

Emergency roof work set at Enterprise school

Spray coating planned to tide school over until summer

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Emergency roof repairs are planned for this month at the Enterprise School after a leak was discovered and the school district's board of directors decided Sept. 22 to have the work done before winter, according to a press release.

The board approved an emergency roof-repair contract with Eagle Cap Construction of La Grande during a special meeting. The work was deemed necessary since the planned roof replacement under a school bond had been delayed until next summer because of a nationwide shortage of roofing materials, the release stated.

The leak in the high school roof was discovered Aug. 19. The district's roof design consultant, Structural Waterproofing Consultants of Wilsonville, then evaluated the roof and found that approximately 40% of the high school and cafeteria roofs required immediate repairs to be completed before winter.

"This year has been difficult for contractors to get construction materials," board Chairwoman Mandy Decker said in the release. "We needed to perform the emergency repair to ensure that our students could stay in classes in the buildings this winter. We look forward to replacing the entire roof next summer."

Under an emergency procurement declaration, the district solicited roof replacement and repair quotes from three contractors. The district selected Eagle Cap's repair proposal as the most cost-effective option to protect the district's buildings until a full roof replacement can be performed next summer. Eagle Cap will perform repairs on a time and materials basis, with costs



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Workers power clean the roof of the Enterprise High School on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, in preparation for an emergency repair job to be conducted the following week. The school board authorized the repair to be done before winter rather than waiting for the planned project scheduled for next summer.

capped at \$157,200.

Cassie Hibbert, project manager for the Wenaha Group — the district's bond project manager — said in an email Sept. 30 the emergency repair will be paid for out of the general obligation bond plus an Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant.

The scope of the emergency roof repair includes spraying Expandothane protective roof coating on top of the existing roof membrane on targeted areas on the high school, the cafeteria and other small areas of the junior high building. Eagle Cap has applied this product on several commercial buildings in the La Grande area to extend roof life.

Three-day job

Hibbert said the repair work won't take long. The contractor pressure washed the roof Friday to clean it so the spray coating will adhere to the existing membrane.

"We are watching the weather closely and are planning to have the contractor install the spray coating next week, likely on Tuesday and Wednesday," Hibbert said last week in an email. "It will take two days to install the spray coating."

She said the current roof is structurally sound, even though it's leaking. If a



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Emergency repairs to the flat-top membrane roof of Enterprise High School will be done this month after the Enterprise School Board approved an emergency roof-repair contract at a special meeting Sept. 22, 2021. It was determined the work needed to be done before winter.

repair isn't done, there is the potential for water to leak inside and damage finishes and be disruptive to school activities. She said students and staff are safe under the current roof.

Hibbert said the contractor will need to work during school hours to accomplish this work before the weather turns. The district and the Wenaha Group will closely coordinate the contractor's work to make sure that they are not disruptive of any school or extracurricular student activities and that all students and staff are safe during those three days the contractor is working.

The Enterprise community approved a general obligation bond in November 2020 for capital improve-

ment projects, including a roof replacement on the high school, junior high and primary buildings. Following bond approval, the district fast-tracked the design and bidding of the roof replacement for construction during summer 2021.

The district selected a roofing contractor in April, but due to national supply-chain constraints and raw-material shortages associated in part with the COVID-19 pandemic and early 2021 storms in the Southeast U.S., the contractor could not acquire material in time for summer construction. The district canceled that roof contract and will rebid the full roof project for construction during summer 2022, along with other bond projects.

An early look at COVID-19 breakthrough case data

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority has now released just over two months' worth of COVID-19 breakthrough case data.

A breakthrough case is where an individual had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, yet still come down with the virus.

How effective, then, is the vaccine at preventing COVID-19?

In Oregon, the latest breakthrough report, published Thursday, Sept. 30, showed there were a known total of 25,347 breakthrough cases in the state as of Sept. 25. More than 89% of those cases (22,636) have been reported since the OHA started tracking weekly breakthrough data during the week ending July 24. During that time, there were a total of 110,054 COVID-19 cases, meaning 20.6% of cases during that nine-week stretch were people who were vaccinated and 79.4% were unvaccinated.

At that time of the report, there were approximately 2.49 million Oregonians who had been fully vaccinated, which means to this point, of close to 2.5 million vaccinated Oregonians, only about 1.01% have reported getting COVID-19. For comparison's sake, the percentage of reported COVID-19 cases in Oregon during the pandemic, as of Sept. 25, was about 7.53% of the total population.

In Wallowa County, there have been 61 breakthrough cases reported as

of Sept. 25, meaning they made up around 11% of all known cases through that date. Through Sept. 25, there were 3,602 Wallowa County residents who had been fully vaccinated, meaning the rate of a breakthrough case locally is higher than the state rate at 1.7%. The county, on that date, had an overall infection rate of about 7.5%.

Hospitalization and death rates among breakthrough cases are running lower than the overall rate. Of the 25,347 known breakthroughs, there were 1,168 hospitalizations and 218 deaths — rates of 4.6% and 0.86%, respectively. Overall hospitalization and deaths rates have come down since the vaccine's implementation, and currently are at 5.39% and 1.15%.

Perhaps the starkest difference is change in survival rate among the most susceptible to COVID-19, those 80 and older. Mortality rates for that age group prevaccine varied between about 22-23%. Currently, in a breakthrough-case scenario, the mortality rate is about three times lower at 6.36%.

Of roughly 135,200 individuals 80 and older to get fully vaccinated, just 1,825 are known to have still contracted the virus, with 393 being hospitalized and 116 dying.

Overall, the survival rate of an individual contracting COVID-19 despite getting the vaccine, when looking at how many breakthrough cases and deaths there have been among the vaccinated, is 99.992%.

Joseph City Council to meet virtually Thursday

Meeting packet available online

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — Filling some vacant seats on the Joseph City Council will be on the agenda when it meets Thursday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m., according to a press release.

The formal agenda and packet supplied to city councilors is now available online at <https://towncloud.io/go/joseph-or>.

The meeting will be held virtually given coronavirus pandemic restrictions. To join the Zoom meeting, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88138754137?pwd=Z3c4WEFkUzdWL3RqdzhSbkFPSFRodz09>.

The meeting ID is 881 3875 4137 and the passcode is 269827. To attend by telephone, call 1-253-215-8782.

The vacant seats that need filling include appointing a new mayor pro-tem to replace Lisa Collier, who was voted to become mayor in September after the resignation of former Mayor Belinda Buswell. The former mayor moved out of Joseph, disqualifying her from holding the post.

The council also needs to fill Collier's now-vacant council seat and one left vacant July 1 when former Mayor Pro-Tem and City Councilor Kathy Bingham

resigned after being censured by the full council. She also was removed from committee assignments, which will have to be filled.

As of Monday, Oct. 4, according to the release, the council had received three applications for the vacant council seats. The applications came from Ryan Swindlehurst, Nancy Parmenter and Brinda Daggett Stanley. The council has the option of making an appointment or deferring such action to a later meeting.

Also on the agenda for Thursday, the council will:

- Consider a conditional use application from Scott Clark of Prairie City

for a shop or residence in a now-vacant lot that is in an R-1 (residential) zone. In his application, Clark stated he would like to construct a small single-story shop with living space, toilet and sink on the property between 5th and 6th streets, but has no egress at present.

• Hear a presentation by Brad Baird of Anderson Perry on the city's ongoing public works projects.

The next council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 4.

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