



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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## Push for state funding for clinic begins

Request will be heard in coming legislative session

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The request to obtain \$2.5 million from the Oregon Legislature to build an integrated health clinic in Enterprise began in earnest last week.

Winding Waters Clinic and Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, the primary push behind the project, held a Capital Request and Discovery Day Sept. 12.

Guests included Sen. Bill Hansell and Rep. Greg Barreto, as well as Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward.

The day began with a luncheon at Wallowa Lake Lodge, where a phalanx of community representatives each took a few minutes to express support for the clinic.

The 17,000 square-foot \$7 million facility to be built on 3.2 acres across from Wallowa Memorial Hospital would bring together medical, dental, childcare and mental health services under one roof and provide a “warm handoff” between the two.

“This is a dream that started a long time ago,” Chantay Jett, executive director of the Center for Wellness told the gathering of nearly 50 people.

Growth in scope of service is also

driving the push for a new facility. Nic Powers, CEO of Winding Waters, said the clinic has grown from 27 employees to 62 in recent years and is accommodating 28,000 patient visits annually. Center for Wellness has had similar growth.

Providing a multiple of services in one place is particularly important to the county’s veteran community, Wallowa County Veteran’s Service Officer Ted Thorne told the gathering.

“It’s difficult enough to get them

to admit they have a problem, but then to have to send them to several locations for treatment makes it even more difficult,” he said.

Law enforcement representatives, education leaders, and a number of individuals who had received help also spoke. Another emerging theme was the stigma attached to seeking treatment at the current Wellness Center.

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# INTO THE DRINK



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Enterprise Cross Country runner Devin Greer falls head-first into the fabled Catherine Creek during the 42nd Annual Catherine Creek Scamper Friday near Union. The varsity boys finished third in the event. More sports photos on pages 8, 9 and 16.

## Enterprise receives planning grant funds

County, city are looking forward to development cooperation ahead

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The economic growth planning goals of both the previous Enterprise City Administrator Michele Young and current administrator Lacey McQuead received a boost and a powerful partner.

Enterprise has received a grant that covers the cost of a consultant from Johnson Economics to help them bring comprehensive land use plans and public facility plans up to date. No specific amount for the grant has been shared.

Young had applied for the grant before she retired.

“It’s fully funded,” said McQuead. “I think this would be a really good thing right now.”

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## \$140,000 in: Industrial Park in Joseph inches closer to reality

Primary funding source was less than expected

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph has won \$140,000 from Regional Solutions to be used toward its \$650,000 project to bring city water and sewer to the Joseph Industrial Park.

It was a long and complicated process, Mayor Dennis Sands said, and it left him somewhat disillusioned. Nevertheless, the basic funding is enough, when added to other grants or funds, to begin phase one of the project.

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## Nez Perce are leaving a living legacy

In this series of articles, the Chieftain plans to examine the Nez Perce’s presence in the county: how it impacts the county and what it does to help preserve salmon and fish populations vital to the tribe and to a portion of the county’s tourist industry.

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Nez Perce Department of Fisheries building at 500 N. Main St. in Joseph is about as nondescript as you can find. It’s not particularly large, but impact of the work done there in Wallowa County and its fish population is immense.

The scores of local and tourist fishermen who line the banks of the county’s streams and rivers would likely not be there without the agency’s work.

When the Nez Perce left their Wallowa Valley homeland in 1877, they’d lost nearly everything — their homeland, much of their livestock and eventually, much of their freedom. However, under the 1855 and 1863 treaties that hastened the Tribe’s demise, they still retained hunting, fishing and grazing rights throughout much of their former lands.

The Tribe eventually established its Department of Fisheries Resource Management that helps ensure that the salmon, which were and are a staple of the Nez Perce diet as well as a tremendous part of the Tribe’s

culture and heritage, are protected into the future, as well as enhancing opportunities for sportsmen.

The agency’s administrative offices are in Lapwai, Idaho, and it maintains a number of field offices in addition to Joseph: Sweetwater, Orofino, Red River, Grangeville and McCall. Most of the work is done outside the boundaries of the 1863 treaty although the vast majority of work done at the Joseph station is completed within Wallowa County.

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