

SPRING FORWARD
Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend. Move your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN GOES BEFORE COMMISSIONERS

FEAST COMMUNITY FORUM TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

\$1.50

LOCAL, A3 | LOCAL, A6



ATHLETES RETURN TO THE COURT, FIELD AND COURSE
SPORTS, A12

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



136th Year, No. 48

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Wallowa County Voices



Robin Hamilton
Enterprise

ENTERPRISE — Robin Hamilton moved to Enterprise in the mid-1980s because her mother and brother were here from Santa Barbara, California, both to be near family and to find a simpler life style.

A retired ladies masseuse, she and her now-deceased husband ran three health spas in California. When they moved to Wallowa County, they helped her stepfather and mother Sam and Jean Sidoti operate the Gold Room restaurant, where they brought the first pizza to the county. They also operated the Second-Hand Rose shop, both in Joseph. She has one daughter and no grandchildren.

Hamilton recently shared her thoughts on living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

Looking at those gorgeous mountains and the sparkling snow — it's all white and fluffy.

What challenges do you believe Wallowa County faces?

Keeping things quiet — I just don't like traffic; that's why I moved here. Santa Barbara just got to be too much. Also, I think we need a swimming pool both for the old and the young in Enterprise.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

It seems to be OK. A couple of my nephews had it, but they're OK now. One's in Texas and the other is in Sacramento.

Do you plan to get the vaccine against COVID-19 or are you hesitant as some people are?

Yes, but I haven't gotten it yet. My daughter in Bend has gotten it.

What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

I think everybody's so friendly and kind.

What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

You'll never want to leave. ... It's such a fun place. The water's sweet. The air is clean. The sky is blue. I'd like to see people ride more horses.

— Bill Bradshaw, Wallowa County Chieftain

Second vaccine reaches county; fifth COVID-19 death reported

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County residents now have a second COVID-19 vaccine available to them.

The recently approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrived last week at both Wallowa Memorial Hospital and at Safeway in Enterprise, and the retail store already has been putting it to use.

Safeway Pharmacy Manager Nancy Stangel said individuals who come in to get vaccinated at the pharmacy may have an option to get one vaccine or the other so long as both are on hand.

"If I have them both on the day they are signed up for, sometimes they can choose what they (receive)," Stangel said.

Stangel said because of the one-shot nature of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, many people are opting for it.

"I've had several people who have requested that (vaccine) if we have it — I have them on a list," she said.

Wallowa Memorial Hospital will be setting up appointments for the Johnson & Johnson vaccines, according to Brooke Pace, WMH communications director.

The hospital will be opening the phone lines, 541-426-5437, at 8 a.m. on Thursday,

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Youths to add to skateboard park

Alternative school kids drive to add half-pipe

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Students at the Wallowa County Alternative Education Program are working to install a half-pipe at the Enterprise skate park, the first major addition to it the 20 years since metal ramps were added on the concrete pad.

"What the students want to do is build a half-pipe and we presented an idea of a wooden ramp that is specially designed by a company out of California and the city, I think, is on board in moving forward with this idea," said Ron Pickens, county alcohol and drug prevention coordinator one of the teachers at the school who is overseeing the project.

The Enterprise City Council on Monday, March 8, heard a presentation by Pickens during which he gave cost estimates to the council. Pickens had made an earlier presentation on the proposed half-pipe at the council's February meeting. On Monday, he told the council the initial plans for a wooden half-pipe are estimated at about \$3,000. He also received an estimate for a metal half-pipe from Stangel Industries & Machine Shop in Enterprise of \$15,000. That's about half the cost of another estimate from a company in the Midwest, Pickens said. He also had investigated a concrete half-pipe, but the cost for that was deemed beyond what is possible.

Pickens also received an estimate for a cover for the wooden half-pipe to protect it from the elements. The cost for the cover from Mark Borgerding Contracting of Enterprise came in at \$10,000, Pickens said.

Alternative school senior Mason Griffin told of a coating that can be obtained to help protect the wooden half-pipe from the elements.

