

Joseph council appoints two planning commissioners

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Two of the needed five members on the Joseph Planning Commission were appointed during the Thursday, Aug. 18, City Council meeting.

Approved for the commission were Benjamin Curry and Whitney Freya. Mayor Jamie Collier has

said in the past that the council is eager to have a commission in place, particularly to deal with issues such as the urban growth boundary and routine planning and zoning issues. However, finding willing volunteers has been a difficult task.

The new City Administrator Dan Larman said April 22 that the council is still seek-

ing applications for the other three vacancies. Curry and Freya, meanwhile, are simply approved for the commission until it is fully staffed.

“These two people are basically on standby,” Larman said.

The council also is considering applications to fill a vacancy among its membership. Adam Sexton’s appli-

cation was considered at last week’s meeting, but was not acted upon, Larman said.

“They want a little more time before they appoint” the position, he said.

No other applications for city councilor had come in that Larman was aware of, he said.

The council’s next meeting will be Sept. 1. Larman

said several as-yet unresolved issues are expected to be dealt with at that meeting.

“Pretty much all of the hot-ticket items are going to be dealt with in the September meeting,” he said.

One of those issues includes the urban growth boundary.

The council also:

- Approved a resolution

on revenue to be received from the state.

- Approved a resolution to amend the wastewater project loan amount from \$3.8 million to \$5.2 million. Larman said the large increase was due to “a lot of supply-chain issues and a lot of inflation issues.”

- Heard department and committee reports.

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Work underway



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Long-awaited work on Joseph’s Main Street is underway Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, as these workers from the Oregon Department of Transportation begin efforts to make curbs and sidewalks compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. ODOT came to an agreement with the city to schedule work around tourism-related events so as to not disrupt the vital part of Joseph’s economy.

IN BRIEF

Military museum convoy coming Aug. 25

JOSEPH — A moving military museum of cargo vehicles will be coming through Wallowa County on Thursday, Aug. 25, as

the Military Vehicle Preservation Association brings its 2022 MVPA Northwest Parks Motor Convoy through the area.

Dan McCluskey, convoy commander, will bring the convoy from Baker City to the Hells Canyon Overlook for lunch and then head across Forest Road 39 to Joseph, according to a press release.

“This is our seventh con-

voy we’ve done,” McCluskey said Aug. 22.

He said the convoy will hold a static display at the Indian Head Motel in Joseph from about 3 p.m. for two hours before heading to the Eagle Cap Shooters Association gun range near Enterprise for a private dinner and camping.

Three units make up the convoy during travel: the “heavies,” 1.5- through 5-ton

vehicles, lead the charge, followed by 3/4-ton Dodge cargo trucks, followed by the jeep unit.

McCluskey said they travel anywhere from 85 to 170 miles per day.

Traffic delays west of Wallowa planned

WALLOWA — Drivers can expect delays just west of Wallowa as work continues on the bridge over the Wallowa River, the Oregon Department of Transportation announced.

Traffic will be controlled by flaggers or a temporary traffic signal there during working hours, and by the temporary traffic signal during nonworking hours. Motorists can expect delays of as much as 20 minutes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The signal is expected to remain in place until both travel lanes are available again early this fall.

The contractor is installing falsework — temporary framework structures — and constructing forms for construction of the new bridge concrete superstructure. Rebar placement will begin this week.

— Wallowa County Chieftain

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