



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain
The 75th Anniversary Chief Joseph Days Honor Court following the CJD Coronation on Saturday, April 17, 2021. From left are Destiny Wecks, Brianna Micka and Casidee Harrod.

Honors: 'This is only the second honor court in the history of Chief Joseph Days'

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technically remained intact until she bestowed three equal crowns to Harrod, Micka and Wecks on Saturday night.

"This is only the second honor court in the history of Chief Joseph Days," CJD Board President Terry Jones said. "All three wanted to come back. They didn't want to have the competition, and they all made sacrifices to be here, especially the seniors Brianna and Casidee. But next year we'll go back to a more normal process for the court."

Last Prairie-area silversmith Larry Bacon was named the grand marshal of the Chief Joseph Days celebration. Bacon grew up on the family homestead at the far north end of Wallowa County, attending a one-room schoolhouse for ele-

mentary grades. He crafted his first pair of spurs at age 13. Although he also crafts bits, buckles and jewelry, he's best known for making the spurs awarded to the all-around CJD champion for the past 30 years.

Jones recognized retiring board members, including Jeff West, Diane Witherite, 25-year member Doris Noland and 30-year member Shelley Marshall, and welcomed new board members, including Teah Jones, Jessie Cunningham and Sara Freels-Tippett.

"Back in this winter, the board decided we had two choices: we could either cancel this rodeo for another year, or we could go ahead and take our chances and have Chief Joseph Days in 2021. And that's what we decided," Terry Jones told the coronation gathering. "We're full-steam ahead."

Vaccine: J & J vaccine has been paused

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half of the 50 slots for the Pfizer shot had been filled.

The hospital is also trying to fill spots for a clinic April 21 to use 200 first-doses of the Moderna vaccine it has on hand. As of Monday, all but about 45 of those spots were taken.

As of Friday, the hospital has administered 2,130 first doses of vaccine, and 1,631 people have been fully vaccinated. This includes 100 individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine through the hospital.

Use of that vaccine has been temporarily put on hold after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration called Tuesday, April 13, for a nationwide halt to administering it after six women were hospitalized for blood clots following its use. One of those women died, according to a report from the Oregon Capital Bureau.

Pace said a few individuals have called the hospital with questions, but said they have been referring those with the J&J vac-



Brooke Pace/Wallowa Memorial Hospital
Teri Judd, head of nursing at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, draws a dose of vaccine for administration at a clinic Tuesday, April 6, 2021. The hospital learned Thursday, April 15, that it will be receiving 50 doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week.

cine to contact their primary care provider if they have concerns.

Liz Powers, chief med-

ical officer for WMH, said Thursday afternoon that of the more than 500 Wallowa County residents who

have received the J&J vaccine, none have had serious reactions.

She added that providers in the county have followed the guidance from the CDC and OHA and "are pausing vaccination of patients using the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine. This is out of an abundance of caution."

Patients who wanted the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been offered the Moderna vaccine, and some have taken that offer. Nobody, to Powers' knowledge, who was set to get the vaccine is now declining.

"I'm not aware of anyone completely backing out," she said. "The patients we're contacting are disappointed, some are ready to get the Moderna vaccine instead, and many are waiting to see what happens with the J&J vaccine."

Winding Waters Medical Clinic, which had been administering the J&J vaccine, also has paused its use and is offering Moderna to anyone 18 and older, said WWMC Chief Executive Officer Nic Powers.

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