

2015

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"I welcome his development enthusiastically." — Wallowa Lake Lodge owner Marc Zwerling, in response to the Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC offer.

The Historic Wallowa Lake Lodge was poised for a change in ownership in early July following the death of co-owner Steve Larson. Surviving owners Marc and Nancy Zwerling listed the property at auction with NW Realty Marketing with a minimum bid of \$2,750,000 on the 8.46-acre, lakefront property with a bidding deadline of July 29.

James Monteith, director of Wallowology — an educational project of Eastern Oregon Legacy Land Funds — soon found a group of local investors interested in preserving the history and ambiance of Wallowa Lodge by keeping it in the family, so to speak. The group is dedicated to keeping the land

around the lodge open and preserving the local wildlife habitat.

Marc Zwerling was open to the idea and agreed to accept 10 percent down and take the lodge off the market until Jan. 31, 2016, giving the new Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC time to raise the \$2.5 purchase price. The group raised the down payment in less than two weeks and the drive for investors was on.

By early December the group announced that the LLC had secured \$1.1 million toward a \$3.5 million goal that includes reserve funds. Loan and conservation easement options bring the critical investment amount needed down to around \$1 million.

The race to meet that Jan. 31 deadline is in the final stretch, with the fate of a true jewel of Wallowa County hanging in the balance. Stay tuned.

Just say 'no'

"(At) the end of the day I have to make a decision based on what I think the majority of the people in the county would have us do. I think in



The Chieftain

Volunteers help spruce up Enterprise Cemetery.

this instance it's clear that the majority of the people in Wallowa County would want to opt out." — Wallowa County Commissioner Mike Hayward

Measure 91, allowing the recreational use of marijuana, became law in Oregon on Nov. 4, 2014, but did not go into effect until July 1, 2015.

In June, Gov. Kate Brown signed Measure 3400 into law, allowing counties (or a city located in a county) in which at least 55 percent of voters rejected Measure 91 to adopt an ordinance prohibiting licensing of retail or medical dispensaries — and every government entity that took up the matter this year did just that.

Rules and regulations controlling licensing, policing, and taxing of all aspects of the marijuana business remained up in the air until the Oregon Liquor Licensing Commission released a 78-page preliminary document in October. According to Wallowa County Commissioners, even after that document was released, legal counsel for

the Association of Oregon Counties advised counties that the document is not complete.

Many counties eligible to opt out began to exercise that option, often citing confusion over the rules and regulations.

Another concern was the question of law enforcement responsibilities, potential for increased crime or accidents on the road, and the potential danger of easier access for children.

Sixty-one percent of Wallowa County voters said 'no' to legalization. After much discussion every city in the county chose to opt out and on Dec. 16 the county also chose to opt out.

So for now, it remains perfectly legal to possess, use and grow marijuana in Wallowa County. But don't expect to be able to legally purchase it anywhere within county lines for the foreseeable future.

Help wanted

"A member of one of the partner agencies in Wallowa County described the (Police) Department's leadership as 'lacking ethics, role modeling and showing favoritism' — which really sums up the findings (of this review)." — Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Agency Review

In March, Enterprise Police Chief Wes Kilgore resigned after 13 years, citing personal reasons.

Within a week city officials were laying the groundwork for conducting a detailed review of the department and had contacted Oregon Association Chiefs of Police for assistance.

In the interim, Sgt. Michelle Bloker, the highest-ranking and longest-serving officer, began handling some

of the administrative tasks. She left the force on medical leave shortly thereafter and then also resigned.

The department, when fully staffed, has four full-time officers. Officer George Kohlhepp assumed leadership of the half-staffed force, but was not promoted.

By the end of May, a review team of three regional police chiefs — from Pendleton, La Grande and Baker City — had conducted the review and issued a report, but the city cancelled a public meeting to discuss the 27-page report and held the document without comment until late June. It was released after City Attorney Roland Johnson redacted portions relating to personnel issues involving Kilgore.

The document slammed the Enterprise Police Department and outlined multiple ways in which it fell short of professionalism, stating at one point: "Unfortunately, the Enterprise Police Department has a protracted history of accepting mediocrity."

The city began an immediate effort to bring the department up to snuff and, with the assistance of the three chiefs who conducted the review, narrowed their search for a new chief to three top contenders.

Those men visited the county and were introduced to the public Oct. 1. By mid-October the city council had made an offer to James Episcopo, a police lieutenant and 27-year law enforcement veteran from Brookfield Village, Ill.

Episcopo made arrangements to return to Wallowa County for physical and psychological tests necessary for hire but abruptly cancelled those plans when the police chief of his Brookfield Village force suddenly resigned and Episcopo was asked to stay as interim chief. Eventually, he was named acting chief.

In the fall, the city hired Jed Stone, a recently retired Oregon State Trooper with deep ties to the community, to bring the number of officers policing the city up to three. The City Council also voted to move ahead with another round of interviews for police chief.

In December, the council upgraded Stone to a full-time officer, and a new application

deadline for police chief closed on Dec. 28. A review of the applicants is expected to begin in January — nearly 10 months from Kilgore's resignation.

Dead-end street

"I think this is a realistic package that the majority of people can get behind." — Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands

Following the narrow defeat of a \$2.55 million street repair levy in late 2014, Joseph leaders in February forged ahead and hammered out a resolution to place a \$1.2 million bond levy on the May ballot. The council held an emergency meeting on Feb. 24 and revised the final tab to \$1.3 million, with a transportation utility fee of \$11 per month and a measure to issue a general obligation bond of \$1.3 million payable by the transportation utility fee with property taxes levied only in case of an anticipated shortfall in fees.

