

# Signs of spring



Margaret Bradshaw/Contributed Photo

Fox kits venture out from their underground burrow Tuesday, April 27, 2021, as they get to know the world they'll live in near the north end of Wallowa Lake.



ZiPLY/Contributed Photo

ZiPLY Fiber announced last week its plans to bring its high-speed network to Enterprise, and hopes to have businesses and homes in the community connected by the end of the summer.

## More fiber internet options are coming to the county

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise residents will have a high-speed internet option in place by the end of the summer.

The company that bought out Frontier Communications last year, ZiPLY Fiber, announced Friday, April 30, plans to extend “gig-speed fiber Internet” to Enterprise, one of 22 markets it plans to get into this year, according to a press release.

Construction is already ongoing in and around Enterprise, and company COO Brian Stading anticipates ZiPLY enabling some 1,300 homes and businesses in the town with the fiber optic option this year.

“This a brand-new move for Enterprise,” he said. “We are currently construct-

ing (the network). We have the process going on to light up businesses and homes in Enterprise. This is all brand new.”

Stading said part of getting the fiber into Wallowa County includes connecting the isolated area to regions where the network is already in place.

“We have to expand our fiber backbone that connects Enterprise to other markets,” he said. “We basically have to expand our fiber network into Enterprise and then add additional equipment that makes the fiber work.”

The COO added there are some fiber connections in place in the town, but said efforts are in place to improve what is there, too.

“We basically are working on that as well,” he said.

A 1-gig speed option will be among those made avail-

able once the fiber is laid — one that is 10 times faster than ZiPLY’s next-highest option of 100-megabyte service.

“Put it this way, it’s a lot of speed,” Stading said.

Stading said the hope is for ZiPLY to be connected to the entire town by the end of the summer. From there, he said, the company can look at its options on potential expansion into the rest of the county.

“Once we build out Enterprise, it allows us to look further out once we are there and see what makes sense,” Stading said.

ZiPLY’s expansion is adding a component Stading indicated is vital to the area.

“Broadband is imperative to people’s lives,” he said.

“We think that (it) will hopefully provide a huge economic benefit to Enterprise.”

## Scholarships offered to health care workers

Applications taken until June 1

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — Two scholarships are currently being offered to local health care workers looking to advance their personal and professional development for the benefit of health care in Wallowa County, according to a press release.

“The scholarships have been put to good use,” said President Dave Smyth, of the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation Board. “Each year we get very qualified applicants, and the long-term benefit to local health care has been proven.”

The Gwen & Gladys Coffin Memorial Scholarship and the Edgar Burbridge and Frances Boyd Burbridge Scholarship, each

worth \$2,000, have opened their application period through June 1. Both scholarships are sponsored by the foundation, a local non-profit that raises money to improve and expand health care in Wallowa County.

The Coffin Scholarship was founded in 2012, when the daughter of Gwen and Gladys Coffin, Gail Swart, was serving on the foundation board. Gladys Coffin donated an irrevocable gift for \$500,000 in her late husband’s name in 1996, helping the foundation get on solid financial footing. Swart suggested the scholarship and the board recognized a need to help local health care workers pursue additional education and training. Thus, it created the scholarship to meet this need. Since then, local health care workers have pursued training and education to help improve treat-

ment of lymphedema, pelvic floor functioning, geriatric physical therapy and more. Recipients have advanced their careers by pursuing board certifications in specialty areas of health care to provide greater expertise. Other areas include executive level leadership training and Medicare billing to address all areas of health care.

The Edgar Burbridge and Frances Boyd Burbridge Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2018, when Gene Boyd, brother of Frances, presented an estate gift of \$231,557 for the foundation. Inspired by the Coffin scholarship, Boyd and his wife, Charlene, asked to create a similar one.

For more information, call the Foundation at 541-426-1913, or visit [www.wchcd.org/about/foundation/scholarships](http://www.wchcd.org/about/foundation/scholarships).

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