Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic now open on Saturdays

BIZZ BUZZ

By Bill Bradshaw

JOSEPH — Responding to customer surveys, the Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic in Joseph began in June to keep office hours on Saturdays, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

"We listened to the people and wanted to give them what they asked for," said Brooke Pace, communications and public relations director for Wallowa Memorial Hospital.

The clinic is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. That is in addition to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

The clinic, which opened April 2, 2021 after five years of planning, began as a basic primary care facility. Staff surveyed local residents who came to the new facility on tours to determine what they desired in their new clinic.

WALLOWA MEMORIAL MEDICAL CLINIC — JOSEPH

What: Primary care clinic

Where: 800 N. Main St, Joseph

When: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Phone: 541-426-7900; hospital 541-426-3111

Online appointments: wallowamemorialmedicalclinics.org.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Brooke Pace, communications and public relations director for Wallowa Memorial Hospital, straightens a pillow in one of the examination rooms at the hospital's Joseph clinic Thursday, June 30, 2022. The clinic started having Saturday hours in June.

"We started for a number of reasons," Pace said of the reasons for opening on Saturdays. "Access is incredibly important to us at Wallowa Memorial," she said.

"When building the clinic, we conducted tours of the facility and asked the community about hours and what they wanted to see. There was a strong desire for Saturday hours, as many people can't get away from work or other responsibilities during the week. People can schedule a visit ahead of time or make a same-day appointment by calling. … We are also hoping that by having hours on Saturday, both locals and tourists won't end up in the emergency department for nonemergent medical needs."

Beginning Saturday hours in June worked well with what goes on in Joseph during the summer. As tourism increases and more people are in town, there's an accompanying need for health care — but not necessarily at a hospital.

Pace said the clinic is there for primary care, but "things they didn't need to actually go to an emergency room for."

The clinic is staffed with three physicians, five nurse practitioners, one physician's assistant, a general surgeon Dr. Ken Rose, three behavioral health providers and three staff nurses. It is available for annual examinations, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecological care, vaccines, health coaching and group classes, programs for diabetes and chronic pain, and services from visiting nurses for the homebound.

In addition to the hospital in Enterprise, Wallowa Memorial Medical has four clinics: one each in Joseph, Enterprise, downtown Enterprise and Wallowa. They all are under the umbrella of the Wallowa Health Care District, Pace said.

She said the new Saturday hours will not just be for the summer tourist season and will continue all year long.

"It will continue past the summer months," she said.

The clinic has a history of serving the county's health care needs since 2015 when Wallowa Mountain Medical — formed in 1991 by Dr. Devee Boyd — joined the Wallowa County Health Care District.

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.

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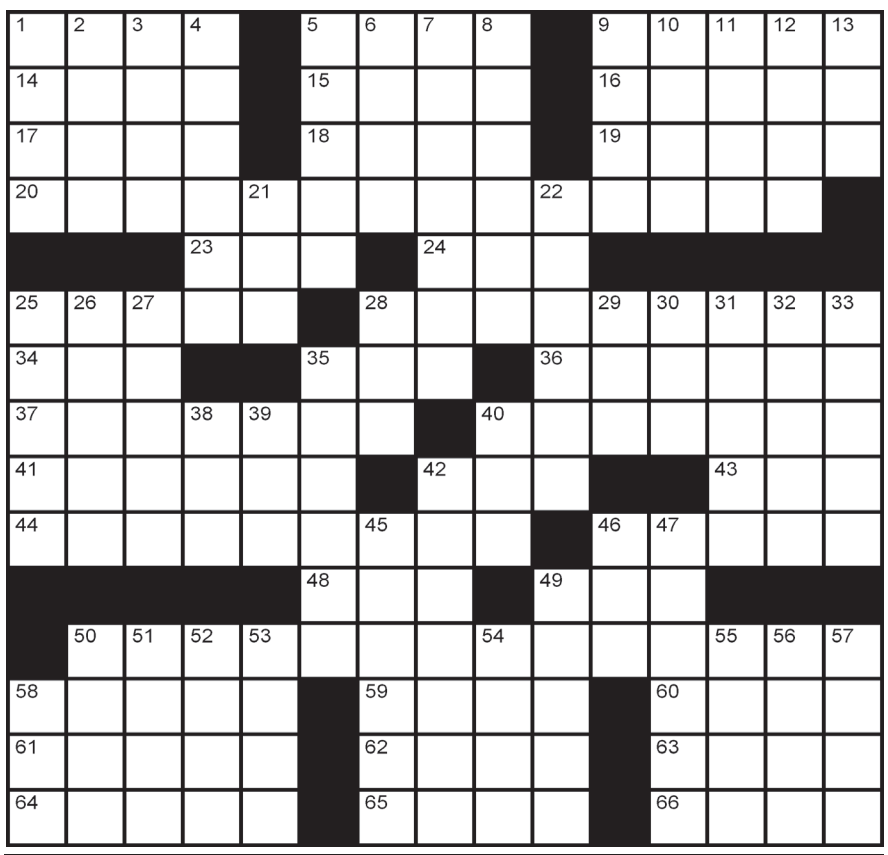
CLUES ACROSS

1. Oil grp.
5. Snooty person
9. Trash
14. Backside
15. Sharpen, like a skill
16. Metropolis that's home to the Qutb Minar
17. "Mi ___ es su ___ "
18. Red in the middle, like a steak
19. Prepared to shoot an arrow
20. "Satisfied yet?!"
23. Nonprofit's URL ending, often
24. Dover's state: Abbr.
25. Totally absurd
28. Side dish often eaten with two hands
34. "It's ___ easy being green"
35. Ruin
36. "Yippee!"
37. Fully learned
40. A link might lead to it
41. Mentally hazy
42. Opposite of happy
43. Compete for a seat
44. Carrier with a shamrock in its logo
46. "Mine, mine, it's all mine!" desire
48. Make a mistake
49. Rage
50. Watershed moment ... and a hint to the first words of 20-, 28- and 44-Across
58. Express a view
59. "Not gonna happen!"
60. NASDAQ debuts
61. Pasta often served with vodka sauce
62. Barely there?
63. Without "rocks"
64. Optimal
65. Train for a bout
66. "G.I. Jane" actress Moore

CLUES DOWN

1. Apex predator of the ocean
2. Fruit in many still life paintings
3. Opposite of difficulty
4. Stick whose box might have a built-in pencil sharpener
5. "No idea" gesture
6. Biblical ark builder
7. Making a blip
8. Paging device
9. June 6, 1944
10. It might pull a bit
11. "Tickle Me" Muppet
12. Mash potatoes, say?
13. Baby goat
21. Rock that sounds like a conjunction
22. Cleared of snow
25. Bengaluru's country
26. "For ___" (1966 Beatles song)
27. Engaged in conflict
28. Enjoy some panipuri
29. Key ring attachment
30. "That's a total ___-out!"
31. Chicago airport
32. "___ One: A Star Wars Story"
33. Ceaselessly
35. Fridge decoration
38. Colts' and Cowboys' org.
39. Luau dish
40. "What ___ I thinking?"
42. "Let's hit the waves!"
45. Reactions to bad jokes
46. Test for college srs.
47. << button on a remote
49. Deduce
50. Risked a traffic citation
51. Fork prong
52. "Mom" actress Faris
53. Fishing line holder
54. Musical whose name is 3/4 vowels
55. Fencer's blade
56. Wander around
57. Italian wine region
58. Can't CTRL Me nail polish brand



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