

# Humane Society opens with fanfare (and cats)



By Bill Bradshaw & Ellen Morris Bishop

The Wallowa County Humane Society will hold the grand opening of its new Re-Tail Boutique thrift store and WCHS headquarters from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 at its new location in the historic E.M. & M. Building, 19 E. Main St. in Enterprise. In addition to the Re-Tail Boutique, the new facility will include office space, a “Catio” that will house adoptable cats, and a future do-it-yourself dog wash.

The grand opening includes hors d’oeuvres, beverages, and a silent auction to benefit WCHS work. The auction begins at noon Thursday and continues until closing (6 p.m.) Saturday. There’s an opportunity to meet and greet (and adopt!) kittens and cats. You can also learn about the many opportunities for volunteer work with animals, in education, in the store, and elsewhere.

And if you want to celebrate Halloween at the same time, you can also try your luck in the WCHS Halloween “Escape Room.” (Reservation required. See accompanying article!)

“It’s going to be the first time the public gets to come and see what we’re all about in our new location,” said Carol Vencill, Wallowa County Humane Society president. The WCHS moved out of their previous location on River Street about a month ago.

“We may not have everything completely finished ... but we should have everything put in place so that we can be open for business,” Vencill said

The Re-Tail Boutique carries high-end used clothing and a variety of other items, including furniture, pet supplies, some pet foods, and WCHS regalia. The store’s moniker “Re-Tail Boutique” was chosen by a vote of WCHS volunteers from a list of many suggested names.

Having the boutique/thrift store is a way for the Humane Society to help fund the needs of the animals, including medical expenses, and help pay for the higher rent for their new, larger space, Vencill noted.

One promised, highly anticipated feature of the new Re-Tail boutique is a do-it-yourself dog wash.

“It’s just a way for people who would like to get their dogs bathed, mostly,” Vencill said. “It’s not like going to a groomer where you get the full package – bath, toenails – the whole 9 yards. This is where you can bring your own dog and we will provide the facilities – tub, towels, shampoo – whatever’s needed.”

But that will come later – maybe within a couple years, she said.

For now, the focus remains on adopting out homeless animals, as well as earning funds. Vencill is having volunteers build a “Catio” – an indoor cat patio – where cats can relax and also meet and greet those who may adopt them.

At first, the society will be open from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

“We’d like to add on more days,” she said, “but we just have to take baby steps.”

Donations of goods for the Re-Tail Boutique are accepted from noon to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. They do not accept consignments or large appliances.

The WCHS phone number is 541-263-0336. The Re-Tail Boutique store phone is 541-203-2889.



Bill Bradshaw

Carol Vencill, left, president of the Wallowa County Humane Society, goes over some paperwork with new volunteer Julia Petersen while standing amid part of the thrift store merchandise at the society’s new quarters at 119 E. Main St. in Enterprise. The society will hold a grand opening Thursday, Oct. 31.

## Humane Society offers Halloween fun at Wizardry Escape Room



Ellen Morris Bishop

The Wizardry Escape room requires teamwork and ingenuity to solve puzzles and exit.

Wizardry Escape Room offers a chance to solve puzzles and also win a \$50 prize

By Ellen Morris Bishop  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Are haunted houses, plastic skeletons, and scary spiderwebs getting old as Halloween thrills? Do you want to try a Halloween adventure that’s challenging, fun, and requires teamwork?

The Wallowa County Humane Society has just the ticket: the Wizardry School

Escape Room. It’s upstairs in their new digs, and open for your fun and enjoyment Thursday through Saturday.

An Escape Room is a relatively new Halloween activity that engages you in solving a mystery and thus escaping from a room (sometimes haunted) before some misfortune befalls you. The idea is that you have to find your way out of the room or in this case, find the key to unlock the door, by solving riddles, completing puzzles, and discovering clues. Usually there’s more than one person involved, so it’s a great activity for a family, a group of kids, or even a group of adults.

It takes about an hour for most people to solve the riddles and figure out how to escape. WCHS will award a \$50 Re-Tail Boutique gift certificate to the person or team with the fastest time for solving the mystery and exiting the room.

The WCHS Escape Room is located on the second floor of its new headquarters at 119 E. Main Street in Enterprise (in the EM&M building.) You’ll need to make a reservation to try it out, and the Humane Society also asks that you support them with a small donation. You can book a reservation online at [bookeo.com/wchsescaperoom](http://bookeo.com/wchsescaperoom) or call WCHS volunteer coordinator Jacqueline Valli at 971-258-4458.



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