

Sixth graders ponder ‘If I Were Mayor’

Youths put forward ideas for leading city

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — What may be the next generation of political leaders in Enterprise was honored Monday, May 10, as the City Council recognized the winners of the “If I Were Mayor” contest during the regular council meeting.

“Things would be different around here,” wrote Luke Patterson, the first-place winner in his entry. “I would make sure that we had a better way to get your opinion heard.”



Tyson

He recommended a suggestion box with a person designated to read the suggestions.

“People need to be heard,” the 12-year-old Luke wrote.

Luke, the son of Patrick and Amy Patterson, was recognized along with second-place winner Tyson Herold, 11, son of Justin Herold and Eva Barnes, and third-place winner Celina Roberge, daughter of Adam and Donna Roberge.

All three are in Donna Yost’s sixth grade class at Enterprise Middle School. As first-place winner, Luke will compete in the state competition. Each of the kids won “Buckskin Bucks” redeemable at businesses in Wallowa County. Luke won \$100, Tyson got \$50 and Celina received \$25.

The state contest is sponsored by the Oregon Mayors Association and accepts entries from three grade-level categories. Yost’s class was the only local one to participate this year.

First-place statewide winners in each of the three categories will win a gift valued at \$500, according to the OMA website. These students will receive their prizes at an awards luncheon held during the OMA Summer Conference in North Bend July 29-31.

“We haven’t actually asked the Enterprise School District to participate in the ‘If I Were Mayor’ contest for some time,” city Administrator Lacey McQuead told



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise Mayor Ashley Sullivan stands with two of the three winners in the recent “If I Were Mayor” contest at the Monday, May 10, 2021, City Council meeting. At left is Celina Roberge, who won third place. At right is Luke Patterson, who won first. Tyson Herold, who won second, was unable to attend the meeting.

the council April 12. “This year, I was contacted by the Oregon Mayors Association and asked if the city of Enterprise would like to participate again.”

Student efforts impress
Yost was proud of her students’ achievements.

“I was impressed with some of their ideas for improving things in our city, some of the improvements that could be made. They were really insightful,” Yost said last week. “It was one of those things for kids in the sixth grade where they could enter writing contests and it was good for them. They were able to show patriotism and have the freedom to express themselves.”

Mayor Ashley Sullivan also was impressed.

“I’d say Luke had me feeling like he could teach me a thing or two,” she said last week. “It’s neat that these kids know what they want for their future and can put it all into words with such conviction. They’ll be great leaders one day.”

Although the kids will have to wait until they’re 18 to run for mayor, Sullivan looks forward to their contributions.

“I really hope we’re lucky enough see one of these students as Enterprise mayor when they’re older,”

she said. “Local government needs fresh, young ideas to keep our small towns thriving.”

Tyson had some thoughts on private property and animals.

“I would make sure to say ‘no trespassing’ on anyone’s property unless you have their authority,” he wrote. “I would also make sure that there are no deer or animal killings in town, making most exotic animals illegal.”

Celina wants to see repairs to cracked sidewalks.

“I have tripped on them thousands of times,” she wrote.

The kids all recommended improvements to the city park and support of small businesses. They weren’t unmindful that city government can’t just wave a wand and order things to happen — that most things cost money. One suggestion offered was fundraisers that would donate to businesses.

Celina wants to see the public pool brought back at the park, having been told of its former existence by her mom.

Tyson wants to see more support for sports and funding for any needed sports equipment.

Other ideas also were put forward, such as encouraging local Boy and Girl

Scout troops, encouraging the wearing of face masks amid the coronavirus pandemic — but not forcing anyone to — a local movie theater, a bowling alley, a game store and supporting the police.

As for a future in politics, Luke and Tyson both would consider it, but Celina wasn’t so sure.

“Probably not,” she said. “That comes with a lot of responsibility that I don’t really want to deal with.”

Although the mayor doesn’t have jurisdiction beyond city limits, all three kids were mindful of the beautiful area Enterprise is located in.

Luke, in particular, said taking care of the environment is part of being a “good person.”

He recommended harsh punishment on litterers.

“If someone is caught littering in the wild, then you should have to pick up the whole forest. If you are fine with throwing your trash into the wilderness, then we are fine with throwing the wilderness trash back to you,” he wrote. “DON’T THROW YOUR TRASH INTO THE FOREST, OR THE LAKE.”

IN BRIEF

Lending Heart, hospital host lending drive

ENTERPRISE — Lending Heart Community Resources and Wallowa Memorial Hospital are teaming up for an equipment drive to take place May 17-21.

According to a press release, donations for the drive will be taken at the hospital’s main entrance at 601 Medical Parkway in Enterprise from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Donations can also be dropped off at the Wallowa City Hall parking lot at 104 N. Pine St. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

According to the press release, needed equipment includes “wheelchairs, transfer chairs, portable electric hospital beds, bed rails, plastic covered hospital bed mattresses, front wheeled walkers, seated walkers, commodes, shower chairs, tub transfer benches, wheeled knee walkers, hoist lifts & slings, canes (single point and footed), gait belts and sock and shoe assists.” Lift chairs or other upholstered items, items requiring a prescription, or adjustments by a technician cannot be accepted.

Lending Heart had loaned \$63,000 of equipment in the past 15 months, the release states.

For more information, contact Linda Bauck at 541-398-0196.

Introduction to needle felting class offered

JOSEPH — A class introducing craftsmen to needle felting will be offered from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, according to a press release.

The in-person class will be taught by Janet Hohmann. Cost for the class is \$30. Preregistration is required by June 9.

Needle felting is a craft that turns raw wool into all sorts of useful or decorative items. In this class, participants will explore the techniques of using felting needles to create a coaster and then move on to making a felted animal of choice. Domestic sheep wool will be the primary medium, but other “wools” (llama, alpaca, even dog or cat) also will be available to experiment with. Natural colors and dyed wool will be available. All materials will be provided.

Because felting needles are very sharp, this class is for anyone older than 12 years of age.

No experience is necessary.

For everyone’s health and safety, masks will be required at all times.

To learn more, visit <https://josephy.org/event/introduction-to-needle-felting>.

— Chieftain staff

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