

# County recycling progress continues

Nearly all plastics now acceptable

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Recycling services in Wallowa County continue to expand and now residents can recycle nearly all types of plastics, Peter Ferre told the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners at its meeting Wednesday, Aug. 17.

Discarded plastic is one of the major concerns of any recycling program, said Ferre, of the Friends of Wallowa County Recycling, who was there to update the commissioners on recycling work in the county.

“There’s enough plastic thrown away every year to circle the globe four times,” he said.

He said recycled plastic uses 20% less energy than making new plastic.

“For every ton of plastic that’s recycled it saves the equivalent of about 1,500 gallons of gasoline, which seems like a good idea,” he said.

He congratulated Mike Grover, who operates the recycling center on Fish Hatchery Lane.

“Mike’s done a great job of finding a new plastics buyer,” he said. “Now we’re able to accept virtually all plastic packaging. In the past, we could only accept No. 1s and No. 2s. ... Now we’re able to accept yogurt containers, clamshells. We just can’t accept anything that’s rigid plastic, i.e. lids, automotive parts, bicycle parts.”

Rigid plastic, Ferre said, is “something you could break easily.” It also includes caps to jugs of milk, bleach and other containers because they’re made of a different kind of plastic that is small and stiff and gums up the machines that handles them.

He said plastic bags also remain unacceptable, but he’s working on getting Safeway — one of the main sources of



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

**Peter Ferre of the Friends of Wallowa County Recycling gives an update on recycling activities in the county to the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022. The recycling center can now take nearly all plastics.**

such bags — to once again have a repository for the bags. He said it costs Safeway nothing to ship them, as they just put them on the trucks that deliver goods to the store and return them to where they came from.

Ferre also emphasized how recycling items such as paper and tin save water,

high,” he said.

Ferre said volunteers at the recycling center have donated about 225 hours so far this year, but labor is always needed. He suggested the possibility of a work crew from County Corrections might be used, but no decision was reached on that idea.

for and receive grants to help support it.

He said a measure in the Oregon Legislature — the Recycling Modernization Act, Senate Bill 582 — may help, and that the need for recycling should be expressed during the Department of Environmental Quality’s statewide needs assessment.

“As long as we keep doing what we’re doing and express our interest in the program, even though we’re a small-sized population, we’ll have the opportunity to receive transportation money, which means our shipping costs might fully be reimbursed,” Ferre said. “We spend more money on shipping than all that we receive for all the recyclables we send out. So that’s a huge economic impact for us.”

Even donations from county residents can help. He said the community has donated about \$2,100 that the Friends used to purchase additional bins.

“It shows people are interested,” he said.

**“THERE’S ENOUGH PLASTIC THROWN AWAY EVERY YEAR TO CIRCLE THE GLOBE FOUR TIMES.”**

— Peter Ferre, Friends of Wallowa County Recycling

as much less is used to recycle them than to make new paper and water. He also said recycling cardboard saves room in the landfill.

He said the price for recycled aluminum cans has gone up dramatically. Where they used to receive about \$300 a ton, a recent load brought \$1,000 a ton.

“It was a big deal for us to learn that the price was that

He said efforts to promote recycling at the county’s schools also continue. A grant early this year paid for a part-time worker to handle recycled items from the schools, but that worker had to quit due to illness. The county is now looking for a replacement, he said.

On the money side of the recycling efforts, Ferre said his group continues to apply

tion of property taxes for the months it was damaged. It would start with August — the month of the damage — and continue until the damage is repaired.

An application and a site visit by someone from the Assessor’s Office are required. The applications are due by June 30.

For more information, contact the Assessor’s Office at 541-426-7746 or 541-426-7748.

## Western singer to raise money for Cross the Divide

ENTERPRISE — A fundraiser for Cross the Divide, a Christian organization dedicated to helping combat-injured veterans and their families, will be held Saturday, Aug. 27, in Enterprise at the OK Theater.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Nationally known Western music artist Joni Harms will perform with the Harms Way Band.

The fifth-generation rancher from Canby has played at Carnegie Hall in

New York City and on the Grand Ole Opry. In 2020, she was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame. In 2021, she was voted the Western Music Association’s Entertainer of the year.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the Dollar Stretcher or the Book-loft in Enterprise. They also can be purchased online at Eventbrite.

Wallowa County’s own Ghost Wind will open for Harms at 7 p.m. She takes the stage at 8 p.m.

## Chamber has list of Wallowa relief resources

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce has posted a list of resources for victims of the Aug. 11 hailstorm in Wallowa.

The list includes:  
• The Lostine Presbyterian Church has created a relief fund where online donations may be made.

• A form to apply for \$500 in recovery aid is available at Wallowa City

Hall/Fire Department or at the Wallowa Senior Center

• Those who qualify for SNAP/TANFF benefits may visit Wallowa City Hall/Fire Department for replacement food resources.

• The Wallowa Food Bank at 211 E. First St. is open seven days a week right now and anyone in need of food may stop in, regardless of eligibility.

• The Wallowa Resale Store is offering free replacement items to Wallowa residents. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Plywood and tarps are available at Wallowa City Hall/Fire Department.

Anyone aware of a resource that has not been included in this list is asked to email it to [info@wallowacounty.org](mailto:info@wallowacounty.org) or call the chamber at 541-426-4622.

— Wallowa County Chieftain

# Wallowa City Council starts on storm recovery

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — The Wallowa City Council got started Tuesday, Aug. 16, on what it needs to do to help the city recover from the Aug. 11 hailstorm when it met in regular session at city hall.

“I was talking about how we were working on trying to get funding and other help,” Mayor Gary Hulse said Aug. 17.

He said the council agreed to have a Zoom meeting Aug. 29 with various stakeholders, such as those in government agencies or others who can provide assistance.

“Anybody who can assist us in getting money,” Hulse said.

He said that after the Zoom meeting, the council will hold a meeting to inform the public what it learned.

He said city Administrator Carolyn Harshfield, who has been instrumental

in helping field calls both offering help and requesting it, was out sick, so that’s slowing things down a bit.

“Everybody was worn out and tired, I know that,” Hulse said.

In other matters, the council:

- Approved a request for a variance made by Travis Goebel for his son to construct a home shop on an undersized lot. Hulse said a few people showed up who were curious about the size of the structure.

- Approved a request that the city pay half the cost of maintenance of restrooms at Wallowa Memorial Park, with the other half paid by the park fund. Hulse said the restrooms are only open during the summer months so that would amount to about \$45 a month.

- Tabled a request for an extension of a sidewalk as recommended by Terry Journot of Anderson Perry. The council wanted more information on the matter.



Hulse

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## IN BRIEF

### Storm-damaged property may qualify for tax break

ENTERPRISE — Property owners who sustained damage in the Thursday, Aug. 11 hailstorm that centered on Wallowa are advised that the state will give a tax break until the damage is repaired, according to a press release from the Wallowa County Assessor’s Office.

“Anyone who is the legal owner of a property and whose property was damaged by the recent storm could qualify,” the release stated. “If your property qualifies this will be a proration of the taxes on your property for the months that it was damaged.”

The tax break is for property damaged by fire or an “act of God.” An act of God is defined as an act of nature without human interference, according to the release.

If the property qualifies, the tax break will be a prora-

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