Pickens said the alternative school received



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Ron Pickens, a teacher at the Wallowa County Alternative Education Program, center, and student Theo Noble measure off the distance needed to install a proposed half-pipe at the Enterprise skate park. From left, are students Mason Griffin, Cash McQuown and Christian Morris.

a \$3,000 grant from Community 101 to cover the bulk of the cost of the half-pipe. They also expect to raise extra funds, he said, but was unclear about the amount.

Pickens said the council on Monday said they planned to have the Public Works Committee meet in two weeks to review the options. Before then, he plans to have a short questionnaire posted on the Facebook page of Building Healthy Families — which oversees the alternative school — and the Wallowa County Prevention Facebook page for the public to provide input on the skate park improvements.

Since cost estimates are higher than the amount they have, Pickens said they may have to refigure their plans and consider possible fundraising options.

"The way I'm seeing this ... is we'll get additional funds from Building Healthy Families (which oversees the alternative school) and have about \$4,500-\$5,000," Pickens said.

He said that should cover the cost of the half-pipe, paint and a protective coating.

A half-pipe, as the name suggests, is a ramp curved up at each end with a U-shaped cross section used by skateboarders, rollerbladers or bicyclists to jump and perform tricks.

Five high-schoolers from the alternative school are actively working on the project, as well as three or four from Joseph Charter School. The boys are designing stickers to promote it, Pickens said, and they hope to have helmets to give away.

"They're kind of a promo, a kickoff for the skate park when it's all said and done," he said.

Until this week's council meeting, they were mainly concerned with getting the cost estimates for the park's new feature.

The youths also are likely to help with the labor involved if they go with the wooden half-pipe, Pickens said.

"We're just trying to flesh out the numbers to know which way we're going to go," he said. "We're kind of in a holding pattern."

He said the current layout of the skate park would allow room for the addition of a wooden or metal half-pipe, although some rearranging of the two current quarter-pipes and a four-way center ramp. Plans call for a half-pipe that is 3 feet tall, 10 feet long and 20 feet wide that's small enough and appropriate for all age and skill levels.

Two of the four alternative school students have no experience at skateboarding, and none have tried a half-pipe.

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David P. Howard/Creative Commons Contribution

Wallowa County Alternative Education Program students are hoping to erect a half-pipe at the skate park near the Enterprise High School football field this spring or summer. The half-pipe they propose will be about 3 feet tall, 20 feet long and 10 feet wide.

City Council postpones Summerfest to next year

Hears CETRA grant pitches for various events

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — There will be no Summerfest in Enterprise this year, the city council agreed during its Monday, March 8 meeting, preferring to wait until 2022 to give time for a larger event, according to a press release.

Councilwoman Christie Huston, of the Projects Committee, said that

since the event is normally held in June, most council members are new to the council and given the COVID-19 troubles of the past year, it is better to wait until next year to hold the event.

Huston also discussed options for memorializing Michele Young, a prior city administrator. The council decided to name the Council Chambers in her honor, ask Young's family for permission to hang a large picture of her in the chambers with a plaque showing her years of service.

Young, who died in September, served 31½ years as city administrator before retiring in 2018.

Plans call for the design of a plaque to recognize all former and current mayors, which Young was working on prior to her leaving.

In another matter, the council heard a presentation on the Wallowa County Smoke Management Community Response Plan by Lisa Mahon. A similar presentation was made to the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, March 3. See that story on page A3.

The council also considered applications for Community-Economic-Tourism Related Activities (CETRA) grants to help fund community events. Grants up for consid-

eration would provide \$2,000 each to Juniper Jam, the Courthouse Concert Series, the Woodlands and Watershed Festival, Alpenfest, Mountain High Broncs and Bulls and Main Street Show and Shine. Representatives of each event were given the opportunity to make a pitch for the grants. After the presentations, city Administrator Lacey McQuead said the CETRA/Motel Tax Committee would meet and prepare a recommendation for grant awards to be heard during the April meeting.

In other business, the council:

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