

Wallowa Lake Lodge sale finalized

By KATHLEEN ELLYN
EO Media Group

Wallowa Lake Lodge is preserved.

The organization led by local investors seeking to purchase the lodge and preserve it from development announced Wednesday it had closed on the \$3.1 million purchase of the landmark property.

The transfer of ownership has been a whirlwind of action by local investors, the former owners who took the property off the market for nearly a year to give locals a chance to raise funds, and the Nez Perce Tribe, who agreed to take over the conservation easement of the nearly 10-acre property surrounding the lodge.

This will be the Nez Perce Tribe's first conservation easement, established primarily for purposes of cultural resources and habitat protection and held in perpetuity.

The lodge sits on the headwaters of Wallowa Lake and in the past was an important waterway for a vibrant population of spawning steelhead.

The Nez Perce Tribe is a partner in protecting this fragile landscape from being converted into a condominium subdivision. The tribe will hold a conservation easement that precludes development on most of the open ground, including the Wallowa River wetlands and adjacent uplands.

And in a remote, rural county where environmental concerns often clash with concerns over



Courtesy photo

Wallowa Lake Lodge in summer.

livelihoods, the purchase of the lodge is an example of how various parties can come to an agreement if the plan is right.

Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC was created specifically to preserve a popular tourist area from excessive development while embracing the Travel Oregon 7 Wonders of Oregon designation.

"This campaign to secure the lodge and land at the head of the lake is a testament to the vision and commitment of the community," said James Monteith, managing member of the new company. "Local residents and friends of the county rallied in an unparalleled effort. I've never seen people stretch together like this to solve such a difficult problem with such a perfect outcome."

Through the combined efforts of local investors and support throughout the Pacific Northwest, the new company raised \$3.1 million to purchase the lodge and cover the expenses of a nine-month campaign.

Investor Jay Graves, who helped launch this private effort after retiring as chairman of the Oregon State Parks Commission, expressed appreciation for the unique ability of investors to see the "big picture" with regard to popularity and preservation.

"We are so excited that the Wallowa Lake Lodge will continue to operate as one of the great lodges of the West and that this sacred ground of the Nez Perce will be protected," he said. "We are eager to see the future of the lodge unfold and many more memories made through

this inspiring community accomplishment."

Connection with the past moving forward in a modern way also was expressed by former owners Marc and Nancy Zwerling, who have invested in the new company (as has the Wiggins family, who owned the lodge for 45 years before the current era).

"Nancy and I, and (late partner) Steve Larson's family, could not be more excited," Marc Zwerling said. "For many years we have striven to assure the lodge property and the whole south end of the lake would be preserved in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of future generations. The new community-based ownership shares our hopes and dreams, and is uniquely positioned to achieve that goal. Their efforts have earned our strong support."

Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC has no intention of being just a museum piece honoring the past. It will maintain the lodge as an affordable, family-friendly inn, eventually adding a modest number of rooms and cabins, establishing a retreat and conference center, and reopening the venerable Cattlemen's Bar. This will allow the company to expand its educational and cultural offerings, lengthen shoulder seasons and increase profitability, investors say.

The new owners hope to recapture the traditional essence of the lodge as a cultural icon of the county and centerpiece of the lake community.

Banks, Grand Ronde to sign agreement to keep Braves logo

BANKS (AP) — Officials with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Banks School District are working to sign an agreement to keep the Braves logo and mascot in schools.

Banks High School will be allowed to continue using the Braves name, but will adopt a tribe-designed mascot, remove any of the old logos and incorporate a Grand Ronde-crafted Native American history curriculum into social studies classes, according to *The Oregonian*.

Banks is about 60 miles from the Grand Ronde headquarters. The high school has been known as the Braves for 75 years.

The state Department of Education published rules in January allowing the 14 high schools in Oregon that have Native American mascots to secure permission from one of Oregon's nine tribes in order to keep the names. Districts must also set a public hearing for its proposed agreement with the tribe, which Banks officials discussed on Monday.

Marcola, Philomath and Roseburg have also sent information to the state indicating they are working with a tribe.

