

# J's Place survives online competition



By Bill Bradshaw

## Computer, guitar store still thriving

ENTERPRISE — Strumming and tinkering right along, Jay Connolly, owner of J's Place in Enterprise, considers himself a survivor.

He's survived the coronavirus pandemic and devastating competition from online marketers. He's even survived several moves of his store's location, although he's always remained in Enterprise.

"I've been all over the place," he said during a Tuesday, June 22 interview. "Actually, I've had J's Place as a business since 1996."

Connolly, who primarily sells guitars, computers and related items, took last year off, which happened to coincide with the pandemic. He moved from his former location on Main Street to the corner of NW 1st and North streets about six months ago.

"That's the way it worked out," he said. "It wasn't intended to be that way, but that's the way it worked out."

But the store may have not been noticed by many.

"I didn't have a sign on there for quite a while," he said.

Guitars may be the



Jay Connolly, owner of J's Place in Enterprise, looks over a PC he's been working on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Connolly sells a variety of guitars, computers and related equipment and repairs them, too.

most noticeable item when one walks into the store. He keeps a few guitars — both electric and acoustic — in stock, as well as guitar strings and other accessories.

"I usually have just a couple guitars in stock," he said. "I sell lots of strings and things like that. I do order PA (public address) equipment — sound systems and things like that."

The majority of Connolly's business is repairing and selling computers. He mostly works on PCs, but also does Macs. That's where most of his business is — ordering and working on items for customers.

He doesn't have a lot of local competition these days, as several computer stores in the county were driven out of business in the past decade by online merchants.

"Actually, the competition is from online," he said. "When I started, there were (several other shops in the county), but online just killed it off."

But the decrease in competition had nothing to do with last year's pandemic.

"When these guys (the online stores) started getting really popular, that's when it changed," he said. "Most of us still bought

parts and built computers, but that changed, too."

But Connolly still finds business good and he appreciates the support of the community.

"It's really good," he said. "I'd taken a year off and so, coming back, more and more of my old customers are coming in and I've really enjoyed that. I missed them."

Connolly is sole owner

### J'S PLACE

Where: 103 SW 1st St., Enterprise

Email: jsplace@oregon-trail.net

Phone: 541-263-0225

Online: Currently updating website

of the store and the principal operator. His wife, Jennifer Hawkins-Connolly is an art teacher at Joseph Charter School. Together, they have two sons, Joshua, 27, and Gabriel, 18. Both live here, and Josh works part time in his dad's store.

As a local merchant, Connolly finds the community feeling invaluable.

"The community here has been so good to me. I want to thank the community for the support they've given," he said. "I can't say enough about Wallowa County. We live in a really great place."

And he's gratified to be back in business.

"After the break, it's good to be back and great to see my old friends," he said. "This location is nice and busy because you see stuff and I think it's pretty easy to find. I plan on staying here until I retire because that's only going to be four years."

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.



