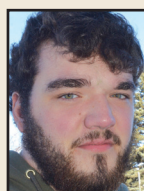




Wallowa County Voices



Landon Greenshields
Enterprise

He hopes to return to make county his home

ENTERPRISE — Landon Greenshields has lived all of his 19 years in Wallowa County and hopes to continue making it his home after college.

After he graduates from Enterprise High School this spring, he plans to attend Eastern Oregon University to study biology and work in mammalogy to study wild animals.

This is a bit of a departure from the veterinary practice his father, Randy Greenshields, co-owns in Enterprise and where his sister, Brooke, works. Both are veterinarians.

"I'm planning to study wild mammals and such," he said. "Hopefully to inform the public on how they work. It'd be fun to do my own studies around here."

He hopes to be able to return to Wallowa County once he graduates.

Greenshields has been active in FFA and 4-H since he was a child, mostly raising swine. As a kid, he often worked at his dad's clinic cleaning up and doing some of the other minor chores.

He recently shared his thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

How small it is and being able to have a little bit more room, compared to the cities. There are other things to do here compared to what the city offers. I've never lived in a big city, but I've visited and it doesn't give off the same vibe as Wallowa County and a small town does.

Are you getting cabin fever yet?

No. I don't ever really. I don't mind the winters. I just try to stay warm and have a little fun with it — snowball fights, building a snowman.

What are you looking forward to as the weather warms?

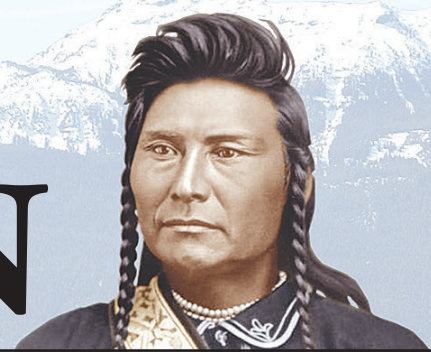
Definitely swimming in the lake. That and being able to travel more with the better weather.

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

If you don't like long winters, don't move to Wallowa County.

— *Bill Bradshaw*
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Woman found guilty of mistreatment

Betsy Lathrop convicted of taking father's resources

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A Lostine woman accused of multiple charges of criminal mistreatment and identity theft involving her father was convicted Wednesday, Feb. 9, in Wallowa County Circuit Court in Enterprise on four of the 28 counts in the original

indictment.

Betsy Jo Ann Lathrop, 55, was accused of 20 counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment, a Class C felony, alleged to have taken place between Nov. 21, 2014, and July 8, 2016, in violation of her legal duty to provide care for an elderly person, her father, Robert "Wayne" Lathrop, according to court records. The elder Lathrop died in December 2018. Betsy Lathrop was not his legal guardian, but did she have power of attorney for him, her attorney said.

The jury trial was before Senior Judge John Collins out of Yamhill County. He will preside over sentencing at 2 p.m. Feb. 22

in Enterprise.

La Grande attorney Jim Schaeffer, who was appointed by the court as Lathrop's public defender, said on Feb. 14 he expects she will appeal the convictions and any sentence as well.

"That would be on the basis of the sufficiency of the evidence," Schaeffer said, though that would be for her appellate attorney to determine.

According to court records, the specifics of the 20 counts include payment of Wayne Lathrop's bar tab, the purchase and installation of new flooring in Betsy Lathrop's home in Lostine, the purchase of a Lexus, the purchase of a pickup for Betsy Lathrop's daughter and cash with-

drawn and/or checks to Betsy Lathrop.

Lathrop also was accused of eight counts of identity theft — also a Class C felony — on various dates between October and December 2016 when she allegedly wrote checks using her father's identification, according to court records. She was acquitted on the identity theft charges.

Lathrop was convicted of the counts that accused her of purchasing and having installed new flooring and a washer and dryer at her Lostine home. She also was convicted of using her

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Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Skip Peppers, of the Verdin Co., solders a connection while installing a new control system for the carillon bell system at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022. The old system, which was installed in the 1990s, has been out of commission for a couple of years.

Let the bells ring

'Big Brown Church' in Enterprise gets new carillon

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — After a couple of years of silence, the bells at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church are ringing again, since a new carillon was installed Thursday, Feb. 10.

Church member Stacy Green said the old carillon ceased to work a couple years ago. A carillon is a set of bells in a tower, played using a keyboard or by an automatic mechanism similar to a piano roll. According to the Guild of Carillonners of North America there are 166 traditional carillons in the USA and Enterprise has one of those.

The carillon, installed by Skip Peppers of the Verdin Co., who drove up from Boise, Idaho, on Thursday morning, is largely the legacy left by longtime musical director and pianist at the "Big Brown Church," Gail Swart.

"We have had a carillon, according to Verdin's records, since 1964," Green said. "Verdin replaced the 1964 model in the 1990s and that lasted until a couple of years ago. We were trying to repair it and we couldn't repair it and we just decided we needed a new one, but that was \$12,000, so it was a big expense."

Swart was instrumental in getting the new sound system in place.



Alys Shetler/Contributed Photo

Gail Swart plays piano at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church during its Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24, 2021. It was her last public performance before she died Jan. 28. She was behind raising the money needed to replace the church's carillon.

"It was something that was important to Gail Swart, who was our longtime music director. Gail passed away Jan. 28," Green said.

and she was thrilled to know that it would go forward."

Ken Holt, chairman of the church's board of trustees,

"WE HOPE EVERY TIME PEOPLE HEAR THE BELLS, IT'LL BRING JOY TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD."

— *Stacy Green*, church member

"She helped raise the money. She sent out letters and put the word out that we were trying to raise the money. That was last fall. Shortly after that, she was diagnosed with cancer. This was a project that was important to her

recalled Swart's longstanding commitment to music at the church.

"She started playing here when she was 12 years old," he said.

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Enterprise schools get ready to build

Money's in place, bid accepted, others going out

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Despite a one-year delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Enterprise School District is gearing up for construction projects to be done this year — and next — at Enterprise School.

District voters in 2020 approved a \$4 million bond measure that was matched with a \$4 million Oregon School Capital Improvement grant. The district also received a \$540,454 federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant and \$111,682 in state energy grants, for a total of more than \$8.85 million to complete urgent construction needs, according to a flyer circulated to district voters last month.

Work is scheduled to begin in May.

Top priorities

The highest-priority project is a new roof for the primary school, middle school and the secondary school buildings, said interim Superintendent Tom Crane during an interview Thursday, Feb. 3.

"The roof is the No. 1 project," Crane said. "We're going to get the roof done and we're going to get the HVAC done this summer."

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning will be funded largely by the bond funds, while the ESSER grant covers ventilation, the flyer stated.

But it's the roof that's the most urgent priority, as it's been experiencing leaks.

"They did a temporary fix on the roof and it's pretty-much holding," Crane said, adding — in jest — that if new leaks occur, "We'll tell the kids to bring their buckets, their rain coats, their rain hats, whatever. ... The point is the roof has always been the No. 1 priority and we're going to get it done and done right."

All the school's buildings are in need of work, Crane said. The middle school was built in 1918, the secondary school in 1960 and the smaller primary building was built in 1950.

Cassie Hibbert, the project manager with Wenaha Group, which handles the construction projects for the school district, said it's time to replace the roofs, as the last time they were replaced was after the district's last bond project in 2004. She also took part in the Feb. 3 interview.

"The roofs have passed their

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