

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

Enterprise, Oregon

www.wallowa.com

July 8, 2015 \$1

Plan afoot to keep historic lodge local

'I welcome this development enthusiastically'

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

A group of local investors is interested in preserving the

history and ambiance of Wallowa Lake Lodge by keeping it in the family — so to speak. Private investors have begun to gather into a group,

coalescing around the leadership of the nonprofit group Wallowology in Joseph. Wallowology is an educational project of Eastern Ore-

gon Legacy Land Funds, and is dedicated to a mission of supporting the preservation of natural resources through education. The Lodge, says Wallowology Director James

Monteith, is the perfect setting for an educational experience in preservation. "The interest is both in the lodge and the land around the lodge — to keep the lodge as is and be more an educational

venue; connect local groups like Wallowa Resources and The Nature Conservancy with events at the lodge," he said.

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PATRIOTISM ON PARADE



Little Karly Woods on her patriotic (and very patient) horse took second place in the children's division of the parade entries at the 2015 Wallowa City 4th of July Parade.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Red, white and blue rule the day

People in Wallowa got their patriotism on in a big way over the 4th of July and even mules wore red, white and blue.

There were slightly fewer entries in the popular community parade since scheduling conflicts kept several usual entries out of the running, but there was no shortage of patriotic spirit on the parade route and the Wallowa County Thunder Motorcycle Club made up the difference with three times the riders as last year. The City Choice Award for an

entry, and check for \$200, went to Kevin's Tire Shop.

First place in the adult division and a check for \$150 went to Bill Henke's festive mule pack.

Second place in the adult division and a check for \$100 went to the Wallowa County Thunder Motorcycle Club.

Third place went to the VFW Enterprise Post.

Fourth place went to Peggy Gentle and Ann Marie Scott, two ladies who have been walking together since 1999.

Montana and Lilee Post mixed their cultures by taking their two horses Hawaiian with their Hot Hulas on Horses entry and won the children's division.

Karly Woods' horse wore a patriotic hat and took second place.

Wallowa Library Kids' "Every Hero has a Story" entry took third.

Safe Kids Northwest Oregon La Grande Group took fourth.

Community Bank's Most Patriotic Award went to Wallowa River RV Park and their fisherman's delight float.

Wyden defends TPP at town hall meeting

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Despite the competing allure of balmy weather on a holiday weekend, a crowd filed into the Joseph Center to attend a town hall meeting featuring Oregon's senior U.S. Senator, Democrat Ron Wyden. County commissioners Mike Hayward and Susan Roberts attended the town hall, as did Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands.

The town hall is part of a promise Wyden made to Oregonians to hold meetings in each county of the state every year. Wyden was also doing his part to promote the "Seven Wonders of Oregon" tourism campaign. The Wallowas are one of the Seven Wonders.

Wyden, dressed casually in white shirt and jeans, answered questions on subjects as diverse as logging, health care, the Trans Pacific Partnership and Trade Promotion Authority ("fast-track").

Wyden opened the meeting by saying he applauded the community's appreciation of veterans, noting the new "We Honor Veterans" sign outside of Joseph. After a brief report by a U.S. Forest Service official on the Dennis Creek Fire in Union County, Wyden talked about legislation that he and Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo have proposed to pay for the very largest fires through federal disaster funding rather than borrowing from fire prevention funds.

One question from the floor came from Bruce Dunn of the county's Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Dunn asked about a bill designed to expedite timber sales and curtail lawsuits by environmental groups. Although Wyden voiced support for harvesting more timber from federal



Sen. Ron Wyden listens to a question from an audience member at a town hall meeting held at the Joseph Center on July 3.

lands, he indicated he did not approve of some of the proposed restrictions to curtail lawsuits.

Jean Falbo of Joseph asked Wyden about the cost of medication under the Medicare program and restrictions on using collective bargaining to lower prices, and the import of medication from Canada (Canadians pay less for U.S.-made medication than Americans do).

Falbo also asked if the TPP bill would promote overseas companies manufacturing medication, something she questioned.

Wyden replied he's been at the forefront of easing restrictions on collective bargaining for medication as well as re-importation of medication from Canada and other countries.

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WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN
Wallowa County's Newspaper Since 1884
Volume 133 Issue No. 12
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County OKs tram-area development

Corporation plans to create 16 residential, 4 commercial lots

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa Lake Tramway Corporation has received approval from the county planning commission to begin to develop its property at the foot of the tram. Formal approval is expected July 28.

Bill Whittemore of La Grande and Mike Lockhart of Joseph own the corporation and were represented by retired engineer Steve Anderson of Anderson Consulting Services of La Grande.

Preliminary plans showed subdivision of the property into 20 building lots ranging in size but not less than 7,500 square feet each. The property lies to the north and east of the lower Tram Terminal and just behind the old Edelweiss Building.

The preliminary plat of the subdivision showed an intention to create 16 residential/recreational lots positioned



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Overflow parking for the tram at the head of the lake with the old Edelweiss building in the background.

around circular courts on the upper portion of the property and four commercial and recreational use lots near Highway 82.

The property is zoned Resort Commercial Recreation, and is open to residential development, according to Wallowa County Planner Harold Black.

Sewer and water services

are provided by the Wallowa Lake County Service District, electrical service is provided by Pacific Power and Light, and telephone and cable services are provided by Frontier Communications and Crystal Broadband Networks. The intent of the owners is to place all of these service lines underground.

The owners intend to begin

improvements on what they are calling "South Lake Terrace" in 2016, provided all legal hurdles have been cleared.

Persons with legal interest may still appeal the planning commission's decision, in which case the issue goes to the board of commissioners.

Several individuals with legal interests have already made concerns known. The planning commission received letters of concern from Mark Thornberg, owner of nearby Matterhorn Village; Duane and Jane Wiggins, local property owners; and heard an oral complaint from Joe and Rita Ehrler of Joseph.

Their concerns, in a nutshell, were related to ambiance and parking.

"We owned that property for 50 years at one time and own property either side of it and we'd like it to stay the same," Duane Wiggins said.

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Bowlby Bash Saturday

ENTERPRISE — It's time for Bowlby Bash, this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Enterprise.

The Bowlby Bash Soap Box Derby is just part of the fun. Enterprise's Main Street will be closed to auto traffic and event goers will have the entire downtown district to explore. There will be sidewalk shopping, vendors, exhibitors, artists and artisans along the street and the Wallowa County Farmers' Market will be open.

Local restaurants and food booths will be cooking-up those good ol' favorites. There will be demonstrations from the early pioneering days to present-day activities in Wallowa County.

Art demonstrations are scheduled and sidewalk chalk art is encouraged.

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