## & Skylight Gallery

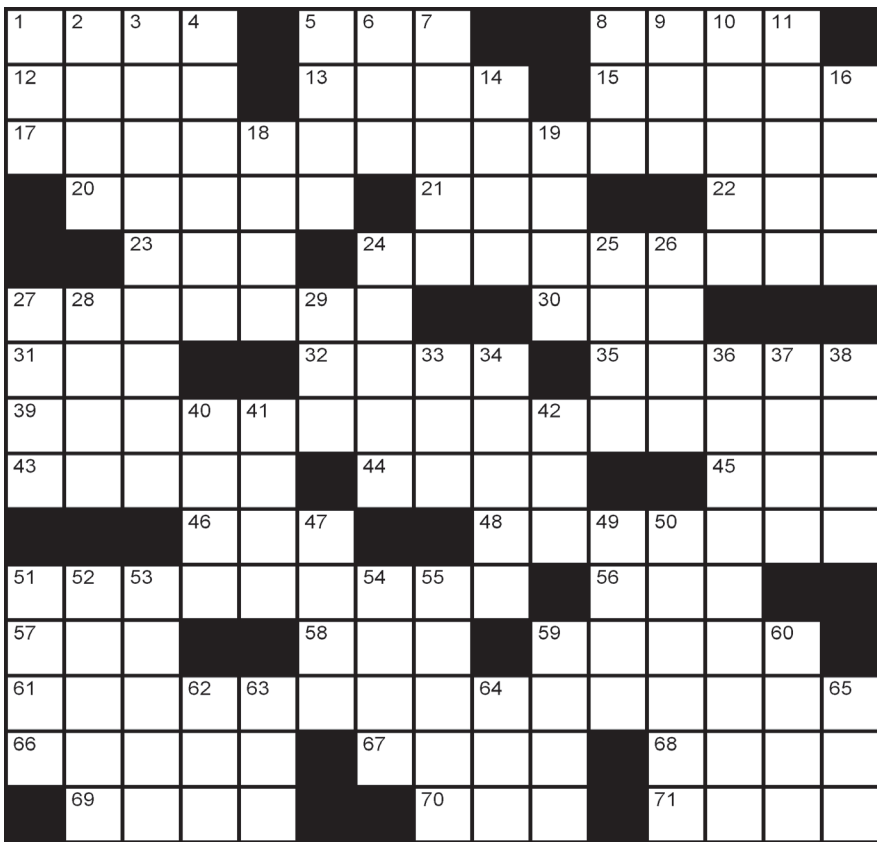
Finding books is our specialty

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Not get a single laugh, say
5. Pump product
8. Chow
12. Word after "ring" or "hold"
13. Baldwin of "30 Rock"
15. "Food's ready!"
17. \*Personal growth
20. Skillet's spot
21. The third
22. Nutritional letters
23. Feeling after a bad call
24. \*Like topics you shouldn't talk about
27. Changed
30. College URL ender
31. Habitat for some otters
32. "\_\_\_ fishing"
35. Woolly Peruvian animal
39. \*You may apply one to a selfie
43. In need of straightening
44. Croc, but not gator
45. Lever pusher in a lab
46. Rep who led a Twitter tutorial for House Dems
48. New versions of TV shows
51. \*Best case scenario ...
56. Storyline shape
57. Photographer Goldin
58. Historical chapter
59. "Old MacDonald" vowels
61. Novel forms for novels, and a clue to the word scrambled within each starred answer
66. Cookies sometimes decon-structed
67. Trivia spots
68. Song like "Take Me or Leave Me"
69. Word on a red sign
70. Bit of ink
71. Queries

### CLUES DOWN

1. K-pop group that has spoken at the U.N. twice
2. Contents of lodes
3. Text while watching TV, say
4. The "B" of BCE



5. Rummikub or Risk
6. Swiss peak
7. Font flourish
8. "Who'da thunk?!"
9. Male sheep
10. Incubation locations
11. Type of cake or pan
14. Fancy 'do
16. Mom-and-pop grps.?
18. Bon \_\_\_ (Justin Vernon's band)
19. Horrid
24. Unfortunate smells
25. Indian breakfast cake
26. Spice up, as wine
27. Where most of Turkey is
28. Perspective, figuratively
29. \_\_\_ wash (baker's mixture)
33. "Pass"
34. Atlanta university
36. Horrid
37. What a vegetarian avoids
38. Be An \_\_\_ Hero (grassroots campaign for creators)
40. Debate group
41. Not touching base, informally?
42. Consultant's charge
47. Fed a line to
49. Goat
50. Potato product brand named for two states
51. Data, briefly
52. Food-on-a-stick events
53. Fjord or sound
54. Losing roll at a casino
55. Unfixable
59. \_\_\_ Bay (Oakland's area)
60. Fun run length, informally
62. Cattle call?
63. Shakespearean snake
64. Unknown, on a schedule: Abbr.
65. Ave. crossers in NYC

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### Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
**10 AM Worship**  
Online AND In Person  
For More Info  
541-432-3102  
JosephUMC.ORG  
Pastor Cherie Dearth

### Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main - Enterprise  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP at 9am**  
Pastor John B. King Jr  
phone (message): 541-426-4633  
web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

### Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449  
We have 'In-person worship' @ 9:00 am  
(Guidelines observed)  
Sunday School at 10:30  
Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00  
David Bruce  
Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

### St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise  
NE 3rd & Main St  
541-426-3439  
Worship Service  
Sunday 9:30am

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Childrens program during service  
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com  
541.398.0597  
Hwy 82, Lostine  
Stephen Kliever, Minister

### Summit Church

**Sundays at 10 am**  
at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise  
Pastor: David Pendleton  
Summit Church  
www.summitchurchoregon.org  
Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

### Wallowa Assembly of God

702 West Hwy 82  
Wallowa, Oregon  
541-886-8445  
**Sunday School • 9:am**  
**Worship Service • 10:am**  
Pastor Tim Barton  
Visit Us on f

### Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson  
Church Office: 541-263-0505  
**Family Prayer 9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship 10:00 a.m.**  
723 College Street, Lostine

### Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)  
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828  
Church 541-426-3751  
School 541-426-8339  
Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886  
**Worship Hour**  
10:30 a.m. - Noon

### Enterprise Community Congregational Church

Join us at the  
**BIG BROWN CHURCH**  
**Sunday Worship 11:00 am**  
**Bible Studies:**  
**Sundays, 9:30 am &**  
**Thursdays, 5:30 pm**  
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR  
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