

Wallowa County food bank not touched by inflation, for now

By JACK PARRY
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — As trying economic times stretch across the country, it is important to remember that some of the government's essential services, like food banks, are going through similar struggles.

Surprisingly, those struggles haven't had a noticeable effect on Community Connection of Wallowa County, a food distribution center in Enterprise.

Danielle Brockamp, the manager of the center, said that effects of recent inflation and rising gas prices aren't having that much of an impact on the branch.

"I went back the past couple months, and there really hasn't been anything out of the ordinary," she said.

Brockamp, who started at Community Connections in April, only noticed that ground beef was becoming harder to obtain and hasn't seen a huge increase in people served at the moment.

"We have not seen that, yet," She said. "We have not seen a whole lot of an increase in our food bank usage yet."



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Danielle Brockamp, the manager of Community Connection of Wallowa County in Enterprise, shows the well-stocked freezers of the food bank Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Even though Wallowa County seems fine, the Northeast Oregon Regional Food Bank Manager at Community Connection Audrey Smith has seen a change in her region as a whole, which includes Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa counties.

She reported a 7.5% increase in food boxes, which are given out once a month. Also, the food bank has had a 23% increase in produce, bread and grocery rescue boxes. Produce boxes are given out multiple times a month, so the

data tends to vary more.

"You have a few extra people coming in to get food boxes, and you have a lot of people that are using our produce and grocery rescue program more often," she said.

So why is Wallowa County's food bank not experiencing similar trends? Smith believes that's because it's a lot smaller than other locations with just two pantries in Enterprise and Wallowa. The economic impacts may be harder to notice in Enterprise than they are in the region.

"From January through April, we had an average of 124 people come to the pantry, in May we had 155," she said. "That is a little bit of an increase."

Brockamp believes that the effects on produce boxes in Wallowa County may not be apparent because of the supply they get from large outside sources.

"Our Harvest Share and our Fresh Alliance that we get from Safeway helps to supplement our food bank ... that helps to sustain our fresher foods, the meat and the salads and stuff like that," she said.

While Brockamp said transportation costs aren't affecting the Enterprise-based center, Smith said that the region has been renting a U-Haul truck two times a week to transport produce across Eastern Oregon. They are still waiting for a refrigerated truck that they received a grant for in December of last year.

With gas prices exceeding expectations for grants that they received, the cost of renting a U-Haul is really hurting the produce program.

"We'll continue to do it as long as we can," Smith said.

JOSEPH CITY COUNCIL

Joseph to hear public on Iwetemlaykin, UGB

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — A public hearing to consider modifying the city of Joseph's urban growth boundary will take place Thursday, July 7, during the City Council's monthly meeting.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Joseph Community Events Center. The public is welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.

Under the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the city is required to maintain an adequate supply of land for residential use within its UGB to meet housing needs. The city intends to accomplish this through a UGB swap by including new lands within the UGB (73.4 acres currently zoned Wallowa County rural residential) to be rezoned city of Joseph Urban-Growth Residential to replace approximately 69.9 acres of land currently in the UGB that comprise the Oregon State Park known as the Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site, which will be removed from the UGB currently

zoned UG-R, to be rezoned R-1.

The city's plan currently identifies the Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site as zoned for residential use; however, the site is no longer available to meet the city's housing needs due to the site's establishment as a state park.

Public opposition put a stop to a planned "hospitality project" on a parcel adjacent to Iwetemlaykin in March when more than 70 people showed up at the events center on a requested change for a zoning request. Only two of the public comments were in favor of the project, the rest being opposed.

Also at Thursday's meeting, a request for a zoning change from commercial to residential and a conditional use permit for a recreational vehicle park at the same address will be considered.

The zone change and conditional use permit have been requested by John Zurita for 709 N. Main St. Zurita is listed as the property owner on the application.

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Entries taken for 40th annual Festival of Arts

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — Entries are now being taken for the 40th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts by Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, according to a press release.

The deadline is 10:30 p.m. Sunday, July 31.

The festival is the largest juried fine-art exhibition in Eastern Oregon, featuring representational and traditional realism from the Pacific Northwest and beyond, as well as contemporary art, according to a

press release. The festival reflects the beauty, culture and traditions of the region through its arts and artists.

Consistent with that intent, any subject, style, or medium within the categories listed below will be considered by our jury. The categories are as follows:

- Sculpture: Any three-dimensional work in wood, clay, stone, bronze or other metal.

- Painting: Oil, acrylic or watercolor.

- Drawing: Pastel, pencil, graphite, charcoal, ink or

any combination thereof.

- Printmaking: Woodblock, engraving, etching, monoprint, aquatint, linotype, lithography, silkscreen or digital art prints.

- Photography: Any image captured, either on light-sensitive film or electronically in digital form, including digitally or otherwise altered prints.

- Other: Glass, jewelry, fiber arts, ceramics or mixed media.

Copies, kits, reproductions or work done under the supervision of an instructor

are not eligible.

Accepted artists will be invited to participate in our quick draw and plein air painting events and provided with one complementary ticket to the opening reception. Additional tickets can be purchased through the Josephy Center in person and online.

For more information and instructions to apply, visit the website josephy.org or <https://josephy.org/event/40th-annual-wallowa-valley-festival-of-arts-application>.

IN BRIEF

Fast-Track Grants awarded to three organizations

WALLOWA COUNTY — The Lewis-Clark Valley Healthcare Organization announced on Thursday, June 23 that organizations in its service area that have received the third round of Fast-Track Grants, three of them are based in Wallowa County.

These grants are between \$2,500 and \$10,000, and are meant to provide a quick turnaround for small nonprofits who focus on health, wellness or disease prevention. A total of \$165,050 was awarded to 23 nonprofits.

The three Wallowa County organizations that received these grants include the Rotary Foundation of Wallowa County in Enterprise, which intends to use the funds for the Innaha Founders Program and the recruitment of new responders. The other organizations are the Wallowa Mountains Bicy-

cle Club in Joseph, which will use it on a bikes for kids initiative, and the County of Wallowa in Enterprise. It will fund the Wallowa County Air Room Air Purifier Distribution Program.

Family Crafty Friday taking place at Josephy Center

JOSEPH — A recurring event at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph began Friday, June 29, where families can gather to enjoy and learn arts and crafts, according to a press release.

The free Family Crafty Friday takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the summer.

Families can drop in to enjoy a free craft-making experience together. Make what you'd like or follow one of the center's ready-made project ideas with help from the craft assistant.

The center will supply all the materials and some inspiration.

Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult or an older pal.

The center is located at 403 N. Main St. in Joseph. For more information, call 541-432-0505 or email artdirector@josephy.org.

Wood-carving workshop planned at Josephy Center

JOSEPH — A two-day relief wood-carving workshop will take place at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph taught by local legend Steve Arment, according to a press release.

The workshop will be held July 9-10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. A lunch break will be held.

Interested wood carvers are urged to bring their ideas and come learn from Arment the basics of relief woodcarving.

This workshop is in honor of his current Josephy exhibit, Heartwood.

Cost for the workshop is \$195.

The center is located at 403 N. Main St. in Joseph. For more information, call 541-432-0505 or email artdirector@josephy.org.

Native Sport Raffle to support Josephy library, exhibits

JOSEPH — A raffle for a chance to win one of two items related to American Indian will be held Friday, July 29, at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, according to a press release.

The Native Sport Raffle will take place from 4-5 p.m. Tickets cost from \$10-\$25.

The prizes are a beaded bag made by Roger Amerman or a framed Indian relay race photograph by Dallas Dick.

Purchase tickets online or at the center.

Proceeds go to support the Josephy Library of Western History and Culture Exhibits there.

For more information, call 541-432-0505 or email artdirector@josephy.org.

— Chieftain staff

This week's featured book

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