Jeff Leo, Banks School District superintendent, said after the public hearing the board will likely vote on the five-year agreement.

"I'm very appreciative (the tribe was) willing to work with us," Leo said of the tribe. "This has been a controversial issue for quite some time now. I used to read about it. I never thought I'd be right in the middle of it."

With or without permission to remain the Braves, this summer Banks will begin removing the Braves logo from the high school. It will be wiped from the gymnasium, the football stadium and each one of the school's track hurdles. Team uniforms will also be replaced to read only "Banks."

Leo said replacing all aspects of the previous Banks Braves imagery is expected to cost the district \$100,000 over the next five years, by agreement with the tribe.

Opponents of tribal nicknames and mascots, however, predict the agreement between Banks and the Grand Ronde will lead to a lawsuit against the state Department of Education for allowing this work-around. Activist Sam Sachs said he is glad the school is considering a partnership with the tribe and including Native American history in the curriculum, but that including race-based mascots in the agreement wasn't necessary.

"They can do whatever they want," Sachs said. "But as far as we're concerned, it's all going to be temporary."

Teens accused of school shooting plot ordered no contact with fellow students

LA GRANDE — The two teenage boys accused of threatening to shoot fellow students at La Grande High School earlier this week made their initial court appearance Thursday afternoon at the Union County Courthouse.

The suspects, ages 15 and 14, are being held at the Juvenile Justice Center in Walla Walla, Washington, and facing charges of conspiracy to commit murder.

During the 30-minute hearing, the state requested a \$400,000 bail for the 15-year-old — \$100,000 for each of the four

charges on which he is being held. That suspect would have a release agreement prior to posting bail.

Also during the hearing, Judge Brian Dretke heard testimony from attorneys on both sides, parents, law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Union County District Attorney Kelsie McDaniel requested the defendants not have communication with anyone from La Grande High School nor with each other. Dretke approved the request.

Dretke also denied a motion to release the 14-year-old to his mother.

"Unfortunately, you are denied that," Dretke said.

La Grande attorney Wes Williams is representing the

15-year-old, and the 14-year-old is represented by Charles Gillis of La Grande.

The attorneys told the court that neither juvenile had a criminal record.

— *La Grande Observer*

Snake River Basin snowpack creates flood risks

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The latest snowpack estimates for the Snake River Basin show the potential for spring flooding is normal to slightly above normal.

The Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Thursday that the amount of snow remaining in the

mountains has the potential to create serious floods, especially if there is significant rain or unexpectedly warm temperatures.

The Walla Walla District covers parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada.

The district says precipitation amounts in the Snake River Basin range from 98 to 174 percent of normal. The 98 percent is for the Malheur-Owyhee-Boise River Basins, while the Palouse River Basin currently sits at 174 percent of average for this time of year.

As of April 1, storage for major reservoirs within the Walla Walla District was normal and varied between 28 and 99 percent full.

BRIEFLY

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Sunny and pleasantly warm	Mostly sunny and very warm	Sunny and pleasantly warm

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
62°	35°	68°	39°	75°
35°	68°	43°	79°	51°
82°	51°			

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
67°	35°	72°	39°	79°
35°	72°	44°	84°	47°
87°	52°			

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	60°	38°
Normals	61°	39°
Records	90° (1904)	19° (1911)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.06"
Month to date 0.20"
Normal month to date 0.59"
Year to date 4.19"
Last year to date 3.01"
Normal year to date 4.59"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	41°
Normals	64°	39°
Records	89° (1936)	24° (2014)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.14"
Month to date 0.28"
Normal month to date 0.35"
Year to date 2.98"
Last year to date 1.78"
Normal year to date 3.49"

SUN AND MOON

	Full	Last	New	First
Apr 21	Apr 29	May 6	May 13	

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Intervals of clouds and sunshine today; warmer in the south. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Partly sunny today; warmer in the south and near the Cascades. Mainly clear tonight.

Western Washington: Variable cloudiness today. Mostly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today. Patchy clouds tonight. Sunshine and patchy clouds tomorrow.

