

Integrated care facility nears completion

Hearts for Health Integrated Care Center to open in September

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A single medical facility that integrates physical, mental, behavioral and dental health care has long been a dream of both Winding Waters Community Health Center and the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness. That dream will come true when the new Hearts for Health Integrated Care Center opens its doors Friday, Sept. 10.

The \$7.4 million, 22,000 square-foot facility has been slowly taking shape on Medical Parkway since construction began in March 2020. Now, the interior walls, electrical and communications wiring are nearing completion, floors and ceilings are mostly in place. It's ready for the interior and exterior finishing touches followed by installation of equipment. The center will finally welcome the first patients in September.

Although some construction finishing work is ongoing, HHICC is offering public tours on the third Thursday of the month, April through June. The first tours will be Thursday, April 22, at noon and again at 5 p.m. said Wellness Center Public Relations and Development Director Tosca Rawls.



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

Construction is nearing completion on the new \$7.4 million, 22,000-square-foot Hearts for Health Integrated Care Center on Medical Parkway in Enterprise. The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

"It's a way of saying 'Thank you' and welcoming the community to our new home," Rawls said.

To reserve a place on one of the tours, call Rawls at 541-426-4524, ext. 1031.

The project is currently under budget, Rawls said. Its funding includes \$800,000 in support from people and businesses in Wallowa County, \$2.5 million from the state of Oregon and additional funding from the M.J. Murdock Memorial Trust, Lewis Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation and the Wildhorse Foundation.

Lem McBurney, project liaison, said that the facility is planned to optimize privacy while getting patients swiftly to the care they need.

"Even though everything's together, there's kind of a medical side and a mental health side," he said.

But it's the integration of these until-now disparate branches of medicine that makes the HHICC unique among rural health centers.

"When someone has a mental health break, dental issues will push forward the mental issues," McBurney said. "The same is true of other conditions, including

urinary tract infections. So mental health and medical health are very closely tied together. The idea here is to take care of everybody's whole health."

The HHICC also has a teaching kitchen. It can be used to prepare meals for events, for catering and as a commercial kitchen. But its more important role will be providing cooking and nutrition classes.

"We want to participate in what the hospital got started with their Blue Zones (program)," McBurney said. "The idea here is to teach people skills and

lifestyles that prevent illness — mental or physical — from happening. So the idea is that a therapist could come in here, cook a healthy meal with somebody, and then they could go out on the patio and sit and eat it, and talk about life skills. It's taking therapy outside an office and giving people new skills and perspectives."

The large conference room, with a capacity of more than 100 people, will be able to host public and private events, from actual conferences to birthday parties.

"We send our staff across

the state to attend trainings," Rawls said. "With this facility, we can bring the trainers here, to us, (either in person or on the large screen). That could save organizations here a lot of money, save us a lot of money and we're going to have the technology to provide those services."

The HHICC will have lots of other innovative facilities, from a meditation room to a counseling room set up so that parents can keep an eye on their children in an adjacent playroom while talking with a therapist, to an area where people in need can do laundry, iron clothes and take a shower. The facility will be helpful for people who are in crisis.

"Our crisis team does things day and night, McBurney said. "There's been 25-50 crisis actions within the past three weeks. But people don't know that because the crisis team does the work so quietly."

And, of course, there's plenty of conventional medicine and dentistry, including four dental operatories, five medical exam rooms and 17 clinical rooms. And the parking areas can be used by people who are using the adjacent Jensen ball fields, McBurney said. There will be a total of 2 miles of walking paths.

"We're leading the charge on a new model of integrated health care, especially in rural areas," Rawls said. "We're really excited to show other providers how this works."

Josephy fundraiser nearly triples goal

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture more than exceeded its fundraising goals Thursday, April 15, hoping to raise at least \$50,000 to purchase and renovate the center.

The capital campaign fundraising event kicked off at 6:30 p.m. and by 7:30 p.m., had raised just over \$80,000, with most of the donations coming from Wallowa County residents.

Combined with a matching incentive offered by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the evening's total ended up exceeding \$135,000, allowing the Josephy Center to realize its long-awaited goal of being able to purchase and renovate the building.

"We are beside ourselves with excitement," said Executive Director Cheryl Coughlan. "The dream of becoming a permanent home for arts and culture in Wallowa County is now a reality. I almost have to pinch

myself to believe it!"

The Key to Our Future fundraising event, hosted by special guest Andy Lindberg, was upbeat and fast-paced with heart-warming moments including youth testimonials, dedications made in memory of loved ones and a video reminding viewers that art is everywhere in Wallowa County — if you look for it.

event. Winner Sally Goebel won a growler from Terminal Gravity in Enterprise every month for a full year. Kathryn J. Neal won \$300 worth of pizza cards from M.Crow in Lostine.

"This fundraiser was undoubtedly a success," said Development Director Kellee Sheehy. "But there's a lot of work ahead. Buying the building for the

"Even though we received grant funding," Coughlan said, "it's the people of Wallowa County who came through for us in the end. They showed up and generously gave their hard-earned dollars. Now we can all reap the benefit for years to come."

The Key to Our Future campaign is focused on making the Josephy Center a permanent home for arts and culture in Wallowa County, as well as restoring and expanding the Center to elevate visitor experience and fit the growing needs of the community.

The campaign has two phases: Phase One focuses on the building purchase, critical safety repairs and accessibility for all. Phase Two focuses on the renovation and expansion of the building which will increase functionality, accessibility and programming.

To watch the "Art is Everywhere" video, go to www.josephy.org/capital-fundraiser.

"EVEN THOUGH WE RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING, IT'S THE PEOPLE OF WALLOWA COUNTY WHO CAME THROUGH FOR US IN THE END."

— Cheryl Coughlan, Josephy Center executive director

"I challenge anyone who lives in this beautiful place to watch that video and not feel as if you're going to burst with pride," said Jeff Costello, president of the center's board.

Prizes sponsored by local businesses helped incentivize giving throughout the

county means that we are all responsible for shaping how it grows. We need feedback from residents about what kinds of programs they want or want more of. That feedback will help determine the design of the building when we renovate and expand in Phase II."

The postponement of the annual event, which also was postponed in 2020, will not impact other plans in the county. The Visitor Center still will be open during the summer and the powwow grounds are open for dispersed camping, the release states.

— Chieftain staff

IN BRIEF

Tamkaliks Celebration postponed

WALLOWA — COVID-19 has again postponed

the annual Tamkaliks Celebration.

The Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland and Tamkaliks Committee announced the decision Tuesday, April 13. The committee had convened April 7 to deliberate whether or not to host the event.

"This was not an easy decision, but Nez Perce Wallowa

Homeland and the Tamkaliks Committee agree that this is the best decision for the safety of our elders and our communities," a release announcing the decision stated.

The committee still will award two \$500 scholarships — the Taz Conner and Terry Crenshaw Memorial scholarships.

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In loving memory of Max Moffit, we would like to express our gratitude to the community for the outpouring of sympathy, encouragement, and support for our loss. We appreciate all of the meals, cards, flowers, visits, phone calls and emails. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Kenneth & Roberta Moffit and family

THANK YOU

Births

A daughter, Landry Jo Hayes, was born April 9, in Enterprise, to Sara Hayes and Andrew Hayes of Enterprise. Grandparents are Renae Sorweide, Eric Schoeningh, Debbie Hayes and Ron Hayes.

A daughter, Alma June Miller, was born April 10, in Enterprise, to Lindsay Miller and Dylan Edwards of Joseph.

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HAPPY Birthday

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