

500 WINS

ENTERPRISE COACH MIKE CRAWFORD POSTS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN A LONG, DEDICATED HIGH SCHOOL CAREER | A10



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

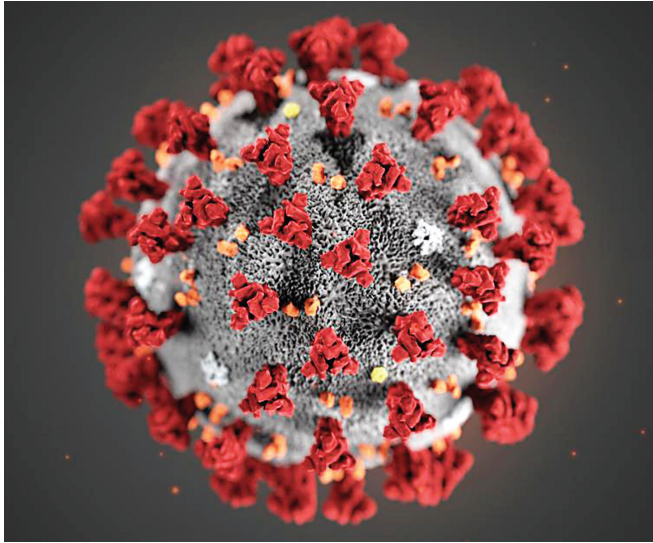


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Wednesday, March 4, 2020

County prepares for coronavirus



Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Computer-generated model of the COVID-19 coronavirus

Health District holds town hall meeting Wednesday 6-7 p.m. at Cloverleaf Hall

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

What happens in China doesn't stay in China. What started as a small blip in the world news cycle, coronavirus, or Covid-19, an infectious flu-like illness, now dominates the news cycle and has spread to the U.S.

On Wednesday, March 4 the Wallowa County Health District is hosting an informative community town hall, aptly titled "Prepare, Don't Panic". The event will be at Cloverleaf Hall,

6-7 p.m. and features Dr. Elizabeth Powers and other providers who can answer questions and provide updates on preparations.

Wallowa County is far removed from mainland China, but those who thought its relative isolation might offer some protection should think again. Oregon recently picked up its first cases, which now total three. On Monday the Wildhorse Casino just east of Pendleton shuttered its doors temporarily because an employee reportedly was diagnosed with the disease. On March 2, Oregon's state health officer announced it's possible that 300-500 Oregon residents are unknowingly carrying the virus.

At this time there are no known or suspected cases in Wallowa County, said Emergency Services Director Paul

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE ALL ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS ON PAGE 16

Karvoski. But even though Wallowa County is isolated and has no hint of Covid-19 doesn't mean that local health care professionals as well as schools and care facilities aren't already making preparations in the event of a local outbreak of the virus.

Dr. Elizabeth Powers, co-founder of Winding Waters, a local non-profit community health center based in Enterprise, said that local health officials are already planning a response. To that end, she has already prepared and sent

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Bill Bradshaw

Enterprise School librarian Molly Goodrich and several elementary school students show off their hats worn on crazy hat, hair or tie day Wednesday, Feb. 26, as the school celebrates Dr. Seuss Week. Monday, March 2, would have been the 116th birthday of children's author Theodor Seuss "Ted" Geisel.

'Seuss crazy' pervades Enterprise School

Kids' author's books used to promote reading

By Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

A cat in a funny hat, a Lorax, Sam I am, a grinch and more odd characters were swarming all over Enterprise Elementary School last week for Dr. Seuss Week in an effort to spur reading among the students.

Organized by school librarian Molly Goodrich, the week was held to celebrate the 116th anniversary of the birth of Theodor Seuss Geisel, the well-known writer of children's books such as "The Cat in the Hat," "The Lorax," "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Grinch" and many more. Geisel died in 1991, but his legacy lives on - particularly in the amusing, creative and easy-to-read books he left for children.

