

Auction: Raises record funds toward new ambulance

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donor who pledged to double the amount raised by the auction up to \$25,000 and another anonymous donor who chipped in \$14,000.

The new ambulance, which will cost about \$400,000, will increase the hospital’s fleet of ambulances to a total of four, one of which is stationed in Wallowa. “In the past 10 years, the ambulance call volume has gone up by 25%, from 500 per year to about 750 now,” said EMS director Tim Peck. “The new 4x4 ambulance will reduce the risk to patients we are transporting, especially in winter weather.” Peck noted that the new ambulance will also help keep Wallowa County’s emergency funds here, rather than requiring costly Life Flight transportation when the weather is too poor for aircraft to land here, and/or patients do not require Life Flight transport to distant medical centers.

Hospital CEO Larry Davy provided an overview of Wallowa Memorial Hospital’s many accolades this past year. They include ranking in the top 100 of U.S. hospitals, and one of only two in Oregon honored for care quality by the U.S. Department of Health, being one of only four hospitals in Oregon achieving a five star rating from Medicaid/Medicare. Mountain View clinic also received a rare 50 out of 50 points rating from Medicare. Davy anticipates that the new medical spaces in the Mountain View/Winding Waters building will be ready for use in the first week of December. He also noted that the hospital anticipates completing



Auctioneer Jake Musser takes one bid on the Walla Walla Wine Opulence package while emcee Randy Morgan points out another bidder. The package, which included two nights in a vacation home, tours and tastings at multiple Walla Walla wineries, and a case of Waterbrook Cabernet, went for \$1650.

its new medical offices in Joseph in 2021 and is looking for a clinic site in Wallowa. “Every week, about 80 people drive from Wallowa to Enterprise for medical care,” Davy said. “We need to serve them closer to home.”

The Healthy Futures dinner auction included numerous silent auction items, from a pair of Olaf ceramic cups to a Vault Gym membership, to a Wild West Pendleton package that included tickets to the Pendleton Roundup,



Nic Powers and Gay Beneke finalize their bids on silent auction items at the 24th annual Healthy Futures Dinner Auction Saturday evening. Funds raised will support the purchase of a fourth ambulance.

and dinner at Hamleys. The live auction included a Stihl chainsaw, donated by Wallowa County Grain Growers, accompanied by a \$250 gift certificate to Joseph Hardware that went for \$900, a cedar-lined chest handmade by Dr. Boyd

that garnered \$2,400, and a Minam Lodge vacation that brought \$2,000. Bidders were mindful that their funds were going to a worthy cause. Asked why she invested \$1,100 to learn the art of beer brewing from Nick Lunde, Gail Hill-

ock said it was going to be a gift for her sons, both of whom wanted to learn how to brew good beer, but also noted “The main reason is a donation to the hospital, which is doing really well and is something that we all need.”

ATV: No decision likely until 2020

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“So, it’s no different than somebody riding their lawnmower down the street to go from one yard to the next,” Burt said, or a farmer driving his tractor in town.

The second, brief letter from “RL, Enterprise” said that kids younger than 16 — the legal driving age in Oregon — are “not responsible enough to drive” an ATV and create too much noise when doing so.

“Let them go ride in the woods,” the letter concluded.

One woman, Cathy Sterbentz, came out strongly against any relaxation of rules regulating ATV use in town. Much of her dissent focused on whether such ATV use was “necessary” or would violate existing noise ordinances.

“Whose bright idea was it to make Enterprise an open ATV zone?” Sterbentz asked.

McQuead told her there is a current ATV ordinance that the council is considering amending or changing, but the council wanted to get public input first.

The proposed ordinance was put together by City Attorney Wyatt Baum when he became aware the council wanted to change the current one.

Sterbentz also said the new ordinance should “make it real clear that the only time you can use them is for performing a

necessary task versus recreation. There’s nothing in it, as far as I can see, that prohibits recreational use of the ATVs, as far as I can see.”

She said after the meeting that she has neighbors whose children ride around in their yard and create noise she deems a nuisance. She asked if that violates the city’s noise ordinance.

“It’s no different than if I hop on my motorcycle to go from here to the grocery store and it’s above 100 decibels, then I’m not in compliance and I could receive a ticket for it,” Councilman Micah Agnew said.

Sterbentz asked about riding solely on one’s own property.

Enterprise Police Officer George Kohlhepp told her that the law allows a person to do what they want on their own property as long as they stay on their property.

McQuead added that such activity must be in compliance with other ordinances, such as the noise ordinance, which Sterbentz said should be addressed in the new ATV ordinance.

Burt called a perceived noise problem “a red herring” and said “It’s not an overwhelming problem” that the police can’t handle.

But Sterbentz said after the meeting the city police seem unwilling to enforce the noise ordinance, although state troopers are willing.

Food Bank: FFA, Les Schwab join to aid Food Bank

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The two groups start with a large container placed in Les Schwab, located at 802 NW 1st St. in Enterprise.

With that accomplished, Schaafsma and Stonebrink got busy in the school system. On Oct. 1, FFA officers visited classrooms to explain the drive to students and teachers and pass out flyers to reach as many people as possible.

“Sam and I went and collected from all the boxes we had at the elementary and junior high classes,” Stonebrink said. “Every day for the whole month of October we went down and collected from those.”

Darrell Holcomb of Les Schwab said the company was glad to help.

“It’s all about giving back to the community; that’s what supports our business,” he said. “We try to support our local people and any time we can lend a help hand, well, that’s what we’re here for. It’s really

‘TYPICALLY, PEOPLE WHO ACCESS THE FOOD BANK DON’T ACCESS IT IN SUMMER BECAUSE OF SUMMERTIME EMPLOYMENT. WE’VE NOT ENCOUNTERED THAT THIS YEAR. IT DID NOT SLOW DOWN MUCH.’

Community Connection director Connie Guentert

great to be a part of anything involved with our youth.”

Community Connection joyfully received the donation for its food bank, and CC director Connie Guentert said it came at a great time.

“Typically, people who access the food bank don’t access it in summer because of summertime employment,” she said. “We’ve not encountered that this year. It did not slow down much.”

Consequently, the organization has been unable to build up food bank stores as in the past. She said that what the FFA and Les Schwab did with their donation was a tremendous boost for the

holiday season. She noted that November, December and January are the months in which many of the county’s families struggle hardest to put food on the table.

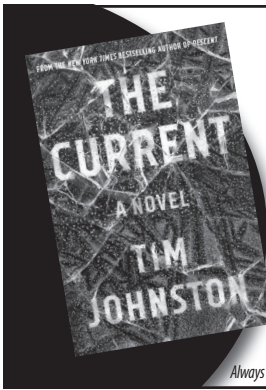
“Having another ton-and-a-half of food to assist people is really, really important,”

Guentert said. She added that food bank reserves will not last for long.

“Between this and the Thanksgiving boxes we work with Safeway and the Oregon Food Bank on, it will probably all be gone in the next month.” She again lauded the efforts of the FFA, Les Schwab and the community in the effort to combat community food shortages.

Both Stonebrink and Schaafsma lauded the community effort as well.

“I would say a large majority of the community helped with this,” Schaafsma said.



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