

New school playground ready for use

OUT OF THE PAST

Compiled by Cheryl Jenkins

100 YEARS AGO Oct. 20, 1921

The new addition to the school playground has been prepared for use. The additional space is nearly a block in area and will let all grades have recess at the same time.

The Red Cross shop had gross sales of \$172 in September. More donations of articles are needed at once, as well as magazines, firewood and a good stove.

In attempting to jump from a moving automobile, in front of J. H. Schell's store, Charles Simon fell and struck his head on the pavement, unconscious. For awhile his recovery was doubtful, but all is right with the exception of severe bruises.

75 YEARS AGO Oct. 24, 1946

Dr. E. R. Flack, veterinarian



Three Wallowa High School cheerleaders are shown in 1972.

Wallowa County Chieftain, File

of Wallowa county for 36 years, passed away this week at the Enterprise hospital.

Two of the boys on the Joseph football team received injuries in

the game with Cove. Bob Grandy was the victim of a badly dislocated right shoulder, and Horace Daggett received a cracked knee cap which required a cast.

Jay Dobbin, who has his sheep pastured at the Mike McFetridge place on upper Prairie creek, had the misfortune to lose about 75 head when dogs got to running them the other night and the sheep piled up and were smothered to death.

their annual caravan to Portland, delivering 11,681 pounds of food valued at \$2,008.82. They were joined by other caravans and numbered over 80 vehicles by the time they reached their destination.

25 YEARS AGO Oct. 17, 1996

Refurbishing work at Wallowa Lake dam is continuing. Nine thousand pounds of pressure grouting will be applied to steel plates inside tunnels 3, 4 and 5 this week.

Members of the Flora High School class of 1941 gathered for their 55 year class reunion. Attending were Loren Fleet, Wanda Bork Esposito, Margaret Gowey Botts, teacher Jean Cable Curry, Harry Danly and Georgia Tucker Lampkins.

Helen Bobbitt is retiring after 16 years as proprietor of the Wapiti Gift and Yarn Shop, one of the first tenants of the Wallowa Valley Mall when it opened in 1980.

50 YEARS AGO Oct. 21, 1971

A devastating fire broke out at the Roy Stonebrink home on South River street next to the Phillips 66 station, destroying much of the upper portion of the recently remodeled home. Dozens of neighbors and friends were able to remove nearly everything before being driven back by smoke.

Wallowa's new town marshal, 33-year-old Michael McCoy, was sworn in for his new position last week.

Eleven rigs from Wallowa County, laden with food for the Shrine Hospital in Portland, made

Winding Waters Medical Clinic purchases Ram Auto & Hardware

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — What for decades was a hardware store will soon become a site where Wallowa residents can nail down their health care needs.

Winding Waters Medical Clinic is buying Ram Auto & Hardware in Wallowa from owners Randal and Mary Johnson, who are going into retirement and are in the middle of a liquidation sale.

The Johnsons have owned the store for 16 years, Mary Johnson said.

"We had it for sale for seven years. We are of retirement age and looking forward to that, for sure," she said.

The purchase, Winding Waters CEO Nic Powers said, will give the clinic the opportunity to have a facility closer to many of its patients who currently have to travel to Enterprise.

"We've served hundreds



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Ram Auto & Hardware in Wallowa will be the location of a new Winding Waters Medical Clinic with the health care group buying the business from Randal and Mary Johnson.

of people a year from Wallowa, and see a need to bring integrated health care close to those folks," Powers said. "When we survey people we frequently hear transportation as a barrier to people getting the care they need."

Currently, patients are seen one day a week at the old Home Independent Telephone Co., the same building as the new Wallowa Mountain Midwifery.

A portion of the funding will come through a second

American Rescue Plan Act grant the clinic is receiving, this one in the amount of \$549,709. There are differences, though, in the ways the dollars can be utilized.

"My understanding is in April, the funding was about supporting organizations through providing COVID care and maintaining regular operations," he said. "This grant is very specific to health center construction and capital improvements."

So specific was the grant,

in fact, that there were tight limits on what an entity could use money for.

"When you wrote the grant, you could only write it for a very small set of things, construction of a new facility, expansion/renovation of a facility, or equipment," Powers said.

Winding Waters won't be trying to renovate the building, but instead will be tearing it down and building a facility that will serve medical, dental and mental health care needs, Powers said.

"We had a consultant look at it and determined that the structure that was there was not going to be feasible for a modern clinic," Powers said.

It will be operational five days a week, and will include five exam rooms, four dental operatories and two counseling rooms.

He said COVID-19 has made estimating costs difficult, but anticipates the new facility will come in at around \$2.1 million. More grants will be sought to cover

the roughly three-fourths of the remaining costs.

"The grant has helped us to be confident we can get going on the next steps. We are trying to determine that," Powers said, again alluding to the pandemic throwing a wrench in timelines. "We are seeking out and hoping to engage an architect and hoping to get going with the design."

Mary Johnson said the couple is hoping to have

its liquidation sale complete by the end of the year, and called the transition "bittersweet."

"The community has been very supportive of us, and we are very thankful for that," she said. "It's kind of a bittersweet ending for us. We're looking forward to retirement, but we won't have a hardware store."

Powers is hopeful the clinic will be operational by the spring of 2023.

IN BRIEF

Women can apply now for 'Live Your Dream' grants

ENTERPRISE — Applications are now available for the Soroptimist's annual Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women program.

This program is open to women who are their family's primary wage earner and who are seeking financial assistance to continue their education or receive training.

Applications are available online at soroptimist.org. A writable PDF is available, and the application must be submitted online by Nov. 15.

Application questions can be submitted to Gail Johnson at gjohnson@eoni.com or

541-602-2051, or to Leigh Dawson at ldawson23@gmail.com or 541-398-1549.

The award recipient will receive a \$2,000 cash grant from the Wallowa County Soroptimist club. The recipient will then advance to the region level for an opportunity at \$5,000. Three \$10,000 awards will be given at the final stage. More than \$1.6 million in cash grants is given out annually through the Live Your Dream Award.

Fire season ends Friday; burn ban lifted

WALLOWA COUNTY — After a long, hot and dry summer, fire season officially ends at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Oct. 22, according to Matt Howard of the Oregon Department of Forestry

office in Wallowa.

"We're going out of fire season Friday morning," he said Tuesday, Oct. 19.

What that means is landowners may burn without a permit.

"They're still liable (for property damage) if a burn spreads," Howard said.

He said people still need a permit if they're burning logging slash or other waste from forest thinning.

Permits for agricultural burns are obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The largest fire of the summer was the roughly 23,000-acre Elbow Creek Fire. Several other smaller fires burned, as well.

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the following materials cannot be burned even with the lifting of the ban: rubber and plastic products, tires, wet gar-

bage, petroleum and petroleum-treated materials, asphalt or industrial waste, material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

— Chieftain staff

Births

A daughter, Magnus "Maggie" Josephine Scott, was born Sept. 28, 2021 in Enterprise to Cameron Scott and Haley Thompson of Joseph. Grandparents are Jan Eagers, Michael Thompson, Mary Scott and William Scott.

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