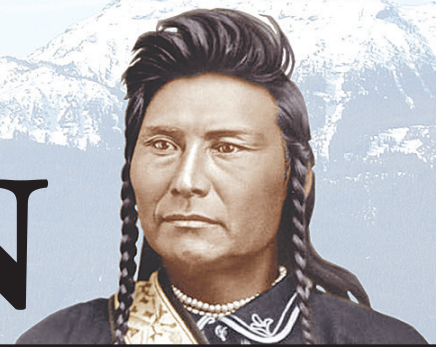


WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon 135th Year, No. 18

Wallowa.com

Wednesday, August 14, 2019 \$1.50



Ellen Morris Bishop

Hope Mansfield, 3, takes firm control of her sheep in the PeeWee Showmanship event, while Maddy McDowell (right) makes sure things go smoothly.

THE WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR



Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT Wilbert, a Duroc-cross pig owned by Evan Torres, takes it easy before the Saturday night auction. Wilbert weighed in at 297 pounds, and took a reserve champion ribbon. ★ Celeste Bauck was recognized as Homemaker of the Year, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, Ida Hillock, who won the first such award ever given in 1979. ★ Sophie Moeller walks her 1500-pound Grand Champion FFA Angus steer around the auction arena floor Saturday night.

Another successful year

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa County Fair is a celebration of summer, children, hard work, and families. This year saw an extraordinary exhibit of quilts, a new roping contest for youngsters, and the continuation of many long and revered traditions, from the 4-H dog show and 4-H horse show, through Saturday's peewee showmanship, culminating in the livestock auction's bitter-sweet ending. Not even the thunderstorms that rolled through the fairgrounds could dampen spirits. One of them would have wiped out the newly-planned talent show late Friday afternoon, but no one actually entered, suggesting that either fair participants were already booked solid, or perhaps they were better long-term weather forecasters than the adults.

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Legislature provides a \$2.5M boost for integrated health care

New Wallowa County facility wins critical funding from HB 5030

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The new integrated health care facility planned jointly by Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Winding Waters Clinic, a non-profit Community Health Center, is \$2.5 million dollars closer to reality. Just before their adjournment, the Oregon legislature passed HB 5030, which contained the \$2.5 million dollar appropriation dedicated to the new facility. The bill was sponsored by Senator Bill Hansell and Representative Greg Barreto, and signed by Governor Kate Brown on Friday. No date for construction has been set, but the \$2.5 million appropriation brings the project within striking distance of its \$7.1 million dollar goal.

"None of this would be possible without the community," said Winding Waters Community Health Center board president Russell Peterson. "When the need arises, the community stands up. We are all together. We are all part of this." Fundraising in Wallowa County has contributed more than \$584,000 from two Hearts for Health events and other sources, which helped inspire the legislation.

In the new center, all services will be fully integrated under the same roof, so that people with a dental appointment would be using the same waiting area and same hallways as those seeing a medical doctor, a counselor, or other health professional.

The new center is designed to expand, not replace, existing primary medical care in Wallowa County. It will add five additional medical exam rooms, four additional dental operatories, 22 additional counseling rooms, and include space for educational activities and events.

"With veterans comprising more than 15% of Wallowa County's population, the center is also looking to expand care specifically for veterans," Winding Waters CEO Nic Powers said.

Importantly, the new center will include facilities for health education, including space for group visits and a teaching kitchen where community groups can host nutritional classes for the full span of ages and skill levels. In addition, a separate meeting/classroom area will accommodate exercise classes, first aid training, meetings, and more.

The new facility will also allow expansion of partnerships with west-side primary care programs. Presently, Winding Waters works with the OHSU Family Medicine Residency Program and schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry, and the OSU School of Pharmacy, to bring future practitioners to Wallowa County. The Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness has entered into an agreement to be an internship site for George Fox

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Highway crews cut Minam curve down to size



Ellen Morris Bishop

Assistant project manager Josh McCullough takes a look at the plans for the new roadway.

Project slated for late October completion

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

In the August sun, the 10 minute wait for traffic, going and coming on the Minam grade can seem interminable. But rest assured that construction crews are working double shifts to completely meet the late October deadline on a new road cut with a kinder, gentler curve.

The \$6.3 million project, (4.3 million for construction and the remainder for per-

mits, inspection, administration, and other expenses) began in August 2018, and was put on hold through the winter. Construction crews are now carving a new, 1500-foot-long roadway through solid-and not-so-solid rock, eliminating the sharp hairpin turn at milepost 30.84, midway up the grade from the Minam River to Cricket Flat. The new curve will post a 40 mph speed limit rather than the 25 mph speed of the present alignment.

Jess Fitzhugh, owner of John Day-based Tidewater Construction said that his 22-person crews were working double shifts to ensure

project completion on time. Fitzhugh, who lives in Lostine, has hired some of his crew for this project locally.

The new roadway will sport a 160-foot high roadcut on the west side, and a 15-foot high berm on the east side which will protect traffic from the abrupt 500-foot plunge toward the Minam River below. A sturdy steel mesh barrier will extend down the entire 160-foot west-side road cut, protecting vehicles from any rocks that fall from near-vertical embankment. The paved highway will be standard width, with wider shoulders.

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