



THE WEEK IN PHOTOS  
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# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



136th Year, No. 29

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

## Wallowa County Voices



**Tammy Jones**  
Wallowa

### Jones' role still allows interaction with kids

WALLOWA — Wallowa Superintendent Tammy Jones is in her 36th year as an educator, and first year at Wallowa, where she is also the elementary school principal.

"I really like the idea that it's elementary principal and superintendent, although that's a lot, even in a small district," she said of her role. "I like that aspect. I'm still interacting with kids."

Jones said the superintendent in Snohomish, Washington — where she served as a principal before coming to Wallowa — had a major role in how she approaches education.

"He was an amazing mentor, and he really created an environment that was focused on relationship," she said. "And I learned a great deal."

#### What got you into education?

"You know, I always wanted to be a teacher when I was a kid. I have younger brothers — they had to be my students all the time (growing up)."

#### When did you move here?

"I bought my house, actually, over a year-and-a-half ago — almost two years ago. (It was) October, two years ago, that I fell in love with the house, bought it and I just hoped that a position would come open, but if not it was going to be my summer and vacation place, and hopefully retirement place."

#### How do you view COVID as an educator?

"Last spring was very hard — doesn't matter where you were at in the country. When everyone had to go home, it was kind of like trying to build an airplane while we were flying it. It was tough. We didn't have the infrastructure ready to go into a distance model. ..."

"We did a lot of training, we pushed the start of school back, every school did in the county, and focused on getting staff prepared. ... (Because of our approach), kids knew what to expect, parents knew what to expect and it's going well. Our numbers are actually increased, which is surprising."

— Ronald Bond  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Margaret Bradshaw/Contributed Screenshot

Pastor David Bruce, right, leads the worship band on a recent Sunday at Enterprise Christian Church in this screenshot from the church's Facebook page. Bruce ministers to those who come into the church, as well as those who attend via Facebook, radio or a combination from the church parking lot.

## Worship rebounds from shutdowns

### Christians, others find ways to adapt to pandemic

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Many places of worship in Wallowa County are rebounding from the shutdowns caused this past spring because of the coronavirus pandemic, and some are even finding their new circumstances a benefit.

Virtually all who were contacted are employing social distancing and the wearing of face masks when they meet.

An effort was made to reach out to all listed places of worship in the county. Some listed phone numbers that were not working and others didn't respond to messages left.

Of those who were contacted, some are finding benefits in the new realities of gathering for worship amid the pandemic restrictions.

Pastor Tim Barton, of the Wallowa Assembly of God Church, said the pandemic led his church to go to extra lengths to reach his congregation. About 55 people regularly attend, and he doesn't really know how many are reached by their online broadcasts.

"It really did put us in place where we had to adapt to reach people wherever they are in the world," Barton said. "Anybody with an internet connection can see what's happening at our services."

He said no one associated with



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Maureen and Clint Krebs take part in worship at Enterprise Christian Church by listening to the radio and watching on Facebook from their car in the church's parking lot.

the church he is aware of has contracted COVID-19 and there's been no noticeable drop-off in attendance.

"That's largely because we've taken steps to make sure people are safe," he said. "Of course, it does require a certain amount of personal responsibility, but that has proven effective."

He said there also has been no noticeable drop-off in giving, allowing the church to remain financially viable. The church has even been able to purchase equipment needed to conduct services online.

"I do appreciate how all our people stuck with us. I think everybody appreciates we're living in a different world," Barton said. "We'll adapt to whatever we have to do to preach the Gospel and spread the Good News."

Some churches have expanded

the number of services they hold. Pastor David Pendleton, of Summit Church in Enterprise, said they've added another Sunday morning service and spread out the seating in the Cloverleaf Hall, which the church rents for services. Children's services and Sunday school, however, remain canceled.

"We thought some of our older folks would go 'into hiding' but we're seeing a greater turnout from older folks than the younger families," he said.

The church usually has a congregation of 130 to 150 attending each week, but they're down 30-50% from normal. They've also lacked the usual influx of visitors during tourist season.

He said from what he's heard, that's consistent throughout the area.

"I think the current state of

unprecedented times allowed people to agree on the frailty of the human condition and things they formerly held to be true ... in a variety of areas," Pendleton said. "It's called us to come to terms with the fact that nothing is constant except for the Lord."

Father Thomas Puduppalliparamban, parish priest for St. Katherine Catholic Church in Enterprise and Wallowa, said in the spring Mass had been shut down by order of the pope and confessions could be conducted by appointment only.

Now, however, he said he's able to conduct Mass for the approximately 50 parishioners, as long as they're wearing face masks.

Some churches have cut back the number of services they hold and are relying more on

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## Bentz discusses wildfires, housing and uniting the country with Chieftain

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Wildfires did not devastate Northeast Oregon this year, but other portions of the 2nd Congressional District, which Cliff Bentz is seeking to represent in the U.S. Congress, were completely decimated by wildfires, most notably the Southwest Oregon cities of Talent and Phoenix.

Bentz, a Republican and former state representative and senator who is running to replace Greg Walden, sat

down with the *Chieftain* on Tuesday, Oct. 27, one week before the general election, to discuss what has happened with fires in Oregon, and other issues pertinent to area residents.

Bentz said a key to protecting Oregonians from fires is letting them know what the risk level is for communities around the state.

"The two things that need to happen right now in this space to anybody that is even close to those fires who or who had now toured them as I have is that we've gotta do something to tell com-

munities who are at risk that they're at risk, and do a risk assessment of all the communities in Oregon, but particularly those surrounded by the woods, and say 'You've got to do something because we can't have our people burning up. You can't have this,'" he said. "This is one of those things people tend to forget when a fire is put out."

Bentz said a bill was introduced in March of this year "that would have directed risk assessment," but did not advance through the Demo-



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Cliff Bentz, who is running for Oregon Congressional District 2, discussed housing, wildfires and more during an interview with the *Chieftain* Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020.

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