

# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Even with no mortgage and selling chicken at \$5 per pound, raising chickens humanely on naturally sourced custom-designed feed doesn't pencil out. But for the Hawkins sisters, it's hard to quit when you're successful on so many other levels.

## MORE THAN CHICKEN FEED



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Mary Hawkins, along with sister Nora, manages Hawkins Sisters Ranch in Wallowa. The sisters raise Turkeys and Cornish cross chickens to butcher and also offer custom butchering for many local hobby farm breeders in the county.

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County chieftain

It's a lovely June day and Nora and Mary Hawkins along with employee Laurie Waters are busy processing 40 Cornish cross chickens in preparation for the upcoming Joseph Saturday Market. Another 20 or so capons are being prepared for Portland customers.

This, says Mary Hawkins, is how they like to spend their weekends in Wallowa County. She's not joking.



"It's a good workout, and I love that part of it," said Mary. "That's been like 'all on' what I wanted to do. Every other job I have is a ton of thinking and responding and communicating. This is 'how fast can I do the same thing over and over again' — and I like that. Probably wouldn't like it for 60 hours a week."

But the sisters don't spend 60 hours a week as poultry processors. Like many farmers and ranchers, they have day jobs.

Mary is office manager for Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland, host of the Tamkaliks celebration in Wallowa; Nora is a state-licensed midwife. The sisters spend mornings, nights and weekends on the agricultural business with the help of employees Laurie Waters, Landra Scovlin and Michaela Shane. Raising and processing birds is a six-months-of-the-year job.

See CHICKS, Page A13

### ■ CITY BEAT ■

## Wellens Farwell awarded bid to build city hall, fire station

Work on airport lights approved

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The City of Enterprise has awarded construction company Wellens Farwell Inc. of Enterprise the \$2.2 million contract to build a new city hall and fire hall.

The company expects to begin demolition of the original concrete block structure at the corner of E North Street and SE First Street within two weeks. The original halls suffered catastrophic fire damage in July 2017. The new hall will be a steel building.

The construction deadline is a year, with fire trucks

back in city-owned bays by Jan. 15, 2019. The city is currently leasing space for fire equipment.

The new structure takes advantage of some extra square footage contained in a partial second story in the original buildings, adding it into the footprint of the new structure. As a result the new fire hall, which will measure 128x90-feet, will feature seven fire truck bays along East North Street.

The fire hall previously had two bays and a door entrance on the short end of the hall on SE First Street. Other improvements were also made to the kitchen, training room and other areas of the fire hall.

Visitors will enter the new 72x50-foot city hall from

East North Street via double doors opening into a foyer off which ADA restrooms will be available to visitors. Behind the front desk, city staff will have three private offices, a kitchen, mapping center and work center, public meeting room and storage area.

A slight bump in the road toward construction was discovered when a survey for the fire hall showed a measurement on the Northeast corner of the lot was off by three feet. This required the city approve a three-foot street vacation to square up the parcel and allow for proper setbacks on the fire hall.

The three-foot vacation will still allow a 12-foot sidewalk as required. Council

approved the vacation June 11.

The city awarded Enterprise Electric the \$145,438 contract to upgrade the lighting at the Enterprise Airport. An original bid had to be revised when the city discovered a \$7,000 electrical regulator, not originally included, was required for the project. The city has the funds for the project in the budget in the capital improvement fund for the airport.

Wallowa County Grain Growers won the bid to supply fuel to the city, with bid of \$3.02 per gallon for unleaded gas; \$2.83 per gallon for low-sulphur diesel; \$2.88 per gallon for dyed diesel for heating; and \$3.08 per gallon for dyed kerosene heating fuel.

## Young retires from Enterprise administrator spot

Enterprise City Administrator Michele Young has notified the city she will retire after 31 years of service. Her retirement will be effective July 1.

Young has shouldered responsibility for all the financial aspects of the city, land use, economic development, and grant projects — a job that became progressively more complicated. Over those years the city budget grew from less than a million dollars in 1987 to approximately \$7.5 million. Young kept up with those changes, welcoming any new training, officials said.

She worked for several years at Wallowa Memorial Hospital prior to coming to city hall.

The city is reassessing job



Young

duties that will be required for a new administrator. The increased responsibilities have meant redistribution of duties, and it was time for a review, said acting city administrator, recorder and budget finance officer Lacey McQuead.

## Libraries: What's Next?

Foundation plans public meeting tonight

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Members of the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation were disappointed when election results came in May 15.

The group had supported an idea to create a library district, but voters rejected it.

What comes next?

That discussion will be on the agenda when the foundation holds an open meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, at Enterprise Public Library.

"My intention is not to have

a debate, but consider what we have learned and where do we go from here," said Kirsten Rohla, chair of the foundation board.

Possible considerations include bringing the same plan that was defeated back to voters or a scaled-down version that would be less costly but provide less service.

Or something else.

One option for the foundation would be to serve as a conduit for the grant money that will be lost when the July 1 library closes officially July 1. More than a dozen programs ranging from literacy for preschoolers to home delivery of books for senior citizens are in the balance.

See NEXT?, Page A13

## Classic car coverup

Mike and Darlene Parker of Yakima, Wash., work to cover their 1928 Ford Model A Coupe just ahead of a major downpour during Saturdays Oregon Mountain Cruise 2018 in Joseph.

Around 200 vehicles were part of the annual show, which included participants from across the Northwest and as far away as California.

Paul Wahl/Chieftain



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5  
AND AT WALLOWA.COM



7 294671 50001 3