"If we go ahead with this, it's gonna be a helluva sales job to convince people it's basically \$11 a month and that the property tax is just an insurance policy for the bondholders," Mayor Sands said at the time. "Or we could go through all of this and come up short again. Or we say it's an unsolvable problem and live with it."

In April, calls for revisions to the new measure grew. The potential property tax, added to make the deal more appealing to bond holders, didn't sit well with many as it seemed like a potential blank check should costs soar. But by April the time to revise the measure had passed.

It was good news, bad news in May, as the city received a \$50,000 state grant toward repairs to Joseph Street and 1st Street just before voters soundly rejected the latest bond measure.

In June, Mayor Sands presented an offer from Community Bank in Joseph: a 20-year loan for the \$1.3 million that the city would repay by implementing a \$13-per-month transportation utility tax attached to sewer and water bills.

Although it is not actually necessary to bring the bank loan issue up for a public vote, Sands is reluctant to proceed without it.

"We could just sit back and say 'Fine, you've spoken,

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ACROSS

1. Elephant's name
6. Support
10. Mures River city
14. Bastard wing
15. One was named Desire
17. PGA Tournament prize
19. A way to leave unchanged
20. Unchangeable computer memory
21. Harangues
22. 6th Hebrew letter
23. Well informed
24. Turfs
26. In a way, obeyed
29. Lawyers group
31. Increases motor speed
32. Political action committee
34. Light pokes
35. Struck down
37. Central Philippine Island
38. Japanese sash
39. Afresh
40. Bluish green
41. Inspire with love
43. Without (French)
45. Counterbalance container to obtain net weight
46. Express pleasure
47. Cheap wine (Br.)
49. Signing
50. ___ compilation, compiling computer language
53. Have surgery
57. Being trompe-l'oeil
58. Extremely mad
59. Day
60. Small coin (French)
61. Snatched

DOWN

1. Cry
2. Wings
3. Baseball play
4. Flower petals
5. Drive against
6. Velikaya River city
7. A single unit in a collection
8. Stray
9. Bring back
10. Repented
11. Receipt (abbr.)
12. Expresses pleasure
13. Not wet
16. In a way, takes off
18. Macaws genus
22. "Fast Five" star's initials
23. Sharpen a knife
24. Oral polio vaccine developer
25. Former CIA
27. Fencing swords
28. Aba ___ Honeymoon
29. Bustle
30. Minor
31. Propel a boat
33. Passage with access only at one end
35. Underwater airways
36. Small, slight
37. Box (abbr.)
39. ___ Blake, actress
42. Repents
43. Merchandising
44. Exclamation of surprise
46. With fireplace residue
47. A small lake
48. Bait
49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. K ___: watercraft (alt. sp.)
51. Norse variant of "often"
52. Adolescent
53. Visual metaphor (Computers)
54. River in Spanish
55. Cowboy Carson
56. Powerful gun lobby

Church Directory

CEMETERY

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Much of the \$75,000 raised so far has come from private donations. Corporate donors included Pacific Power & Light (\$5,000) and Northwest Farm Credit Services Association (\$2,000). A grant application to Wild Horse Foundation also is being prepared.

With nearly \$75,000 in the bank, the district is within spitting distance of its initial goal, but it's possible a new goal will be required.

"That (\$85,000) looks like it was a low estimation and costs will most likely be \$130,000," said Perry Davis, chairman of the board for Enterprise Cemetery Maintenance District. "We are planning to put out a bid package early next year. We may or may not get back a bid we can afford. If not, we'll retrench and continue fundraising."

The district secured a \$2,000 donation from the City of Enterprise at the Dec. 11 council meeting. That money is earmarked for engineering fees so the district could move forward with the bid package.

An irrigation systems specialist is assisting the district in doing a zone design and making a materials list. Engineer Brett Moore of Anderson Perry & Associates will draw up the final plans and specifications and create a bidding document, which will then be reviewed by City Attorney Roland Johnson prior to being released for publication.

Donations can be made to the Friends of the Enterprise Cemetery through Sondra Lozier, who can be contacted at 541-426-3229.

St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Roger Fernando
301 E. Garfield Enterprise
Mass Schedule
Weekdays 7:15am
Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am
(541)426-4008
stkatherineenterprise.org
St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am
All are welcome

Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community
Service time: 10:30 am
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
Pastor Mark Garland
www.summitchurchoregon.org

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
Pastor Cherie Johnson
Phone: 541-432-3102
Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am
Children's Sunday School meets during service

Faith Lutheran Church

409 W. Main
Enterprise, Oregon
Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays - 2 pm
Bible Study Tuesdays before the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11 am
LCMS
(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Enterprise Christian Church

207 East Main - (541) 426-3449

Worship at 8:15 & 11:00
Sunday School at 9:45
Evening Worship at 6:00 (nursery at A.M. services)

"Loving God & One Another"
David Bruce, Sr. Minister

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-426-0301
Family Prayer: 9:30am
Sunday School: 10am
Worship Service: 11am
723 College Street • LOSTINE
Providence Academy

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Childrens program during service
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com
541.398.0597
Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliever, Minister

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

United Church of Christ The Big Brown Church
Sunday Worship 11A.M.
301 N. E. First Street
Enterprise
(541) 426-3044
Sunday School 11 A.M.

Wallowa Assembly of God

606 West Hwy 82
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445
Sunday School • 9:30
Worship Service • 10:45
Pastor Tim Barton
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3751 Church
541-426-8339 School
Worship Services
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber