

New Enterprise High School Field House a big improvement

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

When Enterprise High's old Field House burned Oct. 25, 2016, there was an understandable surge of concern countywide. But the phoenix that has risen from the ashes is stunning.

The humble timber and plywood field house, constructed 1949-1952, didn't look like much — but its replacement value is what the insurance company paid — \$820,000.

Now, a year later: "We're a lot better off than we were before," said Enterprise High School Principal Blake Carlsen.

Because of the replacement value, in addition to modernizing the building to a great degree, the school was able to include a lot of rooms the old building didn't offer, Carlsen said.

"Our ticket booth, concessions and track equipment storage were all separate before and we didn't have a visitors locker room," he noted.

The building went from approximately 1,600 square-feet to a 2,718-square-foot colored concrete building.

Now, not only are those rooms added to the final building, but many upgrades were added thanks to donated time and materials or money saved in one area that could be applied to another.

That better "bang for your buck" came because although Balfor Construction out of Boise oversaw the construc-



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Just a peek in a corner of the boys locker room at the new Enterprise High School Field House as the team practiced on the field during an Open House event last week.

tion, local contractors did most of the work.

Carlsen gave a partial list of the individuals and groups who donated time, beginning with teachers who dedicated a whole afternoon after school to paint the inside of the building. Construction crews also gave extra hours throughout the build, as did plumbers, electricians and suppliers.

Two representative contributions were those made by Troy Farwell of Wellens Farwell Construction, who put the lockers up on galvanized stripping to prevent rusting, and Jared Bedard of Carpet One, who put fascia on the surface to prevent mop water damage.

Part of that support went to the Enterprise Education Foundation in donations

— a total of approximately \$27,000. Enterprise Education Foundation President Cindi Aschenbrenner said they had recently begun dipping into that fund.

"We're just starting to spend the money, now that we can see what's beneficial to the kids," Aschenbrenner said. "We're still working with the administration and coaches of not only the football but track program to spend the rest of it."

So far the foundation has purchased motivational signs for the locker room, stencils to paint the field, laptop and projector and screen to review games; additional pads and protective gear, coolers for road trips, water bottles and more.

Matthews, 19, sentenced to 120 months in sex case

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Court Beat

Kevin Matthews, 19, Wallowa, was sentenced to 120 months in the Oregon Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to a count of unlawful attempted sexual penetration of a child under 12 and first degree sexual abuse. Court-appointed attorney Rick Dall represented Matthews and deputy district attorney Rebecca Frolander represented the state. Judge Thomas Powers presided in Wallowa County Circuit Court.

The crimes stemmed from incidents that took place late in 2016.

Frolander told the judge that the victim's mother was unhappy with the plea agreement and said the abuse happened many more times than the charges indicated. Only to save her child from having to recount the incidents to a 12-person jury as well as suffer cross-examination did the mother agree to the stipulated sentence.

Powers agreed, saying that studies show children who testify at trials are profoundly traumatized by the experience.

Powers said that no sentence could undo the damage done and the line between punishment and rehabilitation was a fine one.

"I don't want to be the one to tell my four-year-old that 'I'm sorry someone did this, but they're not going to get in trouble for that,'" the mother told the judge.

Dall spoke for Matthews, saying that there was no proof, charges or admissions regarding the child. He said that when confronted about the crime he pleaded guilty to, Matthews readily confessed and expressed remorse. He also said that an evaluation of Matthews showed his upbringing, cir-

cumstances, drugs and alcohol issues and the fact he had taken responsibility for the crimes and was amenable to treatment, he could have received outpatient treatment except for Oregon law.

"Unfortunately, because we live in Oregon, we have these mandatory minimums," Dall said. "My client, even though he is young and has absolutely no criminal record, is treated no differently than someone who had committed multiple offenses like these ... We're stuck with that unfortunately, it takes the discretion pretty much away from everybody."

Dall added that his client was happy that he could earn some good time (toward early release), and asked Powers to approve the plea deal.

Matthews made a brief statement apologizing to the victim and her family as well as the court.

Powers admonished Matthews for the crimes.

"Your actions with a girl this young are profoundly scarring for her," he said. "It is something that she'll have to deal with for the rest of her life."

Powers followed the stipulated sentence of the plea agreement: On the first count, Matthews will serve 120 months with credit for time served. He will also have three years of post-prison supervised probation. Powers also recommended no contact with the victim or family or anyone under the age of 18 and not frequenting the victim's school or place of employment.

Matthews must complete all recommended sex offender, substance abuse and mental health treatment

or reside within three miles of the victim. He was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$500 toward his attorney.

On count two, a Measure 11 crime, Matthews was sentenced to 75 months in the DOC to run concurrently with count one and ordered to pay another \$500 to his attorney.

Matthews is eligible for good time and earned time that could allow his sentence to be reduced to 75 months. He will also serve up to three years of post-prison supervised probation. Matthews will complete sex offender, mental health and drug abuse treatment. Should he return to Wallowa County, he cannot live within three miles of the victim.

Frolander said the subject matter made the case difficult. With Matthews, Frolander noted the line of punishment versus rehabilitation.

"It's a pretty tough case. He is only 19, and how do we best serve the interests of justice? ... We have to look at the age of the perpetrator, his back story and what is in the best interests of the community. Putting him in prison for the rest of his life without the opportunity to go through treatment and be rehabilitated and become a functioning member of society probably isn't doing justice."

Concern about the traumatizing effects of the victim testifying in court also caused Frolander to negotiate the first charge, which could have carried a minimum 25-year sentence. Still, she didn't want Matthews off the hook.

"We looked at how much time we could give him that allows adequate punishment and allows the girl to become an adult," Frolander said.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Darrell Brann (center, newsboy cap) talks to one of many possible patrons/donors at the OK Theatre Centennial Countdown Kickoff at the Lostine Tavern on Friday, Oct. 27. The event raised nearly \$20,000 towards the \$56,000 needed to match a \$100,000 grant from the state.

OK

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one of the chief volunteers for the renovation, also spoke to the audience about the importance of the OK People members and GEMS in the theater's renovation and its importance to the area as a project and for economic development in the community.

"The theater has always been important to me, and I want to see it remain open," she

said about her involvement. She added that the auction was an over-the-top success. "Local businesses are always so giving for a good cause," she said.

The work of Kendrick Moholt and other photographers was featured in a presentation that showed theater soundman Bart Budwig in humorous poses while unveiling a variety of the theater's physical deficiencies that the renovation would remedy.

The auction proceeds doubled Brann's initial goal

of raising \$10,000 as well as some in-kind donations. Brann said that Lostine Tavern owner and partner Peter Ferre made a \$10,000 donation

"That put us near the halfway point for our match," Brann said. "He's always been very supportive, and it was an amazing gesture. I think the way this turned out showed how much people really care about the theater. In fact, it showed three things: People love going to the theater, they love going to the Lostine Tavern and they love Vali's."

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