

Sharing the proceeds of the shine



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Bob Rush of the Enterprise Elks Lodge on Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, delivers a check for \$1,174 to Community Connection of Wallowa County, part of the proceeds from the Aug. 19-20 Enterprise Show and Shine. From left are Tammy Odegaard of Community Connection; Rush; Danielle Brockamp, manager of Community Connection; and volunteer Cathryn Paterson.

Joseph restaurants help feed firefighters

Embers, Cheyenne called upon to make meals

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
 Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Two local restaurants took it upon themselves to help battle the wildfires in Wallowa County, but not on the fire line — by feeding some 300 firefighters.

Teresa Sajonia, owner of Embers Brew House and Pub, fed the firefighters a tri-tip dinner “with all the fixings” Thursday, Sept. 1, and sack lunches Sept. 2, with sandwiches, chips, nuts and “everything the Forest Service requires” for their crews.

“There’s good stuff going out to them,” she said.

The Cheyenne Cafe provided breakfast, said owner Kara Meyers, who was heading for bed when interviewed Sept. 1, “since I have to get up at midnight” to prepare the meal that was ready by 5 a.m.

On Meyers’ menu was to be bacon, eggs, pancakes, and biscuits and gravy, she

said. She even had to go to local grocery stores to obtain sufficient paper plates and plastic utensils.

When talked to after the fact Sept. 5, Meyers said a catering truck arrived Sept. 2 to serve dinner to the firefighters at their fire camp at the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Grounds, relieving both restaurants of the need for a further herculean effort.

“We got it done. It was interesting but it was delicious,” Meyers said Sept. 5. “They were very happy. It went great.”

Sajonia and Meyers each had three employees helping out.

They both said they’ve done this chore in the past.

“I’m very happy to be able to help,” Meyers said, adding that she’s served firefighters for about 15 years. “When they called, I thought, ‘How am I going to be able to do this? But we’ll figure it out.’”

Sajonia, too, has done this before.

“I’ve done fire meals for well over 30 years,” she said.

But Meyers said the job nearly wiped out her inventory. She said her supplier was sending an extra truck

from Boise that she would meet in Elgin to replenish her depleted stock.

“When it’s this fast, we just do the very best we can,” Meyers said. “We follow all the guidelines.”

Tom O’Conner, who alerted the Chieftain to Meyers’ and Sajonia’s efforts, said he thinks they pitched in more as a service than to make a profit.

“I think it’s great,” he said. “(They are) doing it more to help the firefighters than anything else.”

While she was glad to

help, Meyers said she wasn’t giving the meals away.

“I definitely made what I would’ve made if they came in and sat down and ate,” though maybe a little less because of the “to-go” orders, she said.

She said feeding the firefighters has had an added benefit of attracting business.

“They’re very nice people, kind, and a lot of them have been coming back for breakfast or lunch on their own,” she said. “I do it whenever I can. Whenever they call, I do it.”

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Joseph City Council ends ‘land swap’ plan

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JOSEPH — The Joseph City Council agreed in a unanimous vote Thursday, Sept. 1, to stop pursuing the proposed “land swap” in the city’s urban growth boundary.

City Manager Dan Larman said the council discussed it a little and then held the vote.

The urban growth boundary has become a subject of debate as various property owners have expressed a desire to develop land within or just outside the urban growth boundary or city limits.

In the most recent case, the city intended to swap 69.9 acres of the Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site currently zoned for residential use and within the urban growth boundary for 73.4 acres nearby on the city’s southwest side. Since state law governing urban growth boundaries require land to be available for residential use, the land in Iwetemlaykin cannot be used for residential, as it has become part of a state park.

When public hearings were held on the issue, numerous people spoke against the swap. Also, the council expressed the need for a planning commission to help with such issues. The city, as yet, has no planning commission.

The council, which has approved two of the five

needed members to the commission, agreed to consider three more and an applicant for a vacant council seat on its October agenda, Larman said.

In another matter, the council agreed to set the rate for system development charges at \$10,000, which Larman said is “way lower” than average for comparable cities.

SDCs are charges that a city or county may assess to cover the “true cost” of development and include costs to existing and additional water, sewer, transportation and park services.

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Fire crews begin fighting Jones Fire

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retardant in the surrounding area.

JOSEPH — Initial attack resources responded Monday, Sept. 5, to the Jones Fire burning in the Jones Creek area 42 miles northeast of Joseph on the east side of Hells Canyon.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest said in a press release that initial attack resources included helicopters dropping water and air tankers depositing

The release said the fire is approximately 2,000 acres and is burning primarily in grass. The Helena Interagency Hotshot Crew and Eagle Cap Fire Use Module are fighting the fire, but the area is rugged and difficult to access.

A contract dozer is preparing a fire line to support backburn activities late on Sept. 6.

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