

Donors, investors mull lodge’s future

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Musical events and workshops, more community events and other suggestions have been added to a growing list as investors and donors in the Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC take their “community ownership” to heart.

The lodge is not yet owned by the LLC, but the organization is less than \$200,000 from an early goal that will allow them to leverage loans to make up the purchase price by the mid-March deadline.

The lodge originally was listed for \$2.75 million but the LLC has established a goal of \$3.5 million to cover contingencies and other expenses.

Shares will continue to be available after the deadline and donations are always welcome.

LLC Manager James Monteith, meanwhile, is “galloping” around the state gathering last-minute investors and donations, according to LLC outreach representative Ellen Bishop.

Bishop and other representatives set up their materials at a special evening Feb. 13 at the Red Horse Café in Joseph to answer questions from donors and folks interested in purchasing shares in the lodge.

Among the information shared was an extended list of suggestions proposed by investors and donors of how the lodge can best serve the community.

Classes, workshops and collaboration with both Wallowology and Fishtrap are high on that list, followed by: remodeling the old shop into a meeting center; opening the Cattleman’s Bar and expanding the back deck to accommodate dancing and diners; including more local, sustainable and organic food in the lodge menu; developing musical events and workshops; and continuing and expanding community-based special events for families, as was demonstrated this year with the Halloween party and other events.

Because of a close relationship between the LLC and Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands Fund (EOLLF), a 501c3 tax-exempt conservation organization, donors have been able to contribute \$49,000 toward purchase price, allowing EOLLF to purchase 49 shares in the new company.

To donate, call 541-263-1663 or email ellen@wallowology.org.

For a comprehensive investor’s packet with prospectus, call 541-398-0305 or email info@lakewallowalodge.com.

Candlelight vigil illuminates rural issues

Speakers, mourners honor Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The crowd of nearly 100 people who showed up at the historic 1909 Wallowa County Courthouse for a candlelight memorial for Robert “LaVoy” Finicum on Tuesday assembled from every corner of Wallowa County — from the stark canyons of remote Imnaha to the woods and ranchland of Wallowa.

Wallowa County boasts a population of just over 7,000 people, making it among the least populated counties in the state.

Nearly half of the land is federal- or state-owned. Close to 50 percent of all jobs in the county are county, state or federal jobs.

And, although foresters admit that their relationship to ranchers in Wallowa County is one of the most productive in the state, for many Wallowa County locals the sense of connection with

Harney County, just a few hundred miles to the south, is strong.

“We’ve lost our connection to our natural resources,” said organizer and rancher Chad Nash of Enterprise. He recalled a childhood where schools had twice the population they do now and full programs, where jobs in the private sector were plentiful and three sawmills operated. Now, he said, even the Forest Service agrees that the current management of the forest is wrong, but no action can be taken without fear of lawsuits.

“We feel like out here in the West we’re not listened to by our representatives,” Nash said. “We just don’t get any traction because we’re overshadowed by the population on the west side of the state.”

Wallowa County Commissioner Paul Castilleja, who also spoke at the event, said that before a recent illness prevented him, he had intend-

ed to visit Harney County and approach the commissioners there and say, “Look, folks, you are the government in this county. You needed to go over to the BLM first, and get the sheriff together, and you work out something instead of this land grab that the federal government is requesting — not requesting, demanding and taking.”

To the crowd that gathered to honor Finicum, he was the victim of an “ambush and murder” staged by FBI agents in the final days of the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Harney County.

Finicum, as various speakers at the event defined him, was a “good man” and a “hero” who was standing up for salt-of-the-earth ranchers in the face of an overwhelming Federal presence determined to destroy an entire way of life.

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Nearly 100 individuals from around Wallowa County attended the candlelight vigil for Utah rancher Robert “LaVoy” Finicum, who was shot and killed in an altercation with FBI agents in Burns, Ore.

Enterprise teen flown to Boise after being hit by car

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A female teenager was struck by a car early the morning of Monday, Feb. 8, while in a crosswalk at the intersection of West Main and SW Depot streets in Enterprise.

Enterprise Police Department officer Jed Stone responded to a 911 call reporting the incident and found

passers-by administering first aid to an unconscious 15-year-old girl. She had been struck by a vehicle driven by a 16-year-old boy, who was still on scene.

The victim was taken by ambulance to Wallowa Memorial Hospital and subsequently transported by helicopter to St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. No official word on the extent of her injuries has

been released.

Police cited the driver for failure to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. Although the accident is still under investigation, Officer Stone’s report indicates that the time of day, the angle of the sun and frost on the passenger-side wind-

shield may have contributed to the accident.

Both juveniles are Enterprise residents.

Wallowa Mountain Chapter

18th Annual BIG GAME BANQUET

When: Saturday, March 12, 2016
Where: Enterprise Cloverleaf Hall (Hwy 3)
Catered by Chuckwagon Paradise Rose back by popular demand!
Time: Sponsors Admission Only 4:30pm
Social Hour/General Admission 5:00pm

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Register online at events.rmf.org
Or for more information call:
Sharen Wilson 541-398-1238
Brad Peterson 503-805-3629

Volunteers Welcome!
Each Thursday - Joseph Community Center - 6:00pm

301 W. Main, Enterprise • 541.426.3177

BIRTH

A daughter,
Lily-Rayne
Walterine Sparks,
was born
February 5, 2016,
in Enterprise
to Cassandra Gerald
of Joseph.
Grandparent is
Mary Foy.

Sharon’s
Bouquet of the Week
Thank you, Wendy McDaniels,
for the lovely taxi service when it
was too cold to be out walking!

XX00,
Sharon Sherlock

M. C R O W & C O.

L O S T I N E , O R

Thank You

In times of sorrow and grief, we always knew that when Wallowa County people were in need, people always stepped up. People came out of the woodwork to offer condolences, send cards and flowers, to bring food, or just to keep us in their thoughts and prayers. The Perren and Morgan families can't begin to thank you for all you've done. Families who have neighbors and friends like we have are indeed blessed. We only hope that we can be as benevolent as you, when the need arises.

Fran, Michael, and Brian Perren, Brigitte Preller, Randy Morgan

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is Monday @ 4pm. Call **541.426.4567**

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Plastic paint tray includes two 9 x 3/8-in. nap roller covers, wire roller frame, 1 1/2-in. brush and 3-in. trim roller frame with two covers. K 133 237 B12
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