

Hospital: Wallowa Memorial Hospital wins 2018 Women's Choice award

Continued from Page A1



Other awards came the hospital's way, including the 2018 Excellence in Patient Satisfaction, which is based on patient survey after-care. The hospital also won the 2018 Women's Choice award as well. That award is also based on patient surveys.

"I'm not sure where the men are at, but we'll keep working on them," Davy said with a laugh.

The CEO noted that rural American hospitals face increasing economic challenges and many have closed over the last decade. National groups that assess financial strength of rural

hospitals noted that about 600 of the remaining 1,300 or so hospitals are in tight financial situations. Davy is aware that Wallowa Memorial Hospital has to remain financially strong to keep offering excellent service.

To that end, he was pleased to see the hospital operate at a profit in 2018.

"It seemed impossible, but we pulled it off," Davy said.

In 2014, the hospital was in \$19 million of debt due to

the construction of the hospital and clinic. The debt is already paid down to \$11 million and is expected to be half that by 2022.

"The best thing we can do for the next generation is to hand them quality infrastructure and services without a debt load," he said.

The hospital also strengthened services by offering access to an orthopedic surgeon, a podiatrist and an eye surgeon. Although the physicians are employed elsewhere as well, it offers local residents the chance for treatment without driving long distances.

Also a big winner for the hospital: Changing management of Wallowa Valley

Senior Living, the hospital's assisted living facility.

Vitalita took over management July 1 and made immediate improvements, particularly in operation costs, said Davy.

"Vitalita and Lisa Hilty (the company's owner and president) has done an amazing job with that," Davy said. "She has cut the losses significantly."

In the six months since Vitalita entered the picture, the hospital has paid about \$50,000, compared to the usual \$200,000-\$250,000 per year the hospital used to shell out for the facility.

"That's a big positive for us," Davy said.

The hospital is on track

to essentially give away \$1 million in health care to those without insurance or other means to pay.

"Our goal is to make sure no one is turned away," Davy said. "A million dollars is a lot of money to a small hospital."

He also lauded the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo for donating each year to ensure that every woman in Wallowa County can obtain a mammogram, regardless of ability to pay.

Donations via the Healthy Futures Dinner Auction helped the hospital to purchase a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine as well.

"We had a lot going on in 2018," Davy said.

Wolf plan: Ranchers, environmental groups still at odds over wolf management

Continued from Page A1

advocates formed by Gov. Kate Brown to update the state's management plan after an initial draft plan was rejected in 2017. The state is supposed to update its plan every five years to account for changing wolf population numbers but is four years overdue with a revision.

The environmental groups Oregon Wild, Defenders of Wildlife, Cascadia Wildlands and the Center for Biological Diversity said in a Jan. 4 letter to Brown that the fish and wildlife agency has rejected their suggestions for managing wolf-livestock conflict as too expensive or too difficult.

A key sticking point for the conservation groups is

a plan provision that would allow the state or deputized private citizens — likely ranchers affected by livestock attacks — to kill culprit wolves after two documented attacks on livestock herds by the same wolf pack, said Nick Cady, legal director for Cascadia Wildlands.

The groups are particularly unnerved by a provision that would allow the deputized citizens to keep wolf pelts, said Cady, who called the idea a "trophy hunt."

"With a population of wolves that's 120 animals statewide, that's a ridiculous, ridiculous proposal," he said in an interview.

The groups also feel the state agency's plan favors hunters, who contend more wolves mean fewer deer for them to hunt.

'I DON'T THINK ANYBODY CAN EXPECT TO GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT, AND SO TO PICK UP YOUR MARBLES AND SAY, 'I'M GOING HOME BECAUSE I'M NOT GETTING MY WAY' IS A LITTLE BIT UNPROFESSIONAL.'

Rodger Huffman, a small-scale rancher in Union County

Ranchers reacted to the news with surprise and disappointment.

Rodger Huffman, a small-scale rancher in Union County, said wolf numbers have risen so dramatically in recent years that it's no longer useful to focus on conservation. The population now needs to be managed to minimize damage to livestock, he said.

back after being wiped out by a bounty-hunting program more than 70 years ago.

Wolves were reintroduced to central Idaho in the mid-1990s and in 1999, a lone wolf wandered into northeastern Oregon. It was trapped and returned to Idaho.

Two more were found dead in Oregon in 2000. But the first definitive proof wolves had returned to the Oregon came in 2007, when a wolf was found shot to death. The following year, a wolf nicknamed Sophie by conservationists gave birth to the first litter of pups born in Oregon in decades.

