

# New medical facility two years away

Residents and politicians attend groundbreaking

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Given the dust that arose when folks walked across the future home of an integrated health clinic in Enterprise during Saturday's groundbreaking, it's difficult to imagine that the parcel of land has a high water table.

Yet dealing with that challenge will take roughly the first year of effort to resolve, according to a partnership between Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Winding Waters Medical Clinic.

The next step beginning shortly will be excavating the property, formerly owned by Wallowa Memorial Hospital, and allowing it to percolate.

Although no part of the design has been finalized because no permits have been pulled, plans call for the building to sit with the nearby mountains as a backdrop.

The \$7 million, 17,000-square-foot building on 3.2 acres is designed with one major goal.

"This new integrated health services building is a commitment to a myriad of services under one roof," said Chantay Jett, executive director of Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness. "Our goal is 100 percent access and zero percent disparity."

Dr. Elizabeth Powers, who has been CEO of Winding Waters up until last week, said the facility will be designed as a haven for the community where residents can "come with questions and needs" and find open arms.

The plan includes a teaching kitchen for Wallowa Memorial Hospital's Complete Health Improvement Program and space for staff from Building Healthy Families.

*"OUR GOAL IS 100 PERCENT ACCESS AND ZERO PERCENT DISPARITY."*

Chantay Jett  
executive director of  
Wallowa Valley Center for  
Wellness

Jett said both entities are focused on using the most cost-effective methods possible in the construction process, and using local vendors and tradesmen whenever possible.

A general contractor has not been chosen, but Jett said Saturday that decision is "close."

Oregon Rep. Greg Baretto and Sen. Bill Hansell were guests for the groundbreaking.

The two elected officials will be instrumental in obtaining \$1.5 million from state lottery funds to help fund the facility.

Hansell said both he and Baretto were excited to see that everything was in place for the funding request to move forward. He lauded the coordinators for their vision and for approaching the funding as supplementary, not just an "entitlement."

"You are looking at it as receiving help from the state, to help you to do what's best for the community," he told Jett and Powers. "We're excited about joining your team."

Also on hand for Saturday's ceremony was Bill Wilson, senior associate for Westby Associates in Vancouver, Wash. His firm, which specializes in helping nonprofits with major projects, will assist in public relations and obtaining financing for the medical facility.

Wilson was instrumental in bringing a new health clinic to Elgin through a \$1.25 million loan from the state.



Groundbreaking for a 17,000-square-foot integrated medical facility was held Saturday across from Wallowa Memorial Hospital. Oregon Sen. Bill Hansell (center) tosses dirt while Chantay Jett, executive director of Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Dr. Elizabeth Powers of Winding Waters pitch in. Oregon Rep. Greg Baretto is manning the backhoe.



Chantay Jett, executive director of Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness provides details about the facility her organization and Winding Waters are planning during Saturday's groundbreaking. A large number of community residents turned out for the event and enjoyed sandwiches and salads for lunch.



Oregon Rep. Greg Baretto pledged support of Wallowa County's elected officials in Salem in obtaining funding for the integrated health center planned in Enterprise during ceremonies Saturday. He was joined by Oregon Sen. Bill Hansell (left), Chantay Jett, executive director of Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Dr. Elizabeth Powers from Winding Waters.

## Wallowa Resources

9th Annual

# Barn Dance & Auction!

No-host bar • Dinner • Auction • Dancing to Live Music

All proceeds help Wallowa Resources promote rural development through land stewardship, job creation, sustainable energy, and youth education.

Tickets \$35, kids \$15, available until 8/21 at [www.wallowaresources.org](http://www.wallowaresources.org) and the Bookloft.  
For more info, call 541-263-0648

14 fabulous AUCTION items, featuring ...

• Guided bull & cow elk hunt on the Zumwalt Prairie

plus ...

- Four-day raft trip in Hells Canyon
- Overnight stay at Minam River Lodge
  - Captain's Mirror by Tyler Hays
  - 10 more great items!

(Most items redeemable in 2018)

Stewardship  
Community  
Education

