

Joseph City Council back up to full strength

Nancy Parmenter voted to fill vacant seat

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Joseph City Council is back up to full strength, having unanimously voted to appoint Nancy Parmenter to fill the last vacant at-large seat at the council's meeting Thurs-

day, Dec. 2. Parmenter and Ryan Swindlehurst had submitted applications for the seat, but Swindlehurst withdrew his application Nov. 29. The council developed vacancies when Councilor Lisa Collier was appointed mayor upon the resignation of Belinda Buswell when she moved out of town. Former Councilor Kathy Bingham also resigned this summer after being censured.

The council still needs to fill some committee assignments, which were on the Dec. 2 agenda as an optional item, but no action was mentioned in an email from interim city Administrator Brock Eckstein. In another matter, the council decided on a new way to handle the city's annual Christmas lights competition. The two top-prize winners will be able to select a local nonprofit

or school organization to receive a donation from the city. The first-place winner will receive a \$200 donation and second place will receive \$100. The individual winners also will receive a credit to their water/sewer bills. The winners will be announced before Christmas to allow residents to view the homes while the lights are still on display. The council also directed Eckstein to develop two

new ordinances. One ordinance will establish clearer water/sewer rates for all zones in the city with a basic rate applied to each zone irrespective of meter size and make a more accurate charge based on usage. The other ordinance will allow a business owner with multiple units in one building to no longer be charged a master account. Currently, if a business has two shops located in one building, they

are charged three total services: one for each parcel and a "master" charge. Only the individual shops would be responsible for their bills. Eckstein said in his email that both ordinances are being developed in an effort to provide fairness to residents and businesses. He hopes to have both ordinances ready for passage at its Jan. 7 meeting. At that time, the public will have the opportunity for comment.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:
www.Wallowa.com

Save 50% on heating costs this winter
with Rinnai Propane Heaters!*

Rinnai
Heaters and other HVAC Parts & Services
not just propane!

Ed's Ed Staub & Sons
Energy Community Service. 201 East Hwy 82 Enterprise, OR • 541-426-0320

Chronic wasting disease found in deer near Oregon

Idaho hunters harvest two 30 miles from Wallowa County

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Hunters and anyone who comes in contact with a dead cervid — deer, elk or moose — are asked to bring in the heads for testing for chronic wasting disease, a neurological disease fatal to those animals. Bree Furfey, the Ore-

gon Department of Fish and Wildlife district wildlife biologist for Wallowa County, said Thursday, Dec. 9, that hunters harvested two deer in October in Idaho about 30 miles from the Oregon border. The deer has since tested positive for CWD. "It's never been close to Oregon before," she said, adding that means there has never been a case of CWD in the state. Furfey encouraged hunters or anyone coming upon a dead cervid to drop off the heads for disease sampling. A barrel is outside the Enterprise ODFW office and the offices in La Grande and Baker City. Information on where the animal came from should be included. According to an ODFW press release, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has taken immediate steps to increase surveillance to determine the prevalence rate of the disease in the area including via a special hunt. Oregon, too, is ramping up CWD testing of deer and elk, especially in Northeast Oregon, by asking hunters, road-kill salvagers and others to help the department look for any cases of the disease in Oregon deer and elk. There are only a handful of moose in the state and there's no legal hunting of them.



Terry Kreeger/Wyoming Game and Fish
This deer has visible signs of chronic wasting disease. Two deer harvested in Idaho in October just 30 miles from Wallowa County tested positive for CWD recently and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking anyone who has taken a deer to turn in the head for testing.

The ODFW already has emailed tag holders for ongoing and upcoming deer and elk hunts in select Northeastern Oregon units requesting they provide parts from their deer or elk for testing if they are successful on the hunt. Barrels placed at various locations will make it easier for these hunters to submit a head for sampling by biologists and veterinarians. Beginning in 2022, it will be mandatory for anyone transporting wildlife carcasses or parts to stop at a check station if they encounter one and to allow their animal to be tested. A cervid parts import ban also remains in effect: Oregon residents or those traveling through who are returning from hunting out of state may not bring in certain cervid parts that contain brain or spinal cord tissues as these are known to be tissues of CWD concentration in infected animals. Several hunters have been cited for violating this regulation, most recently in Klamath County. Oregonians who hunt in other states also need to be aware of and follow that state's regulations for CWD. Furfey said that ODFW has been closely watching for CWD since the late

1990s and has tested more than 23,000 samples since then. No tests have returned positive, she said. She said it is not believed that CWD can be transmitted to humans, pets or livestock, but it is always fatal to cervids. She said it comes from a protein that lives in the environment and can for several years while passing between animals. She said if an animal tests positive, it is recommended to not eat the meat.

Alarming news
"The news of an Idaho detection is alarming, but we have been working for years to keep CWD out of Oregon and preparing to respond if it is detected here," said Colin Gillin, ODFW's state wildlife veterinarian. Gillin has been active in national efforts to monitor and slow the spread of CWD for decades through participation in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Health Committee. He currently serves in the leadership of the wildlife health committee and as a co-editor for national guidance on AFWA Best Management Practices for surveillance and response of CWD. Furfey said the positive Idaho test so close to Oregon makes it all the more alarming because once it arrives in Oregon, it may be here to stay. "There's no effective way to eradicate it once it becomes established," she said. She said there's also no cure or vaccine for the disease.

Symptoms
As for symptoms of CWD, a cervid may have the disease for months or years before it becomes apparent. "You can harvest a perfectly looking animal and not be able to tell," Furfey said. Symptoms include staggering, poor posture, a wide stance, apparent disorientation, lowered ears, an emaciated appearance, consuming lots of water and drooling. "But again, it could take months or years for those symptoms to show up," she said. Furfey said anyone with questions may call the ODFW's Enterprise office at 541-426-3279 and talk to a wildlife biologist. ODFW also has offices in La Grande and Baker City.

Modern Healthcare

Best Places to Work™

2021

Are you looking for a job that provides purpose in your daily life with a great starting wage and unbeatable benefits? Perhaps even an opportunity for advancement?

Check out our available job postings at www.wchcd.org/careers today.
Wallowa Memorial is an equal opportunity employer.

CMS QUALITY

Wallowa Memorial Hospital & Medical Clinics

INMAR intelligence | **LIFE IN CHECK™**
CONSUMER DRUG TAKE-BACK

TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET!

Help prevent drug misuse, and protect our water supply from improper drug disposal.

Safely Dispose of Unused or Expired Medications

Find a disposal location near you at safemedicinedrop.com

"As the shoppers rush home with their treasures."

Let those treasures from your business be known this holiday season, buy advertising in the Wallowa County Chieftain!

Wallowa County CHIEFTAIN

Contact Jennifer Cooney TODAY!
jac.sms@gmail.com • 541-805-9630

JAC's Innovative Sales and Marketing Solutions
Jennifer Cooney Independent Sales Contractor

ColemanOil

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- Conveniently Located
- Accepting all Major Credit/Debit and CFN Cards
- Easily Accessible for Semi trucks, Campers and RV's
- Non-Ethanol Premium
- 24/7 Fueling

ColemanOil 71051 HWY 82 Wallowa, OR 97885 888-799-2000 www.colemanoil.com