

Wallowa Countians sign up for healthcare

The open enrollment period for 2018 health insurance coverage through the federal government was half the duration of the previous year’s sign-up period, but Oregon’s enrollment total was the state’s highest ever.

According to federal records, 156,105 Oregonians chose health insurance plans at HealthCare.gov during the open enrollment period that ended Dec. 15; 155,430 signed up in 2017.

North East Oregon Network helped publicize the enrollment deadline and gave one-on-one enrollment guidance to consumers.

Wallowa County’s representative Vixen Radford-Weeks said that a lot of confusion remained for persons seeking insurance.

“Survey’s done for Oregon Marketplace showed that there is still confusion about terminology, for instance one man came in wondering where he could apply for ‘Obama Care’ (a term that is now out-of-favor) and did not understand what ‘open enrollment’ meant,” Radford-Weeks said. “Another finding was that people thought it was very important to have community health workers helping understand the process and help with filling out the forms,” said Radford-Weeks.

NEON also reported an increase in private insurance rates and frustration over lack of choice; there are only two private providers in Northeast Oregon: Providence and MODA.

“We saw an increase in the number of people asking about the Christian Health Coverage co-ops in our area,” Radford-Weeks said.

There are three such co-ops in operation in Wallowa County. They are not health insurance, and each operate differently with criteria including religious faith. They do not have to meet the same criteria as qualified health plans, but they do allow people to avoid the tax penalties.

Wallowa native earns Bush Award

Lt. Dan McGourty, son of Ron and Celene Gay of Wallowa, has been awarded the President George Herbert Walker Bush Award, given to first-tour, carrier-based pilots who best exemplify the skill, commitment, loyalty and courage of America’s 41st President.

The elder Bush was commissioned and winged just days before his 19th birthday and was the youngest Naval Aviator on record. He later was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for combat action.

McGourty received the award during the 2017 Tailhook Reunion in Reno, Nev.

McGourty is a 2001 Wallowa High School graduate. He joined the Navy in 2003 after fulfilling basic education requirements at Eastern Oregon University. He enlisted in the Navy to see the world, but the Navy soon saw something in him and began to invest heavily in his career.

He began his career as an Aviation Electrician and Air Crewman Rescue Swimmer and was soon serving as crew chief on a medevac helicopter in Kuwait. He received an Army Commendation Medal for his work in Kuwait, where he served November 2005 to May 2006.

He also met his wife Alexandra Ulrich while serving in Kuwait. The couple now have three children: daughters Randi and Molli and 5-month-old son, Gage.

By 2007 McGourty was enrolled in the Seaman-to-Admiral 21 program on his way to a commission.



Daniel McGourty with his daughters Molli and Randi.

Submitted photo

The Navy then sent McGourty for more training and he earned a Mechanical Engineering Degree in 2011, after which he was commissioned as ensign prior to beginning flight training. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 2013 and went on to fly E-2C Hawkeye jets with the “Golden Hawks” Carrier Airborne Early

Warning Squadron 112. He was deployed in the Western Pacific in 2016 aboard the USS John. C. Stennis.

McGourty has been engaged in a more personal battle recently — fighting cancer — while serving as administrative officer for Naval Test Wing Pacific at Point Mugu, Calif.

Needles key to Enterprise medical practitioner’s new business

Eagle Cap Wellness offers acupuncture, herbal medicine

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Want to spend more than 15 minutes with a health professional and know they are treating you, specifically — not a condition or disease that may manifest in other people in a different way for different reasons?

An acupuncturist and Chinese medicine practitioner is one choice. There is a new one in Enterprise.

Jamie Slagel has begun

treating clients at her business, Eagle Cap Wellness in the old Stage One at 119 E. Main St., Enterprise

Wallowa County is alternative medicine-friendly. Medical doctors occasionally include acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine in a treatment regimen.

“Most providers want people to have acupuncture as an option,” she said.

Slagel has been trained to work in conjunction with providers from every other discipline. In China, practitioners work in conjunction with doctors, physical therapist and mental health professionals. Slagel spent three months working in Chinese hospitals alongside medical professionals.

“I get referrals from doctors here in Wallowa County and want to reach out to everyone,” she said. “Ideally, I would send back a very extensive letter with my diagnosis and findings and we can work together.”

She’s not the only acupuncturist in town and that’s fine — even good, she said.

“Every acupuncturist has a different style,” Slagel said. “You have to look around, and if you click with someone, you click.”

Slagel’s style includes an extensive in-take interview and treatment that includes wellness counseling, herbal or vitamin prescription as necessary, massage and acupuncture — it takes about 75 minutes for a treatment.

She is a graduate of the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, has a bachelor’s degree in pre-med and spent four years in acupuncture school, served an internship and residency, and then went to China.

She says she has special training in acupuncture for women’s health, pregnancy and mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.

But she also has a mission to wean patients off pain pills.

“I especially enjoy treating pain,” she said. “But I enjoy everything because it is so incredibly interesting — if there is something I don’t know, I research a solution.”

Research is her “hobby,” she said. She reads medical textbooks and studies Chinese Medicine and acupuncture every day.

“Chinese medicine has a plethora of herbal formulas, all plant-based and no synthetics, that have been devel-

oped over the last couple thousand years, and they are specific to each person’s specific condition,” Slagel said. “I cannot prescribe a Chinese herb unless I do a full intake. Everyone presents in a different way, how (and where) they feel issues in their bodies.”

It’s important to know that acupuncture works on a momentum principal — the more you do it, the better the results. She recommends you give it 12 treatments initially. That may sound like a lot, but it will cost you about the same as a full panel blood test — and your insurance may cover it.

Slagel accepts many insurance plans and can accept OHP with a doctor’s referral. Motor vehicle insurance can also be tapped for acupuncture following an accident, even a minor accident.

Hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and she is on call for emergencies. The EM&M building elevator



Courtesy photo

Jamie Slagel of Eagle Cap Wellness in Enterprise treats a patient with acupuncture. Slagel is licensed by the Oregon Medical Board as an acupuncturist and board certified herbalist.

is also available for folks who need it.

For more information call 971-806-1758 or email jamieslagellac@gmail.com. Her website is jamieslagel.com

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Grief Support Group

Community Connection of Wallowa County will host a 9-week Grief Support group at the Enterprise Senior Center beginning Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 10:30 am. Weekly sessions will be led by David Bruce, Pastor of the Enterprise Christian Church and a certified grief counselor. The class is based on Grief Works, and is designed for a 75-90 minute time frame. Registration is required and limited to 12 participants.

For information and to register, contact Community Connection at 541-426-3840 or rebecca@ccno.org.

The Wallowa County Pilots Association

2018 Wallowa County Aviation Banquet

Saturday, January 20th

at the Wallowa Lake Lodge

A no host social hour will begin at 5:30 pm, with dinner being served at 6:30pm.

The Chief Joseph Flyer’s will give an update on what happened during 2017 and what’s up for 2018

The NE Oregon Aviation Foundation will report on what took place during 2017 and give a sneak preview at their 2018 activities.

You will have your choice of three dinners:

Baked Salmon, Baseball Cut Sirloin Steak, Vegetarian option

(Let us know if you need a child’s dish)

The cost is \$28 per person which includes, salad mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert

Gratuity is included in the price of your dinner.

To place your entree order or if you have any questions please call:

Bill Ables, 541-263-1327

Tim Locke 541-263-0470 or

Shay Mann 541-912-0340

(Please call before Tuesday, Jan. 16th)

No ticket is needed, pay at the lodge after your dinner.



Public is invited to attend this event

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