

SEWAGE

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Enterprise Public Works director Ronnie Neil said the school maintenance department called the city last week to check the main but no problem was found in the city pipes. Custodian Karen Finlayson called again on Wednesday and asked if the city could send a camera down the line, and Neil referred the school to a contractor who had a device equipped with a camera that could inspect the line from the school to the street.

Just after lunch on Thursday, the city was called again as sewage began flowing from the floor drains and toilets in the K-3 building.

This time blockage was found.

"We got a lot of grease and paper towels out of there and it did block the main," said Neil. "We just jetted the main to clear it."

The blockage is believed to have originated in the High School and Middle School, and sewage overflowed in the K-3 building because it is the lowest lying building in the complex.

Students impacted were held out on Monday as arrangements were made to



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

A worker from One Call Restoration hauls equipment into the K-3 Elementary building as cleanup is completed after a sewage overflow.

accommodate them in the Intermediate School building. All students were back in class by Tuesday, according to Pinkerton.

"Teachers will be greeted students out front as usual Tuesday morning," she said.

The K-3 students will be accommodated in four rooms

that were made available by consolidating art, science and counseling in one room and clearing another room that wasn't in use prior to the emergency.

The school's insurance company has been notified and will be working with the city.

The cleanup was handled One Call Restoration of La Grande. Troy Farwell of Farwell Construction of Enterprise is project manager for further work.

"Our primary objective is to get it clean and safe for other workers to come in," Tanner Krewson, water restoration technician, said.

One Call Restoration completed its portion of the work on Monday. Krewson expected plumbing and possible asbestos abatement work would be required.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), approximately 132,000 primary and secondary schools contain asbestos-containing materials. Older buildings can legally have asbestos in the construction provided it is not damaged, Krewson said.

The K-3 building has asbestos under the floor tiling. If the tiling has been damaged and tiles must be replaced, asbestos abatement could be required.

Humane Society haunting a hit

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County Humane Society produced shivers and screams at its first-ever haunted house offering, "The Dark Lord's Dementors" at 104 N. River St. in Enterprise.

The society modeled the event on Hogwarts, a school of witchcraft and wizardry from the ever-popular Harry Potter books and films. The event took place Oct. 27 and will be return on Halloween.

Society volunteer Jacqueline Valli conceived of and orchestrated the event, which led participants through a variety of haunted rooms, including a wizard school.

Graduates received a wand and their choice of a variety of Halloween goodies.

The event had a long line of prospective customers on Saturday evening as volunteer Robin Martin, dressed as a witch, took tickets and donations while telling for-

tunes with a color-changing crystal ball. Sisters Madison and Sammy Lee McCleary, six and three, respectively, graduated with honors from the school. Both said that they not only enjoyed the experience, they intend to return next year.

Humane society director Carol Vencill said the inaugural event was a huge success with 90 people attending. She gave credit for the success to Valli.

"She knows everything about Harry Potter, and she left no stone unturned from the wands to the food," Vencill said.

The society more than exceeded its expectations as it pre-sold all 40 of its reserved tickets as well as taking in a number of donations, which hadn't been tallied by press deadline. She added that feedback from attendees was good and that many intended to return for the final incarnation of the haunted house.

IN BRIEF

Identity theft is workshop topic

Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a seminar, "Six Signs It's A Scam — Identity Theft Protection," 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 in the Tomas Conference Room, 309 South River Road,

Enterprise. Kevin Jeffries, consumer liaison with the Department of Consumer and Business Services, will be the speaker. His topics will include how to spot a scam, how to keep your personal information safe and how to protect your customers from fraud.

The session is open to chamber members and non-members. Reservations are required as space is limited: 541-426-4622.

BALLOT

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Unaware why the error occurred, Lathrop originally thought BMS was the culprit and the company even initially accepted the blame, which Lathrop posted on the county website.

Lathrop spent a restless night until 2 a.m. the following morning when she sat up straight in bed and realized Ryder elections was the culprit. She went into her office, did some investigating and confirmed her suspicions.

She followed with a call to Ryder, who accepted responsibility after conducting its own

investigation. Lathrop found out that BMS also fielded phone calls from Wallowa County voters.

Lathrop said she wasn't sure what caused the uproar as all the city council candidates ran unopposed. One contest that denotes two candidates is actually uncontested as one candidate left the area after filing.

After admitting its error, Ryder reprinted the ballots, and BMS mailed them Oct. 23. Lathrop said that citizens who mailed in two ballots because of the error needn't worry about marring the election process because the system has built-in checks and balances to stop voters from being counted twice.

PLANNER

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But while he was in the courthouse investigating properties, he saw an advertisement on the board in the hall.

Everyone was pretty astonished with the turn of events after that.

"We were a bit surprised to

have someone with his background apply in Wallowa County," said Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts.

That background was one of a pretty high flier in the architectural world. Goebel had worked for 20 years designing ever-expanding projects for a tech firm that eventually had a huge development on the waterfront in Seattle.

He'd operated his own design and build business as a licensed contractor and combined his many talents to do everything from 3-D modeling for clients to lining up the blizzard of permits required in California to hiring the contractors to installing the custom cabinets he had built himself.

He'd worked for a "theming entertainment" company

as the project manager on casinos, theme parks and museums. He'd had a brief stint working for Universal Studios — a job he did not enjoy.

And finally, he'd designed children's museums — a job he did enjoy. His last project was the recently opened Idaho History Museum in Boise.

But planning director for a rural county in Oregon now seems like the perfect career move to Goebel.

"It's a huge shift from what I'd been doing, which was very urban related, so it's fun to see all these other (cultural) pressures," he said. "I think it's quite exciting. I think the issues here are very interesting; the nuances of the code when someone wants to do something and having to ferret out how that happens is pretty fascinating, I think."

That enthusiasm has not gone unnoticed.

"He's been very diligent about learning the things he needs to know," said Roberts.

He's getting help fine-tuning his Wallowa-savvy skills because senior planner Harold Black is still working part-time and can give him the back story.

"It's fun," said Goebel. "Harold can give me a long history of 'how this came about.' I'm getting a crash course on all the requirements — and the process and procedures make sense, it's just the details that are unique."

Living in Wallowa County is also as good as he'd hoped.

"It's incredible," he said.

He's an avid gardener and looking forward to doing something on those seven acres he bought, he enjoys



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain
Jack Goebel has been named planning director for Wallowa County.

woodworking and can't wait to get his cabinet shop out of Hillock's storage.

"The commute is quite different; two lanes instead of seven," he said.

Working for US.

Greg Walden
GREGWALDEN.COM

Martha
who sought assistance with her husband's VA benefits.

"I don't think the benefits would have been paid if Greg Walden hadn't gotten involved.

I'm sure of it.

What he did for me is something that can never be replaced.

Greg Walden is one of the good ones."

The Bulletin

"Walden's record on constituent services is a good one, helping residents of the 2nd District navigate bureaucracies ranging from the Social Security Administration to the Bureau of Land Management."

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