



Courtesy photo
A group of investors is attempting to purchase the Wallowa Lake Lodge with the intent of protecting the site from development.

Lake Lodge purchase deadline extended

Few more weeks needed to meet goal, investor group says

Potential investors in the Wallowa Lake Lodge have been granted a few extra weeks to get their prospectuses read and their checks signed. The Jan. 15, 2016 deadline has been extended to early March.

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. 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.

Zwerling and Larson’s dream began to take solid shape when Wallowa County resident James Monteith, director of Wallowology, and nine other investors formed Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC and raised the initial \$275,000 (10 percent of asking price) in just 10 days after hearing of the availability of the lodge.

Zwerling quickly took the lodge off the market and allowed the group until Jan. 15 to come up with the balance.

The Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC set a goal of \$3.5 million that would provide a reserve fund of \$500,000 and cover transactional fees in addition to the purchase price and released a prospectus in early December 2015.

A month later, with just days to go before the deadline, a group of local investors gathered at Lostine Tavern in Wallowa County felt the goal was within their grasp.

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BACK^{TO}BACK

BRETT BRUGGEMAN REPEATS AS EAGLE CAP EXTREME WINNER



Ellen Bishop/For The Chieftain
Hugo Antonucci of Adin, Calif., and his eager team of Alaskan and Siberian Huskies await the start of the 100-mile race while volunteers help keep the team under (relative) control.

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Brett Bruggeman of Great Falls, Mont., kept his big grin in place start to finish on the Eagle Cap Extreme 200-mile race, winning it for the second year in a row and finishing with a time of 32 hours and 24 minutes. Bruggeman’s time was just over 2.5 hours faster than his nearest competitor, four-time Iditarod participant Aaron Peck of Alberta, Canada.

Bruggeman’s Skinny Legs Sled Dogs proved their fitness, running 100 miles of the race with just one half-hour stop for snacks and drinks at the 50-mile Ollokot checkpoint, and again at the 150-mile marker. Bruggeman dropped one dog at the 150-mile marker, finishing with 11 dogs.

Peck took his rest stops, having “no interest in running a 100-mile leg on the race,” he said. He left just two dogs behind over the course of the race, finishing with 10 dogs.

The two men joked about their competition during the awards banquet and Peck threw down the gauntlet for the 2017 ECX, vowing to beat Bruggeman next year.

Bruggeman donated his \$1,700 first-place award to the event’s trail crew and revealed that when his wife had asked him earlier where he wanted to retire, he’d said “Joseph, Oregon.”

Peck had nothing but love for Wallowa County as well.

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Ellen Bishop/For The Chieftain
Musher Brett Bruggeman of Great Falls, Mont., sets out on the 200-mile race Thursday behind his team of 12 Alaskan Huskies. Bruggeman won the 2015 200-mile Eagle Cap Extreme race and repeated as winner this year.

Pampering the pups

What is a “dropped dog?”

A “drop dog” or “dropped dog” is one that has failed a vet check and is dropped off the team. If a musher sees that one of his/her dogs is sick or injured between checkpoints, the dog is put on the sled and continues as a passenger until the checkpoint is reached.

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Kathleen Ellyn
The Chieftain
Two drop dogs lodge complaints Friday morning after being left behind at Ollokot Station after 100 miles of mushing. No dogs suffered serious injuries in the race. These dogs had strained wrists and hocks and will recover completely after rest.