To celebrate Dr. Seuss Week, the school had dress-up days. Each day last week had a theme: Mon-

See Seuss, Page A7



Bill Bradshaw

Enterprise EMT Donald Taggart leads Mrs. Yanke's first-graders in acting out one of Dr. Seuss' books Thursday, Feb. 27, during Enterprise School's celebration of Dr. Seuss Week. He was one of the guest readers at the school.

Feds balk at breaching four dams

Draft EIS offers six alternatives for Lower Snake River; Comments due April 13

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Columbia River System Operations released on Feb. 28 rejects breaching four Lower Snake River dams in southeast Washington, finding it would raise transportation and production costs for farmers, while also increasing greenhouse gases, raising electric rates and making the Northwest more vulnerable to power blackouts.

This "preferred alternative" is one of six alternatives provided in the DEIS.

Public comment on the DEIS is open until April 13.

The draft environmental impact statement, produced jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Reclamation, drew immediate criticism from environmental groups that advocate breaching the dams to increase fish runs.

The DEIS considered removing earth on the sides of Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams. It concluded that breaching the dams would have the most benefits for endangered salmon. Several Indian tribes said it was the best option for offsetting the river system's harm to treaty rights.

But breaching would not allow federal operators to meet the congressional mandate to maintain the dams for navigation, hydropower and irrigation, according to the report. "It also has the highest adverse impacts to other resources, especially social and economic effects," the report states.

New congressional authority and funding would be needed to breach the dams, according to the DEIS.

The study looked at the entire Columbia River hydropower system, made up of

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Joseph gym won't have to be torn down, report says

Charred building still sound, needs restoration

By Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph Charter School's gymnasium will not have to be demolished to be restored in the wake of a Jan. 18 fire.

Superintendent Lance Homan said Tuesday, March 3 that the district has received an engineer's report assessing the damage.

"It looks like the beams were not compromised," he said.

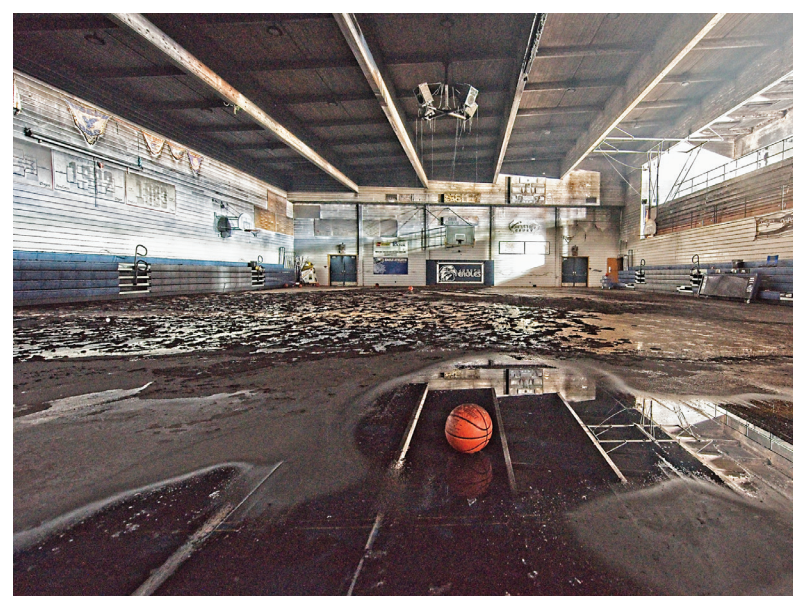
The gym will have to be gutted and rebuilt on the inside. That includes the

basketball court and bleachers on the ground floor and the weight room and wrestling facilities on the upper floor. But the building's structural integrity is sound.

At present, the school's cafeteria is still being cleaned, as are some classrooms. Then work will begin removing the charred portions of the gym and cleaning it before construction can begin.

Homan said he does not have a timeline for when the work will be completed, or even if it will be done by the time school starts in the fall.

"That would be ideal, but we really don't know at this point," he said. "Maybe as we get closer to summer, we'll have a better idea."



Ellen Morris Bishop

A basketball remains on the floor of the gym, along with water and debris from the ceiling two days after a fire damaged the building. This image is a 65-second exposure in a mostly dark and unlit place. The engineers report found that the beams in the gym remain structurally sound.



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