

DA's Office completes security upgrades

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County District Attorney's Office recently completed a security upgrade to enable better services to the public, while also improving safety of employees, clients and the victims they serve, according to a press release from DA Rebecca Frolander.

The DA's Office also encompasses the county's Victims' Assistance Program and Child Support Enforcement Program and works with a variety of people from all walks of life.

"It allows people who work in office to be more safe while working in and doing business in the office without requiring them to schedule an appointment to enter our office," Frolander said Wednesday, March 23. "Now we have doors that are more difficult to breach."

A new bullet-resistant security window makes it so the public no longer has to call ahead for an appointment, she said.

"It allows us to serve members of public in the hallway," she said. "It also is more convenient in the office."

Formerly, the office had to have a locked-door policy.

"That was the only way we could address security issues," she said. "It was very inconvenient. ... With our new ballistic pass-through window, we can deal with public directly at the time they are seeking assistance."

The security upgrades cost \$31,290.54, Frolander said. That was up from an initial estimate of \$26,848 that didn't take into consideration a higher prevailing wage or the cost of the building permit or shipping of materials.

"Through a combination of funding sources including the Victims of Crime Act funds administered through the Oregon Crime Victims



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County District Attorney Rebecca Frolander points to the TV screens that show what the office's new security cameras see Wednesday, March 23, 2022.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County District Attorney Rebecca Frolander stands behind the new bullet-resistant window at her office Wednesday, March 23, 2022. The window, bullet-resistant doors and security cameras were installed March 3.

and Survivor Services Division, the Oregon Department of Justice which authorizes reimbursement funds for costs related to Child Support Enforcement, a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation to improve public safety and the support of the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, the District Attorney's Office was able to accomplish this project," the press release stated.

Frolander said the orig-

inal VOCA grant was expanded by \$10,000 to address COVID pandemic-related issues and the grant covered \$17,640.76 of the total project, including the door for the Victims' Assistance Program, and the bullet-resistant pass-through window, the building permit, half of the shipping expenses and the closed-circuit camera system. The Wildhorse Foundation was asked for a grant to pay for 1/3 of the

bullet-resistant doors and it came through with \$7,955. The DOJ reimbursed the county \$4,504.43, for two-thirds of the cost of the door that is the main access to the Child Support Enforcement Office, and two-thirds of one quarter of the shipping costs. However, Frolander said, her office had to take another \$1,190.35 out of its general budget to complete the project.

The upgrades were completed March 3 by Cody Aschenbrenner and his team from Silver Lining Construction. Working in phases beginning in September, the workers were regularly plagued by delays, primarily caused by shipping of materials and the need to work around scheduled trials.

The COVID pandemic brought into focus the need to restrict access to individual offices and also provided an opportunity to better protect the office staff and the victims of crime for whom they seek justice.

The project was the culmination of three years of gathering funding to improve safety of the office and the people it serves.

Police chief urges public's vigilance to deter thefts

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — As prices rise, so do the tendencies for people to get light-fingered and take things that are not theirs, Enterprise Police Chief Kevin McQuead told the City Council at its last meeting Monday, March 14.

The chief elaborated on that March 23 in an interview with the Chieftain.

"When we have increasing prices across the board, people become desperate," he said. "It was good that the city council got it and we want the public to, as well."

He wants the public to be aware of the potential for theft at their homes and businesses.

"I just want to make sure people are aware of their things and not leaving things out," he said. "Let's keep the honest people honest."

McQuead said he doesn't have numbers or a percentage to illustrate the increase in crime, but it has been noticeable.

"We are seeing a slight uptick in thefts," he said.

McQuead said the county, as a whole, is vulnerable. In addition to homes and businesses, he said, storage units can be targets for thieves.

"Everything's vulnerable with that kind of behavior," he said. "People need to take the necessary precautions."

In addition to not leaving items in one's yard that might tempt a thief, he suggested installing security cameras. He said they are both a good deterrent and the video can be used as evidence in case of a theft.

"The owner can hand over that video and we can investigate any case," he said.

But the real point is to get the public's help preventing crime.