Cascades: Clouds and sun today; milder. Patchy clouds tonight. Mostly sunny and warmer tomorrow.

Northern California: Mostly sunny today; warmer. Mainly clear tonight. Warmer tomorrow with sunshine.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	43	c	64	46	pc
Baker City	56	26	pc	65	29	s
Bend	56	28	pc	67	34	s
Brookings	59	45	pc	64	50	s
Burns	58	23	pc	66	29	s
Enterprise	50	30	c	60	34	s
Eugene	61	39	pc	71	44	pc
Heppner	58	35	pc	67	39	s
Hermiston	67	35	pc	72	39	s
John Day	55	35	pc	67	42	s
Klamath Falls	56	25	pc	66	32	s
La Grande	56	31	pc	65	34	s
Meacham	53	27	pc	63	32	s
Medford	65	38	pc	77	44	s
Newport	55	42	c	62	48	pc
North Bend	60	44	pc	66	49	pc
Ontario	65	36	pc	70	37	s
Pasco	69	35	pc	73	40	s
Pendleton	62	35	pc	68	39	s
Portland	62	44	c	73	50	pc
Redmond	61	25	pc	71	30	s
Salem	63	40	c	72	46	pc
Spokane	60	40	pc	64	43	s
Ukiah	54	29	pc	64	33	s
Vancouver	59	40	c	72	49	pc
Walla Walla	61	41	pc	68	44	s
Yakima	69	37	pc	72	39	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	75	56	pc	72	47	pc
Hong Kong	82	73	t	83	75	t
Jerusalem	70	55	c	76	57	s
London	56	39	t	50	35	pc
Mexico City	84	51	pc	83	52	pc
Moscow	55	38	c	49	32	r
Paris	61	46	t	59	41	sh
Rome	70	52	s	71	55	pc
Seoul	73	46	s	71	51	r
Sydney	77	61	pc	78	63	pc
Tokyo	66	53	s	68	61	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	SW 6-12	NNE 3-6
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	NNE 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

Time	UV Index
8 a.m.	1
10 a.m.	3
Noon	5
2 p.m.	5
4 p.m.	3
6 p.m.	1

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Rain and thunderstorms will linger in a large part of the South today. Warm, gusty winds and severe storms are forecast for the High Plains. Rain and high-elevation snow will affect the interior West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 91° in El Centro, Calif. Low 15° in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	71	41	pc	56	38	c
Atlanta	64	50	c	68	49	pc
Atlanta City	54	40	s	57	43	s
Baltimore	63	39	s	67	41	s
Billings	51	31	r	54	34	c
Birmingham	67	50	c	70	51	pc
Boise	59	37	pc	66	41	s
Boston	52	40	s	52	41	pc
Charleston, SC	68	51	c	71	49	c
Charleston, WV	74	44	s	74	45	s
Chicago	67	47	s	72	48	s
Cleveland	67	45	s	67	44	s
Dallas	78	62	pc	76	63	c
Denver	58	32	t	38	28	sn
Detroit	65	41	s	68	43	s
El Paso	85	56	pc	72	46	pc
Fairbanks	47	25	c	48	26	c
Fargo	72	47	c	57	38	r
Honolulu	84	71	sh	83	70	sh
Houston	83	66	s	80	66	sh
Indianapolis	73	48	s	73	47	r
Jacksonville	69	61	t	73	58	sh
Kansas City	75	57	pc	74	55	pc
Las Vegas	70	54	pc	77	59	s
Little Rock	72	57	c	72	60	pc
Los Angeles	76	59	s	84	60	c
Louisville	75	50	s	76	50	s
Memphis	72	56	c	74	59	s
Miami	85	71	t	82	71	t
Millwaukee	54	41	s	61	45	s
Minneapolis	73	56	s	72	59	pc
Nashville	75	49	c	75	49	s
New Orleans	77	64	pc	76	66	pc
New York City	62	43	s	66	44	s
Oaklahoma City	76	58	pc	72	58	c
Omaha	79	56	pc	74	55	