

# Wallowa Lake Lodge prepares for new season

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — Leadership at the Wallowa Lake Lodge is hoping to have a new, improved and expanded deck completed by next month — just in time for the start of the new season.

It's the latest improvement at the lodge, and one that became a clear need last year after the COVID-19 pandemic forced business outside.

"It became really apparent last year when we had to move outside as much as possible because of coronavirus to stay open," said Madeline Lau, general manager of the lodge. "We had to limit our capacity in the dining room by half, so we could only get 42 people. Also with the views and the ambiance and the beauty of our location, people want to be outside anyway. It became apparent our deck had some structural issues last year."

Lau isn't quite sure when the deck was assembled for the 98-year-old lodge, but thinks it was possibly built during a major renovation to the building in 1988.

Lau said the old deck was ripped out during the winter, and the rebuild started April 5.



Madeline Lau/Contributed Photo

**Progress is made on the new bowtie deck being built at the Wallowa Lake Lodge.**

The new deck will have a bowtie design and, at roughly 2,000 square feet, will be about 30% larger than the one it's replacing. The new deck will be built of cedar, and will include posts made of locally sourced juniper, juniper burls at the entry and a stainless-steel tension cable for the railing. The deck is being built by local community members.

The hope is to have the deck completed by May 21, in time for the lodge's opening on May 28.

"It's our goal to make the most beautiful deck in Eastern Oregon and a place where everyone is welcome," she said.

It's a season where Lau hopes to see a vision of the lodge being used by both locals and tourists. The local community has sustained the historic place and saved it five years ago.

"We are announcing that I want the community to use the lodge in a much bigger way," she said.

Lau said in the past, the lodge has been more of a destination for tourists, and the locals have wondered about the accessibility to them.

"It is my goal to make the lodge as accessible as possible to the widest variety of guests and customers, but also to see the commu-

nity use the lodge more than they have before," she said. "I want this to be a gathering place, I want the community to feel very welcome here. For a long time the lodge was set apart and felt almost inaccessible. We want to be a place that the community uses."

Among the adjustments this season, which will run through Oct. 31, are restaurant hours being changed, and now being from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. It will have a happy hour from 3-5 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday, and a brunch from 8-11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The restaurant will have a "Scandinavian-inspired menu," Lau said.

There also is a plan to have live musicians on the deck from 5-7 p.m. Friday, and pianist Gail Swart will play Sundays from 6-9 p.m. in the dining room.

With the deck coming in at about double the expected price due to a spike in lumber prices, the lodge has launched a gofundme.com page to help with the additional expenses. The page has a goal of \$15,000.

"Initially, the cost of the deck was half of what it now is, so we can use community support to get us there. Any little bit helps," Lau said.

# Early 2021 arrival of the Prairie Star



BRUCE BARNES

BLOOMIN' BLUES

**Name:** Smallflower Woodland Star or Prairie Star

**Scientific name:** Lithophragma parviflorum

Welcome to our 18th year of articles about our local wildflowers. Last year, folks stayed home, avoided group meetings, and missed visits with friends and family. So Bloomin' Blues shifted to lots more photos of wildflowers, and cut back on the text. Now, we are shifting back to focusing on a single wildflower per week, and including more descriptive information about the plant.

Until last week, the wildflowers have been showing up quite late, likely due to a cold dry spring. This week the focus is on a plant that usually starts blooming in mid- or late May in lower elevations of the Blues. In spite of the late spring, it appeared the first of April in our backyard here in town, where we've never seen it before.

Prairie Star is a well-known member of the Saxifrage family. The scientific genus name, Lithophragma, is from the Greek lithos for stone, and phragma for rocky place. The scientific species



Bruce Barnes/Contributed Photo  
**Prairie Star, Lithophragma parviflorum.**

name, parviflorum, is for small-flowered.

Look for the Prairie Star in grassy areas. It grows in prairies and grassland to sagebrush desert and lower montane forest. The plant ranges from British Columbia and Alberta, south to California, and east to Montana, the Dakotas, and Colorado.

The plant is a perennial, so once you find some they should be in the same place in future years. Each plant has a single simple stem about 6 to 12 inches tall, with two to three small clusters of few flowers at the tip, and a few small leaves at or near the stem base. Each flower has five pink or white petals, each petal having three pointed lobes.

Bruce Barnes' extensive collection of Eastern Oregon flora can be found at <http://flora-id.org>. Reach him at [flora.id@wtechlink.us](mailto:flora.id@wtechlink.us).

## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

### Sip and shop at Echo Ridge Cellars

ECHO — A pop-up shop will be available at Echo Ridge Cellars during Mother's Day weekend.

People are invited to bring their mom and enjoy a glass of wine while browsing vendor booths. You might find your mom something to express your appreciation for all she does — from candles and chocolates to baked goods and much more. A number of local vendors will be on hand with a variety of handcrafted goods.

The event is Saturday, May 8, from noon to 4 p.m. at the winery, 551 Thielsen St., Echo. Among those selling their wares will be Denard's Bakery. Straight from Deana Taylor's certified kitchen, she offers original recipe taste-tested baked goods.

For more information about the event, call 541-376-8100.

### Breath of Life fundraiser benefits cystic fibrosis

UMATILLA — The Bearded Villain Oregon Woodsmen are co-hosting a fundraiser in support of Jessica Brown-Grooms' annual cystic fibrosis fundraising event.

Those in attendance are in for an evening of fun while raising awareness and money to help find a cure for cystic fibrosis. The event is Friday, May 14, beginning at 5 p.m. at The Bridge Bistro & Brews, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla.

Tickets will be available at the door — spectators are \$10 and competitors are \$25. Organizers promise that you don't want to miss this beard competition. It will feature multiple categories for beard types, and no experience is necessary. Those with a beard, who want to participate, should send a message via [www.facebook.com/rachelle.reed.73113](http://www.facebook.com/rachelle.reed.73113).

Brown-Grooms of Hermiston, who has hosted a yearly Breath of Life fundraising event, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was 18 months old. Those with the genetic disease, which causes the lungs to produce a thick, sticky mucus, have a shorter life expectancy. However, because of advances made through research over the past 60 years, the life expectancy, which used to be age 5, now surpasses 40.

Continued funding of research helps people with the disease continue to breathe. For more about the disease, visit [www.cff.org](http://www.cff.org); and for more about the upcoming fundraiser,



Geoff Parks/Contributed Photo

**Kim, left, Berlyn and Jay Bales in the barrel room of their Echo Ridge Cellars in Echo. Echo Ridge is the second winery — the other is Sno Road Winery, established in 2004 — to be sited in the old town, formerly a major stop on the old Oregon Trail in the mid-19th century.**

go to [www.facebook.com/events/2911224389163317](http://www.facebook.com/events/2911224389163317).

### Bark Park officially unleashes with dedication

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bark Park will host its dedication and ribbon cutting this week.

The grand unleashing event will include a Doggies Got Talent show. Paws Off Obedience will host a clinic on basic dog obedience and commands. The event is Friday, April 30, at 4 p.m. at the park, which is located at Butte Park, 1210 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston. There is no admission charge.

Hermiston Parks & Recreation gave a wag of its tail to Oregon Trail Veterinary Clinic, Pet Rescue and PetSense for their support and involvement with the event. For more information, call 541-667-5018.

### Faith-based gathering to unite believers

HERMISTON — Area Christians are excited about God's outreach in the region. To further mobilize the movement, people are invited to attend RE:NEW Gathering with Andrew Palau.

A time of prayer, inspiration, worship and unity, the event is Thursday, May 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. There is no admission charge, but people are encouraged to reserve a ticket in advance.

The gathering will include

believers from throughout the region who will learn from evangelist Palau and speaker Jose Zayas. Grab your family, friends and coworkers to worship together and find encouragement. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/cityfestGreaterHermiston](http://www.facebook.com/cityfestGreaterHermiston). To register, go to [luispalauassociation.regfox.com/hermiston-renew](http://luispalauassociation.regfox.com/hermiston-renew).

### Restaurant fund accepts applications

PORTLAND — Registration for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) will begin Friday, April 30 at 6 a.m. and then Small Business Administration will begin accepting applications via the Restaurant Revitalization Award Portal at <https://restaurants.sba.gov> on Monday, May 3, at 9 a.m.

The American Rescue Plan Act established the RRF to provide funding to help restaurants and other eligible businesses keep their doors open. The program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

The application portal will remain open to any eligible establishment until all funds are exhausted. Qualified applicants should familiarize themselves with the application process in advance to ensure a smooth and

efficient application.