"Think about your yard and what's available for the prying eyes of the public," McQuead said. "We want to be proactive and have homeowners do too. ... We can't keep an eye on everybody's things."



McQuead

This week's featured book

In Love:

A Memoir of Love and Loss

by Amy Bloom

107 E. Main St. Enterprise OR
541-426-3351
manager@bookloft.org • bookloft.org

12th annual Circle 100 Club to meet in person

Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation

ENTERPRISE — After a two-year hiatus on in-person gatherings, the Circle 100 Club — a giving circle of local women sponsored by the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation — will hold its one and only annual meeting in person Thursday, April 7.

The meeting will be held in the front reception room of the Enterprise Christian Church from 4:30-6 p.m., rather than Wallowa Memorial Hospital, which is still under the governor's mask mandate for hospitals and health care clinics.

"We're very excited to hold our first Circle 100 Club meeting in two years," foundation Director Stacy Green said. "We appreciate all the women who supported us through the pandemic, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone again."

At the meeting, Circle 100 members will hear about this year's project request from the hospital. Past projects have included obtaining new equipment for the physical therapy department, an incubator for struggling newborns and the ability to perform stress echocardi-

ograms, to name a few.

The club has doubled in size and donated \$187,100 since its inception to help improve and expand health care services in Wallowa County.

"When I joined Circle 100 a few years ago, I was amazed at how much the group was able to raise, just by each member donating \$100," said retired teacher Marla Dotson, who joined the foundation board in 2020. "It's really incredible how popular the group has become."

Circle 100 was founded in 2011 by the female members of the foundation board at that time: Gail Swart,

Glenda Underhill, Saralyn Johnson, Denise Dawson, Nancy Waters and Karen Coppin. The idea was formed to get more women involved in the work of the Foundation, and as a way to bring women together to raise money for a specific project. By giving \$100 each, each woman could make an equal contribution and, joined together, make a significant impact to local health care.

Today, the women of the board are: Diana Collins, Jolene Cox, Marla Dotson, Rebecca Knapp and newest board member, Suzi Brown.

In 2015, the men of the foundation board decided

to form their own group, Men's Guild 100, at the urging of foundation founder Don Swart, Sr. Today, the men of the board are President David Smyth, John Hillock, Eric Johnson, Terry Jones and Vearl Lewis. The Men's Guild will meet Tuesday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. at M Crow & Co. in Lostine.

For more information about Circle 100 Club and Men's Guild, contact the foundation at 541-426-1913.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Wednesday April 13th 2022

Wallowa Elementary School

REGISTRATION BETWEEN 6 & 7 PM

Parents, please bring your child's birth certificate, SSN (voluntary) and immunization records.

Child must be five years old on or before September 1st 2022

Joseph Curb Ramps Open House meeting April 4

Join us to hear about sidewalk work this summer

The Oregon Department of Transportation invites you to a Public Open House Meeting, April 4 where we will share information and hear comments regarding our sidewalk curb ramp project to be constructed this year in downtown Joseph. All interested parties are encouraged attend.

Meeting Date/Time: April 4, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: The Joseph Community Center, 102 East First Street.

More information is available by visiting the project webpage at www.tinyurl.com/josephcurbramps, where you can see work location maps, view background information and send us a meeting RSVP (which will help us set up the venue). You can also contact ODOT Community Affairs Specialist Vicki Moles for more information (phone: 541-620-4527, email: Vicki.L.Moles@odot.oregon.gov).

We look forward to meeting you face to face regarding this important mobility and safety project along Main Street, Wallowa Avenue and the Wallowa Lake Highway (OR 82, OR 350 and OR 351).

Happy 102nd Birthday

to Jo Bollman on April 5 2022!

YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

The Nature Conservancy would like to offer a turkey hunting opportunity to the youth of Wallowa County. Two youth hunters will be chosen via random draw. Hunters must be between the ages of 12-17. Chosen youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult (21 yrs or older) during their hunt.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4/3/22

To sign up for the random draw, email Chad Dotson at chad.dotson@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™
541-426-3458 • 906 S. River Street
Enterprise, OR 97828