

# Enterprise may have to return ARPA funds

But Oregon not on 'claw-back' plan list for its \$443K

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Some of the federal American Rescue Plan Act funds the city of Enterprise is to receive may have to be returned, the City Council was told during its meeting Monday, March 14, according to a press release from City Hall.

The city resolved at its Feb. 14 meeting to distribute the \$443,000 it has received under the American Rescue Plan Act distributed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on March 14 city Administrator Lacey McQuead announced the possibility that some of the funds may have to be returned. City attorney Wyatt Baum agreed that losing the funds is a possibility, so McQuead said none of the funds will be spent until the expected second round of funding is received. She said the next round is expected in July or August and is to total \$221,795.

She said after the meeting that there was a notice sent out regarding a "claw-back plan," that would have rescinded recently allocated funds.

"However, it doesn't sound like Oregon is a part of the rescinding funds discussion, as it was not on the list of 30 states this could impact," McQuead said in an email.

Fire Chief Paul Karvoski said there is a concern over rising prices and the list of funding requests he had previously made likely will go up.

After a discussion by the council, it was agreed the ARPA Committee will review recommendations made, make adjustments and revisit the issue at the next council meeting.

## Housing study

In another matter, Katy Nesbitt, the county's director of natural resources and economic development, presented a housing study completed by Zack Cahill of Eastern Oregon University that had been simplified by the county housing committee. Nesbitt explained the results of the study, focusing on how the city of Enterprise can help.

Sara Miller, of the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, spoke on the benefit of having city staff and its Planning Commission actively involved in the process to improve the housing shortage.

McQuead told the council that the city currently has two representatives — herself and John Lawrence — serving on the group two Workforce Housing Team. The city also has received \$50,000 for a Technical Assistance Grant from the state Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Of that amount, \$25,000 will be allocated to help

find solutions with the workforce housing and middle-income housing shortage and \$25,000 will be allocated to an economic analysis study, both of which will be part of the city comprehensive plan.

## Pump track

The council also heard from Angela Mart, president of the Wallowa Mountains Bicycle Club, which is promoting the construction of a pump track on city property. Mart and club Vice President Zeb Burke visited a proposed site near the city well and agreed to move forward with the next step, the application for a conditional use permit. McQuead said she would email an application to Mart and review with Baum the requirements for the city moving ahead with the project.

## Other business

In other business, the council:

- Heard a request by Dave Hayslip regarding speeding on East First Street and East Park Street. The council asked Enterprise Police Chief Kevin McQuead for more police presence for that location. In his department report, Chief McQuead explained the rise in thefts in the city.
- Heard a thank-you letter submitted by Ron Pickens of Building Healthy Families.

- Approved an event permit submitted by New Life Film for a street and sidewalk closure in order to shoot an indie feature film. The request was modified to a one-day closure rather than the originally requested three days.
- Approved Resolution No. 676, which describes the operating parameters for 2022.

- Heard requests for CETRA Grant Applications of \$2,000 each for the Courthouse Concert Series, the Juniper Jam, the Main Street Show & Shine and Hells Canyon Mule Days. The Motel Tax Committee is to review the applications and submit a recommendation for approval at the council's April meeting.
- Approved a recommendation from a member of the city's Budget Committee, Christie Huston, who recommended accepting the resignation of committee member Kim Stoffel and appointing Hayslip to fill Stoffel's position.
- Administrator McQuead reminded the council of a budget freeze set to take place in April. In his department report, Fire Chief Karvoski said he is attempting to fill positions caused by recent retirements.
- In his department report, Public Works Director Shawn Young shared concern for the sale of property at the end of Golf Course Road due to utility easements that go through the property. He asked for a review of those easements once the descriptions are received from the title company.

The next council meeting will be April 11.

# Lilts of the Emerald Isle



Lisa Murphy/Contributed Photo

The Burns Family & Friend provide Irish music Saturday, March 19, 2022, while the Hurricane Creek Grange served a corned beef and cabbage dinner for St. Patrick's Day. The grange earned about \$300 in the fundraiser.

