

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon

Issue No. xx

www.wallowa.com

December 2, 2015 \$1

Details for lodge purchase emerge

Micro-investors entice larger investory who 'really want to be part of something'

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

An early dream of having micro-investors (\$500/share) purchase shares in the Wallowa Lake Lodge has been somewhat modified, but the largest group of investors to date are still in at the minimum: \$1,000 for a single share.

"We have probably 30 people

who are \$1,000 investors," said James Monteith, manager of Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC, which is raising money to purchase the Lodge.

The historic lodge at the headwaters of Wallowa Lake went up for sale in June after the death of managing partner Steve Larson.

Remaining partners Marc and Nancy Zwerling listed the 9.22-acre property and lodge with an asking price of \$2,750,000.



View of Wallowa Lake Lodge from the lake side.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

It was their hope that new owners would share their dedication to preserving the lodge and the

surrounding property, rather than taking advantage of the zoning that allowed extensive development.

Shortly after the listing went out, a discussion at a party at the Joseph office of Wallowology — the education arm of Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands Fund — revealed that persons with an interest in keeping the lodge in local hands and preserving its unique ambiance were willing to put their money where their mouth was.

Ten days later, in mid July, the newly-formed Lake Wallowa Lodge, LLC made an offer on the lodge.

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This Christmas-themed pickup was an entry in the 2015 Jingle thru Joseph Parade on Saturday night. See Page A8 for additional Jingle Thru Joseph photos. Also, our Community Calendar, packed with local holiday events including Winterfest in Enterprise, starts on Page A5.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

ALL THE WAY

ANNUAL PARADE KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS SEASON

PICTURES ON A8



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Chuck Garrett is stepping back from his double duties as director of both the Oregon Mountain Cruise and the Bronze Blues and Brews festival. This year he will serve as co-director of the blues festival for 2016 before completely stepping away.

Festival maestro takes a bow

Garrett steps back from Oregon Mountain Cruise, Bronze, Blues and Brews

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The man behind two of Wallowa County's premier summer events — the Oregon Mountain Cruise and the Bronze, Blues and Brews festival — is taking a break after more than two decades at the helm.

Moonlight Graphics Co. owner Chuck Garrett founded and served as director of the Cruise, a June classic car cruise and show entering its 27th year, and the BBB festival, an August event focusing on music, art and beer that will celebrate its 20th year next summer.

Garrett's daughter will be graduating from the University of Oregon on the same weekend as the 2016 Oregon Mountain Cruise, and he decided it was a good time to step down.

"We've been wanting to pass that off and we found somebody (Andy Osborne) to take it over," Garrett said. "We'll help him get going on it, but we won't be here for the car show this year," though he still intends to produce T-shirts for the event.

"We started the car show with one other couple. Part of the plan was just to sell T-shirts. I was making T-shirts for the National Hudson Terraplane Club and met this guy from Lewiston who was into old cars and we decided we'd do a little car show. It was something to do."

Garrett's transition away from the blues festival will be more gradual. This year he'll serve as co-director with Wendy McDaniel, who previously served as secretary/treasurer.

"I'm still doing the graphics and all that, but I've already made my decision to step away and limit my role," Garrett said. "I'm trying to leave slowly, so we can keep these events going."

Garrett credited Marty Hamilton for coming up with the idea for the Bronze, Blues and Brews festival.

"We'd had the Jazz at the Lake festival, which had already quit, but we needed another music festival. We were into blues music, so we said, 'Let's put on a blues fest.'"

Regarding the festival's 20th year, he said: "I can't really say who, but we're working with two big-name performers who have been here and want to come back."

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Pros and cons presented at pot opt out hearing

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Only a handful of people showed up to speak at the Wallowa County Commissioners' Nov. 24 hearing on potential marijuana businesses in the county, but those who did attend came prepared.

The deadline for counties to opt out of licensing marijuana is Dec. 31. Wallowa County qualified to consider the opt out because more than 55 percent of the vote in the county went against Measure 91, which legalized retail marijuana in the state.

Commissioner Susan Roberts

“THE COUNTY DOES NEED REVENUES. I WOULD HATE TO SEE THE COUNTY COMPLETELY SAY NO TO IT WITHOUT AN OPTION TO SAY YES AT A LATER DATE.”

Commissioner Susan Roberts

said it's possible the community already has weighed in on the matter. The vote against legalizing marijuana in Wallowa County was 61 percent against.

David Carpenter of Enterprise pointed out that all of Wallowa County did not vote — there are 4,700 registered voters and only 3,735 voted.

In most other counties that

would be a tremendous turnout, but Wallowa County traditionally has a 90 percent turnout, according to Roberts.

Nevertheless, "voting is a privilege and they all received a ballot in the mail," Roberts said. "If you didn't vote, that was a choice."

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