

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

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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 Hiltz (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

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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 two 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.

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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.

"There's a huge cost, there's a toll there," said Huffman, who's negotiating for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

"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," he said.

Conflict between ranchers and wolves has grown sharply in recent years as the species makes a come-

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 buts
- 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 Puduppilliparamban

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)

All are welcome

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise

NE 3rd & Main St

541-426-3439

Worship Service

Sunday 9:30am

Weekday:

10:00 am

12:00 pm

Evening Service

7:00 pm

Altar Society

1:00 pm

Choir Practice

7:30 pm

Parishioners

10:00 pm

Parishioners

11:00 pm

Parishioners

12:00 am

Parishioners

1:00 am

Parishioners

2:00 am

Parishioners

3:00 am

Parishioners

4:00 am

Parishioners

5:00 am