



WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR GETS UNDERWAY

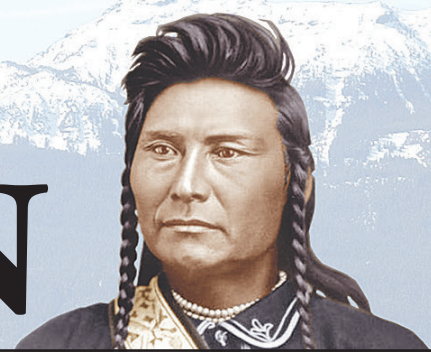
LOCAL, A16

LOOP RAWLINS PUTS ON A SHOW FOR CJD CROWD

LOCAL, A7

\$1.50

# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



137th Year, No. 18

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

## Wallowa County Voices



Joey Haskins Joseph

### Joseph native says he wouldn't live anywhere else

JOSEPH — Joey Haskins has lived all of his 36 years in Joseph and wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

"I was born and raised here," he said.

Engaged and the father of an 8-year-old son, Kane, he works construction.

He likes it here because of the lack of traffic, the mountains and the fishing and hunting that are available.

He recently shared his thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

#### What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

I like being up at the lake and trolling around trying to get some kokanee.

#### Are you concerned about another coronavirus spike?

No. (He hasn't been vaccinated and doesn't plan to.)

#### What did you think of this year's Chief Joseph Days?

It was pretty cool. My son loved it. We went down for family night and went to both parades. He just had a blast. It was a little hard for me because of all the traffic on the road. It was a madhouse.

#### What did you think of all the traffic?

We actually went out toward Crazyman (Creek) and went huckleberry picking to get away from it.

#### Are you going to the fair?

I'm not sure yet; it depends on if I have to work or not. I haven't been to a fair in a long time, to be honest.

#### What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

You're going to want to fish and hike, because otherwise, there's not a whole lot to do. Watch out for the traffic in the summertime. During the winters, it's nice and peaceful. That's when I like it the most.

## Unprecedented spike in coronavirus

### COVID-19 cases increasing in Wallowa County at fastest rate of pandemic

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — COVID-19 cases are increasing in Wallowa County at a rate that hasn't yet been seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Oregon Health Authority has reported seven new cases over the

weekend, and as of Monday, Aug. 9, and the total number of cases is at 264.

The number, and case rate, is among the lowest in the state, with Wallowa County checking in with the fourth lowest rate at just under 3.7%.

But the number of cases is increasing. Since the start of July, the county has

seen the highest (10 cases on July 30) and third-highest (eight on Aug. 5) one-day counts during the pandemic. In the past 11 days, there have been 36 new cases.

The confirmed case count in Wallowa County is climbing at a rate faster than it has at any other time during the pandemic. It

wasn't until Oct. 30, that 50 cases total were reported in the county. Since then, it has been between about 2 to 3.5 months for an additional 50 new cases to be added. The 100th case was reported Jan. 26, and the 150th was reported April 2.

The 200th case came in on July 19, but the most recent 50 came in 2.5

weeks, with the 250th case reported Aug. 5.

COVID-19 hospitalizations are also increasing throughout the state, and in Eastern Oregon. According to OHA data, Saturday, Aug. 7, and Sunday, Aug. 8, saw the highest one-day total of COVID-19

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Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Youths skate in the halfpipe at the newly upgraded Enterprise Skate Park on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021. A grand opening event was attended by at least 200 people.

## Skateboarders set to ride

### Updated Enterprise Skate Park reopens to a happy crowd

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The upgraded Enterprise Skate Park is officially open for use.

The park was full of young and young-at-heart skateboarders, bike riders, scooter riders and rollerbladers breaking in the recently finished park during a grand opening Saturday, Aug. 7.

The project was the culmination of close to nine months of work spearheaded by Ron Pickens, drug and alcohol prevention coordinator at



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Theodore Noble skates in the halfpipe as others look on, waiting for their turn.

Building Healthy Families, and students in the alternative education program who fundraised and promoted the project since late 2020.

"This project, without the community support, without everybody's involvement, would not have happened," Pickens said during a presentation to the crowd of at least 200 people. "We thank the community for coming together."

Pickens shared the details that fell in place in the past nine months that resulted in the skate park getting all new metal ramps — including a halfpipe — to replace wooden ones that had been there for about two decades.

"This is all student driven.

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## Reluctant compliance with school mask orders

### Wallowa County schools will go along with state mandate

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County schools are continuing to advocate for local control when it comes to masking requirements.

But starting this fall, they all will be in compliance with the newest mandate to wear the face coverings that have become the norm for almost 18 months.

On July 29, Gov. Kate Brown mandated that all K-12 students wear masks indoors at the start of the



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

school year.

Superintendent Lance Homan, Wallowa Superintendent Tammy Jones and the board of the Enterprise School District — along with Superintendent Erika

Pinkerton — all have written or said to residents in their districts that they want decisions on masking to stay local.

"(W)e, the board and administration, do not support this move and will

**A mask hangs on the fence outside Enterprise Schools on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021. Masks will again be required in the classroom in Oregon this fall, and although school administrators are seeking local control, they will comply with the rules from the Oregon Health Authority.**

strive to keep our local control," Homan wrote. "I believe we can provide the safest learning environment using our data to assess the danger of COVID in our district."

The Enterprise board,

meanwhile, voted in July to have no masks and no social distancing in the 2021-22 school year.

And Jones offered the same take in a letter posted to the district's Facebook page.

"Our preparations for the school year was predicated on us having local control of decisions impacting COVID-19 spread in our school district," she wrote. "I believe we can provide the safest learning environment using our data to assess the danger of COVID-19 in our district. My position is the board's position is to stand for local control of decisions impacting the health of our students."

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