically identified in the area."

Wallowa County residents interested in butterflies can contact the Washington Butterfly association at <http://wabutterflyassoc.org>.

The closest representative of the Oregon Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association is Sue Anderson of Sisters. Contact her at celastrinasue@gmail.com.

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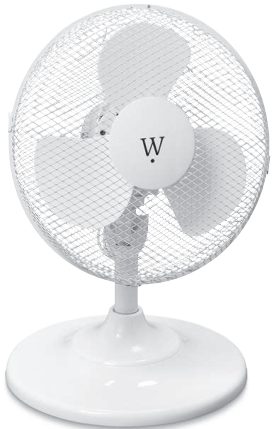


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