People can review a sample application, program guide and cross-program eligibility chart for additional information. Recent webinars posted on the SBA's YouTube channel also offer more information. Links can be found on the SBA's social media platforms. Also, the Portland SBA District Office will host informational webinars on Tuesday, May 4, at 3 p.m. and Thursday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m. To register for those, search [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or contact [pdxhelp@sba.gov](mailto:pdxhelp@sba.gov).

### EOU names winter honor roll

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University named 629 students to the dean's list for the 2021 winter term. Qualifying students achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded EOU coursework.

The following local students were named to the list:

**Athena:** Lawson Denny III, Megan Phillips, Malinda Swafford; **Boardman:** Veronica Alvarez Frias; **Echo:** Kaden Clark, Michael Fisher, Natalee Sherbahn; **Helix:** Joao Pedrosa; **Heppner:** Kellen Grant, Hunter Nichols; **Hermiston:** Vanessa Ambriz Mendoza, Ryne Andreason, Lara Arrisola, Giovanni Gallardo, Martin Heredia, Callie Ann Hoeft, Andrew James, Isaac Lambert, Jaime Madrigal, Julia Maldonado, Anani Medina, Michelle Munro, Edgar Navarrete Ruiz, Cecia Palacios, Ivana Pena, Mario Rodriguez, Ashley Seibel, Sheana Shafer, Elsy Spears, Emily Wadkins, Luke Walchli, Ericka Wells; **Irrigon:** Kimberly Renteria Montes; **Meacham:** Stefanie Buckley; **Milton-Freewater:** Eli Garlitz, Brianna Hernandez, Kara Hoel, Ashley Jones, Giselle Lopez De Loera, April Martinez, Noah Prutton, Amanda Stewart; **Pendleton:** Samson Beckman, Alexi Brehaut, Robert Brown, Katelyn Gould, Aimee Gunter, Carter Habig, Bruce Hernandez, Brittney Jackson, Katelyn Johnson, Enes Kaplanovic, Brooklyn Lunny, Drew Lunny, Jeneal Merriman, Erin Monagle, Joseph O'Rourke, Kacey Robbins, Adriana Ruiz, Jillian Samp, Jessica Thomas, Jonathan Wolotira; **Pilot Rock:** Ellie Lankford, Logan Weinke; **Stanfield:** Larissa Castellanos, Jade Martinez; **Umatilla:** Rachelle Nycz; **Weston:** Brittany McGill.

—EO Media Group



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Entry to All events for the weekend is by Donation Only

**Friday - April 30, 2021:** Doors Open 7 AM

#### Happy Canyon Arena

**8 am-12 pm** - Broken Circle Border Collies Working Dog Clinic - Robin & Rocky Brown.

#### Pendleton Convention Center

**9:00 am - 5:30 pm** - D&B Supply Tradin' Post & Gear Show and Sale

#### Round-Up Pavilion

**8 am to 4pm** - Horse Sift and preview of Western Select Ranch Horses and Working Dogs. An opportunity to check out a horse and dog you would like to bid on at the Saturday auction.

**6:00 pm - 11:00 pm** Northwest Farm Credit/Hodgen Distributing Ranch Rodeo - Team Branding, Trailer Loading, Team Sort and Roping Championship; Stock Dog Roping & Mixed Branding (Doors open at 5:30 PM)

**Saturday - May 1, 2021:** Gates Open 7 AM

#### Round-Up Pavilion

**7:30 am - 9 am** NWSRA Steer Roping Qualifying Round

#### Convention Center

**9am - 5:30pm** - D & B Supply Tradin' Post & Gear Show and Sale

#### Round-Up Pavilion

**10 am - 1:30 pm** - Preview of Western Select Ranch Horses and Working Dogs

#### Convention Center West Side Parking Lot

**11 am - Ticket Sales - People's choice** - Cattle Barons BBQ Challenge, Cattle Barons Beer Garden, **1 pm** - Cattle Barons Buckaroo BBQ Challenge & People choice Voting - Northwest BBQ Association sanctioned competition made possible by Hines Meat Company

#### Convention Center

**2:30pm** - Introductions and Presentations @ Sale Ring in Main Hall

**3:00pm** - Pendleton Whisky Western Select Invitational Ranch Horse & Working Dog Sale

**Round-Up Pavilion** - Kick off with Speed Painter brought to you by Helix Pub & Market/Pendleton Catering

**7:00 pm - 10:00 pm** Community Bank/Les Schwab Stock Saddle Bronc Championship (Doors open at 5:30 PM)

**10:00 pm - 11:00 pm** - Band in Arena brought to you by Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's