

Enterprise moves ahead on park remodel

New member appointed to Library Board

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise City Councilors had a quick and productive meeting Monday night and discussed several projects and appointments.

Land Use Codes

City Administrator Michele Young was pleased to share an update, telling councilors that city staff, working with the Planning Commis-

sion is re-doing the land use code for Enterprise to make it easier for the public to understand.
“It’s just such a huge task,” Young said. “But it’s working really well.”
The new model for information presentation is based on the state model and is “so much better and so much easier than what we have now,” Young said.
Currently those studying land use codes have to wade through a significant amount of paperwork and refer from one page to another as they investigate. The new model presents the details in

easy-to-navigate charts.
The new model will not be adopted until 2018, so there will be plenty of time to present it to the public and get input on the new design, Young said.
At this point, said Young, the city is planning to provide two different presentations, one for contractors and real estate professionals and another for the public.
In addition, the city councilors are invited to sit in on meetings to familiarize themselves with the product to be offered.
Councilors are also encouraged to share comments

and concerns they receive from the public.
Warde Park remodel
A bid for the repaving of Warde Park in downtown Enterprise was unanimously approved and work will start as soon as weather permits – probably in April.
The city had a budget of \$60,000 for the restoration of the popular park and Brian Coughlan’s Eastern Oregon Landscaping, a Joseph business, came in with a bid of \$39,800 to replace the crumbling brick pavers inside the park.
Public Works Director

Ronnie Neil said this left what he thought would be sufficient funds in their Warde Park budget to redo the sidewalks outside the park. Ordinary cement sidewalks are planned to facilitate easy cleaning in the winter.
New member of Library Board
Librarian Denine Rautenstrauch told the council that Early Education (substitute) teacher Patricia Otten had applied to serve on the Library Board.
“She is more than qualified – and it’s exciting to get someone so young,” Rautenstrauch

said. “Libraries are changing and it’s good to have someone with, maybe, new ideas.”
The council unanimously approved Otten’s application. She will replace Laurel Estes, who recently moved to Mil-ton-Freewater.
A public servant to serve as Wallowa County at-large board member on the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation is still needed, Rautenstrauch said.
“It’s not a lot of heavy work, but it is an important position,” Rautenstrauch said.
The foundation board currently meets quarterly. The next meeting is Feb. 27.

‘Bully’ movie to hit OK

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Most schools, including those in Wallowa County, have bullying problems to some degree. Some students stand up and address it.
Freshman Jadon Garland of Enterprise High School is one such student.
As part of a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America class project, Garland, 15, is doing his part to spread the word about bullying through a showing of “The Bully Movie.”
The film is a live-action camera feed of three different schools over the 2009-10 school year and shows bullying and its affects on children as well as the school and community as it happens.
The OK Theatre will show the film at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.

The film is also part of the Safe Community Youth Coalition. Garland is also promoting the anti-bullying program: “Dude, be nice.” Garland is a member of the Safe Community Youth Coalition.
“The group meets once a month to discuss community events and we’ve been planning this one in the youth coalition,” he said.
Jadon Garland said he got the idea from his mother Julie Garland, who works as a counselor for the Wallowa County Center for Wellness.
“I was looking for a project, and my mom mentioned this to me, and I thought it was a great idea,” he said.
There will be free pizza, popcorn, soda and door prizes. The movie is rated PG-13 and recommended for grade 5 to adults. Transportation is being discussed for Wallowa students.

School boards seek candidates

Positions available countywide

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The May 2015 election of school board candidates in Oregon saw the lowest number of school board applicants in a decade, even though individuals filling these locally elected positions can have profound effects on young people in their community.
“Being on the school board is a great opportunity to get involved and serve our community in a meaningful and personally rewarding way,” said Adrian Harguess, chair of the Enterprise School Board. “As

board members we’re privileged to help provide educational opportunities for the future of our community and our children.”
Local board members establish budgets and policy, hire the chief executive, and more.
“It can be a rewarding experience to be on the school board and help school districts move toward their goals,” said Lance Homan, superintendent of Joseph Charter School.
Enterprise School District will have two board openings, Wallowa School District will have three positions up for election and Joseph Schools will have two positions open. To apply, submit your application, which is available at the county clerk’s office in the court

house at 101 S. River Street , Room 100, in Enterprise. School board terms begin July 1.
A public notice outlining many board positions throughout the county is published in this week’s Chieftain on the legals page.
To help prepare individuals who are considering becoming board members, Oregon School Boards Association has established a “Get on Board” campaign to encourage motivated community members to accept the challenge of volunteer board work.
A webinar will be offered today, Feb. 15, to help potential board members understand the volunteer position. Visit <https://getonboardoregon.wordpress.com/webinars>.

Hard winter means more wildlife on the road

Eastern and central Oregon’s harsh winter season has resulted in more snow and ice on the roadway and has also contributed to numerous vehicle-wildlife collisions.
Exact figures are not available at this time, but both the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife indicate the number of deer and other wildlife on and near roadways is higher than usual.
“Deeper snow in the mountains brings more animals further down into valley areas,” said Randy Lewis, ODFW assistant district wildlife biologist. “They are looking for the easiest path that will use the least amount of energy as they search for food.”
The path of least resistance may include sections of highways or other transportation routes. In some cases high snow berms along road shoulders have created corridors where animals get trapped.
“The banks of snow are sometimes so steep on the sides of the road that deer panic and kind of ping-pong back and forth, looking for a place to escape,” Lewis said. “Motorists who don’t slow way down are

likely to strike animals in these situations.”
Some travelers who express concern about wildlife on the roadway often request more wildlife crossing signs. ODOT says that wildlife warning signs are not very effective at reducing the number of crashes.
“We have numerous wildlife warning signs, including two new signs with flashing lights that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife installed last year along U.S. 20 between Vale and Juntura,” said Jeff Berry, assistant manager of ODOT District 14.
Unfortunately, motorists have a tendency to become complacent and ignore signs if there are too many of them, or forget about them within a minute or two, especially if they

don’t see an associated danger near the sign.
Both ODOT and ODFW agree that the key to avoiding a collision with deer, elk or other animals is to stay alert and be prepared. This is particularly important during early morning and late afternoon hours.
“The best advice is to slow down and keep a keen eye on the road, especially around

dusk and dawn when many animals are on the move,” Lewis said. “Travelers should also take extra care on curvy highways and routes with trees or other vegetation that limit your ability to see ahead.”
If you are not expecting wildlife on the roadway, you should. They can be just about anywhere in eastern and central Oregon.

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The Wallowa County Chieftain

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