Most Oregon wolves live in remote northeastern areas where cattle, llamas, sheep and goats graze on private land and in federally managed forests and grassland. Ranchers often use range riders, flashing lights, remote cameras and

fluttering devices on miles of fence line to keep wolves at bay — sometimes with little success.

Several packs have also established themselves in the forests of rural southwestern Oregon, near the California border, where they have attacked livestock.

The species lost its endangered status under Oregon law in 2015 — when the state's population hit 81 wolves — and is no longer federally protected in the eastern third of the state.

As of April 2018, there were at least 124 wolves in Oregon. There were 12 known wolf packs and nine more groups of two or three wolves that are not considered packs were noted.

In 2017, two wolves were captured by remote camera in Mt. Hood National Forest, a popular recreational destination for hiking and skiing about an hour east of Portland.

It was the first time multiple wolves were documented in Oregon's northern Cascade Mountain range since they returned to the state.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Icy rain
 6. Gas guzzler
 9. Choose
 12. Fast dance
 13. Summer drink
 14. Muck
 15. More qualified
 16. Spoil
 17. Liquor from molasses
 18. Lyric poem
 20. Bakery workers
 22. Reduce in rank
 26. Baltic or Bering
 27. Hymn finisher
 28. Large snake
 30. Soft lump
 34. Small coin
 35. Leather punch
 36. Volcano flow
 37. Put on cargo
 38. All the _____ in China
 39. Historic ages
 40. Gibbon or gorilla
 42. Confuse
 44. Plastic material
 47. Bro or sis
 48. Lennon's mate
 49. To the back, matey
 51. Aquatic animal
 56. No _____, ands, or butts
 57. Ill-humor
 58. Mindful
 59. Bambi's mom
 60. Here and _____
 61. _____ down (softened)

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Resort, of a sort
 2. High tennis shot
 3. Wing of a building
 4. _____ out (barely make)
 5. Fortuneteller's card
 6. Protection
 7. Hubbub
 8. Fasten again
 9. Grimm monster
 10. Rain hard
 11. Male turkeys
 19. Speakers' contest
 21. Sent a telegram
 22. Papas
 23. Give forth
 24. Note
 25. Type of street
 26. Delicatessen item
 29. Be in debt
 31. Hog fat
 32. Track shape
 33. Low
 41. Simple
 43. WWII craft
 44. Bare
 45. Data
 46. Schnoz
 47. Hearty soup
 50. To and _____
 52. 1 + 1
 53. Sun-bronzed
 54. Browning's before
 55. Primary color

Church Directory

Church of Christ
502 W. 2nd Street • Wallowa
541-398-2509

Worship at 11 a.m.
Mid-week
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
409 West Main -Enterprise

SUNDAY WORSHIP at 9 AM
12:30 Guest Pastor
Colin Brown

phone (message): 541-426-4633
web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

St. Katherine's Catholic Church
Fr. Thomas Puduppulliparamban
301 E. Garfield Enterprise

Mass Schedule
Sundays:
St. Pius X, Wallowa - 8:00 am
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 10:30am
Saturdays:
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 5:30am
Weekday:
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 8:00am
(Monday - Thursday and First Friday)

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100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
NE 3rd & Main St

541-426-3439
Worship Service
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Joseph United Methodist Church
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Pastor Cherie Dearth
Phone: 541-432-3102

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

JosephUMC.org

Summit Church
Gospel Centered Community
Service time: 10:30 am
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541-426-2150

Interim Pastor: Rich Hagenbaugh

www.summitchurchoregon.org

Enterprise Christian Church
85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449

Worship at 9 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship at 6 p.m.
(nursery at A.M. services)

"Loving God & One Another"
David Bruce, Sr. - Minister

Christ Covenant Church
Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-263-0505

Family Prayer: 9:30 AM
Sunday School: 10 AM
Worship Service: 11 AM

723 College Street
Lostine

Lostine Presbyterian Church
Discussion Group 9:30 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM

Childrens program during service
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com
541.398.0597

Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliever, Minister

Enterprise Community Congregational Church
The Big Brown Church with an open door
Pastor Archie Hook
Sunday Worship 11am
Bible Study 9:30am

Ark Angels Children's Program
Ages 4-6th grade, 11am
Nursery for children 3 & under
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR
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Wallowa Assembly of God
606 West Hwy 82
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445

Sunday School • 9:30
Worship Service • 10:45
Pastor Tim Barton
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School
305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3751 Church
541-426-8339 School

Worship Services
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber

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