# Bike playground adds another \$1,000 to coffers

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Fundraising efforts toward the planned bicycle playground at Wallowa have reached about two-thirds of the needed money, after youths sold about \$1,000 worth of tickets in a drawing for a barbecue grill.

A drawing for the grill was held Thursday, March 17, at the site of the future playground at Wallowa School. Todd Pederson of Wallowa was the winner of the Traeger wood-fired grill valued at \$900, said Ron Pickens, who is spearheading the project. The grill was donated by Ace Hardware in Enterprise. Tickets cost \$3 each.

He said the expected budget for the playground is about \$235,000.

Annette Moeller's sixth-grade class at Wallowa Middle School had the honor of drawing the winner, with class member Gavin Schaeffer earning the right to actually draw the ticket. Pickens said the selection of Moeller's class was entirely random.

"We're just trying to spread the love," he said, adding that all the Wallowa students had the opportunity to participate in the fundraising efforts.

Together, the class shouted, "Thank you Wallowa County."

Next on the project's fundraising drive is a Wallowa School Piggy Bank Coin Drive. That will run from March 28 to April 15. Plastic jugs decorated as piggy banks will be placed in various locations around the county to take donations for the project, Pickens said.

"The winning class gets a pizza party at the end," he



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Middle School sixth-grader Gavin Schaeffer draws the winner for a barbecue grill raffled off as part of the fundraising efforts to pay for the new bicycle playground to be built in the field behind the kids at the school. Todd Pederson of Wallowa won the grill. Ron Pickens of Building Healthy Families, who is spearheading the project, holds the bucket of tickets.

said, as well as a sponsorship plaque on a piece of playground equipment.

The kindergarten class from Wallowa Elementary School will have its "piggy bank" at the Wallowa Public Library, the first grade's bank will be at M. Crow in Lostine, second-grade donations will be taken at Goebel's in Wallowa, third-grade donations can be taken at Wallowa County Grain Growers in Enterprise, fourth-graders can donate at ACE Hardware in Enterprise, the fifth-grade bank will be at the Wallowa Mountain Bar and Grill in Wallowa and the sixth-grade bank will be at Wallowa Food City.

Pickens, a prevention coordinator and alternative school teacher with Building Healthy Families in Enterprise, spearheaded last year's project to refurbish the Enterprise Skate

Park. Since then, he became interested in seeing a similar project built in Wallowa, where he lived until recently.

He said originally, the groundbreaking was scheduled for August, but the schedule has been moved up.

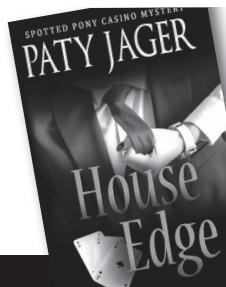
"Now we're going to break ground in early July and hope to open in mid-summer," he said.

The project is expected to accommodate bikes, scooters, roller blades and

skateboards in a colorful space that kids can play in, Pickens said.



**Births**  
A daughter, Holland Tye Layton, was born March 11, 2022, in Enterprise to Kelsey and Jacob Layton of Wallowa. Grandparents are Rene and Ron Layton, Elizabeth Phelan and Terry Kamlade.



This week's featured book  
**House Edge**

The newest book by Eastern Oregon author, Paty Jager, who will be doing a reading at the Bookloft, March 25th at 3 p.m.

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**Rock Botham**  
4/6/55 - 2/14/22

Graveside services for Rock will be set at a later date when we can gather in the warm sunshine. The family asks that next time you pour a cup of coffee, start your chainsaw, saddle your horse, or click into your skis, think of Rock and remember the wonderful man he was. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Ferguson Ridge Ski Area or your favorite charitable organization.

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Applications available on the Soroptimist website: wallowacountysoroptimist.org, or at the Thrift Shop on Friday or Saturday

Application deadline April 15, 2022  
Mail to Soroptimist, P.O. Box 127, Enterprise, OR 97828 or return to Thrift Shop on Friday or Saturday

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