

IT'S FOOTBALL TIME!

Football practice starts and Wallowa County teams look toward the upcoming season | A9

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Fiber optic internet comes to Enterprise

Service to 20 downtown blocks slated for spring 2020

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

One of the technological speed bumps that rural communities nationwide face is getting faster, usually fiber-optic, Internet service. But for Enterprise, the onramp to the Internet superhighway is only about 6 months away. EONI (Eastern Oregon Net Incorporated) will be offering fiber optic service to a growing number of its customers beginning in the spring, 2020. Service is planned initially for only about 20 blocks of downtown Enterprise, but will be expanded over time to include as

much of the community as possible.

"We are just mapping out the areas and technical details right now," said EONI spokesman Jeff Crews.

Enterprise librarian Denine Rautenstrauch discovered the arrival of fiber optic Internet by serendipity. She faced a dilemma. As part of the Sage library system—a group of 75 public and college libraries in eastern Oregon, the Enterprise Public Library had to upgrade to a new online system that would coordinate her circulation, interlibrary loans, and connections with other libraries in the system. But her Internet service seemed to be too slow to handle the new tasks. "It just couldn't provide the speed—the amount of data—that I needed to operate efficiently," she said. "And I thought we had maxed out the capacity, so that was that."

Not one to give up hope, Rautenstrauch contacted EONI, which the library had used for almost 20 years. Was there any way at all to get faster service?

There was: a fiber optic cable that runs right in front of the century-old Carnegie-built Enterprise Public Library.

EONI laid that particular fiber optics cable about five years ago as part of providing a fast connection between the Enterprise schools and the Wallowa County Education Service District in downtown Enterprise.

"When we did that project, we ran fiber optic line through downtown, Crews said. "At the time that was all we did with it."

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Ellen Morris Bishop

Enterprise librarian Denine Rautenstrauch (left) learns the intricacies of the new Sage library software from Sage library systems manager. The new system requires a fast Internet connection, which will be provided by the library's new fiber optic cable connection.



Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop

Dragons in the Wallows 20 member women's team paddles in Saturday heats.

Annual dragon boat races attract teams from across Oregon

By Steve Tool and Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

Dragons dominated Wallowa Lake over the weekend of Aug. 24-25. Not mythical creatures, but dragon boats, human powered watercraft participating in a sport that originated in China more than 2500 years ago.

The use of dragon boats for racing probably originated in southern central China along the banks of the Yangtze River. Dragon boat racing was an important part of the ancient Chinese agricultural society, celebrating the summer rice planting. Today, the International Dragon Boat Federation formulates rules and manages the annual international championship competition.

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LEFT Dragons in the Wallows team captain Kelly Jenson shows off the seven medals that she and her team won.

ABOVE Dragons in the Wallows team members celebrate another successful 7 Wonders Cup with a joyous dance at the award ceremony.

Microhydro plant provides power for Wallowa Lake community



Steve Tool

Joseph City Administrator Larry Braden and Levi Tickner check out the plumbing and pump facilities in the new microhydro power plant at Wallowa Lake State Park through the observers "interpretive window."

Provides electricity to offset costs of pumping water and sewage

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

On Friday, August 23, Wallowa County, Pacific Power, Wallowa Resources, and the Energy Trust of Oregon held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the region's newest hydroelectric project: a 22 kilowatt micro hydro facility located within Wallowa Lake State Park.

The water source for both Wallowa Lake State Park and the Wallowa Lake community is a spring located about 650 feet above the lake on the south flank of Chief Joseph Mountain. It provides about 0.5 cfs of water to the community year-around, and is cared for and distributed by the Wallowa Lake County Service District.

While much of the water system is gravity fed, the district also operates a water pump station and is responsible for sewage, including the sewer lift station and

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