



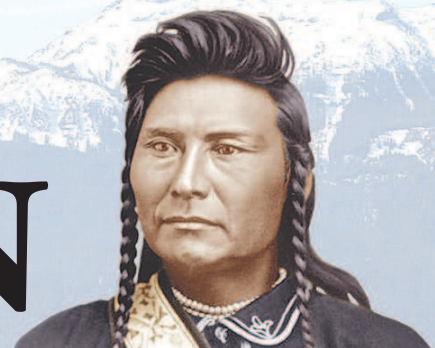
# AT THE FAIR

See more fair photos online at [wallowa.com](http://wallowa.com)

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Karly Baremore, 11, of Wallowa dodges a kiss from "Earl" shortly before entering the Market Steer class at the 2017 Wallowa County Fair. Check out Page 13 for more photos from the fair.

## WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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### McKee shares vision, drive for housing opportunities

#### Brothers see possibilities in Enterprise

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

When you look Andy McKee in the eye, you know you are not looking at a wide-eyed dreamer. This is a man with a library of knowledge and a vision.

Before McKee became a one-man revitalizing force for downtown Enterprise and the champion of potential renters currently stuck in their motor homes waiting for an apartment, he operated a business managing up to 500 bank-owned properties in four states, employing 40 workers.

He knows finance, he knows both the ups and downs of housing, he knows how to husband a labor force, and as a result, he knows how to develop a viable business model.

"Our strategy is to buy the junk that nobody wants and to make it into something everybody wants," he said. "And for me, the way you stimulate downtown growth is to have people living downtown."

McKee and his brother, Todd, of Grand Rapids, Mich., began their revitalization in Wallowa County by taking



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Local businessman Andy McKee makes sure the housing market is looking up as he remodels another Bowlby Stone landmark in Enterprise. The mixed use building on the corner of Highway 82 and Main will have approximately 12 apartments upstairs and retail space downstairs.



**"OUR STRATEGY IS TO BUY THE JUNK THAT NOBODY WANTS AND TO MAKE IT INTO SOMETHING EVERYBODY WANTS."**

Andy McKee

on the eight-unit Joseph Apartments on Main Street in Joseph. Formerly a "low rent district" in an unflattering way, the apartments are now remodeled and renting for approximately \$800 monthly.

His next project addressed his desire

to revitalize downtown Enterprise. He built a new luxury apartment upstairs in the Burnaugh Building, a historical Bowlby Stone building on River Street.

See HOUSING, Page A10

### Joseph council buoys farmers market plans

#### Critics say it is costing businesses revenue

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph City Council resolved an issue with the Wallowa Valley Farmers Market on Aug. 3. The issue stemmed from a July 6 council meeting that took an unexpected twist.

During council comments, Teresa Sajonia asked mayor Dennis Sands if the council had stipulated criteria for items allowed to be sold at the farmers market before it approved its operation in the city.

Sajonia said she believed the market was to be a place that sold produce, canned goods

and garden plants, but had branched into crafts and jewelry. She called the market a "flea market," as did council member Pearl Sturm and audience member Raider Heck.

Joseph Chamber of Commerce president Becky Rushton and Sajonia leveled several complaints against the market.

- The market ran over its allotted time.
- It acted as a haven for food carts so owners didn't have to pay the city a vendor fee.
- It took business away from local brick and mortar entities.
- The market itself didn't pay a vendor fee.

Council member Tyler Evans had suggested initially that the market's manager, Carol Bartlow, appear before the council.

Market vendors and supporters did that at the Aug. 3 meeting.

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### Enterprise considers remodeling, rebuilding burned out city hall

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise City Hall will remain in temporary digs at Dr. Rusty Woods' former office, 117 E. Main Street in Enterprise, for the foreseeable future.

There was no crystal ball available at the Aug. 15 work session when administrators, council members, the city's insurance agent, lawyer and engineer were present to discuss "what happens next" after the old city hall was gutted by fire July 10.

Nevertheless, the mood was hopeful.

The city has a "replacement" limit of \$1.3 million on the fire damaged and gutted building on 108 NE First and another approximately \$360,000 to pay the rent on the temporary site and replace office machines.

The city's insurance agent, Kathy Duncan-Caspar of Wheatland Insurance, praised the city for its cost-saving actions. The city's insurers,

City County Insurance Services, had suggested the city hall be housed in portable structures, but the cost was high.

"Renting locally has kept costs down," Duncan-Caspar said. "Everything you've done has been great for keeping costs down."

The question of what the insurance adjuster will consider "replacement" was the primary subject Monday night. Duncan-Caspar told the assembly that conversations with the adjuster had led

her to believe the potential for razing the structurally damaged 1957 building and building a new and better-designed building was good given the cost to refit on a potentially unsafe building.

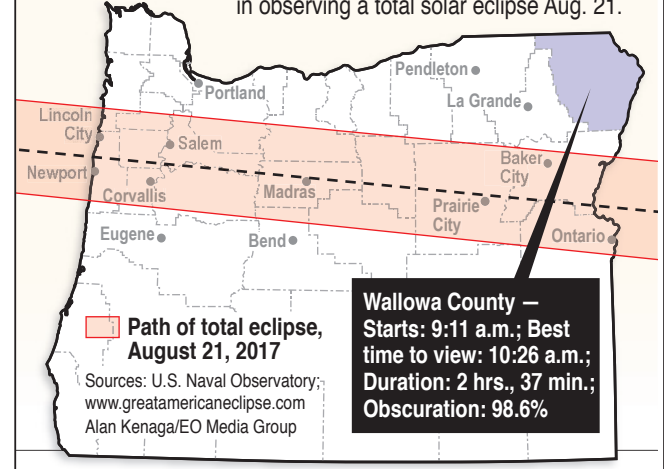
The city has known for years that bringing the old city hall up to code would be expensive — if it were even possible. In 2009, structural engineer Jon Walker told the city the building was not worth

See CITY hall, Page A18

### Eclipse viewing

#### Historical eclipse due Monday

Wallowa County residents will join the rest of the world in observing a total solar eclipse Aug. 21.



## LIT A CAMPFIRE TORCHED A FOREST

#KEEPOREGONGREEN

