

Mount Howard gains landmark status

‘Botanical diversity’ earns peak a National Natural Landmark designation

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The U.S. Department of the Interior on June 28 officially designated Mountain Howard-East Peak near Wallowa Lake as a National Natural Landmark.

The 8,150-foot mountain received the designation because of its value as the finest montane (high-altitude) grassland on the Columbia Plateau as well as its botanical diver-

sity. This includes housing a number of rare plant species as well as some endemic to the Wallowa Mountains.

In a press release, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden stated: “As the Senate sponsor of the ‘Recreation Not Red-Tape Act,’ I am pleased any time one of Oregon’s natural landmarks earns a well-deserved spotlight as a special place for Oregonians and visitors alike to get outdoors. Wallowa County should stand



Mount Howard
Courtesy photo

very proud that Mount Howard-East Peak has been recognized for both its unique montane grasslands and botanical

diversity.”

The National Natural Landmarks program is administered by the National Park Service, while the Mt. Howard site is administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

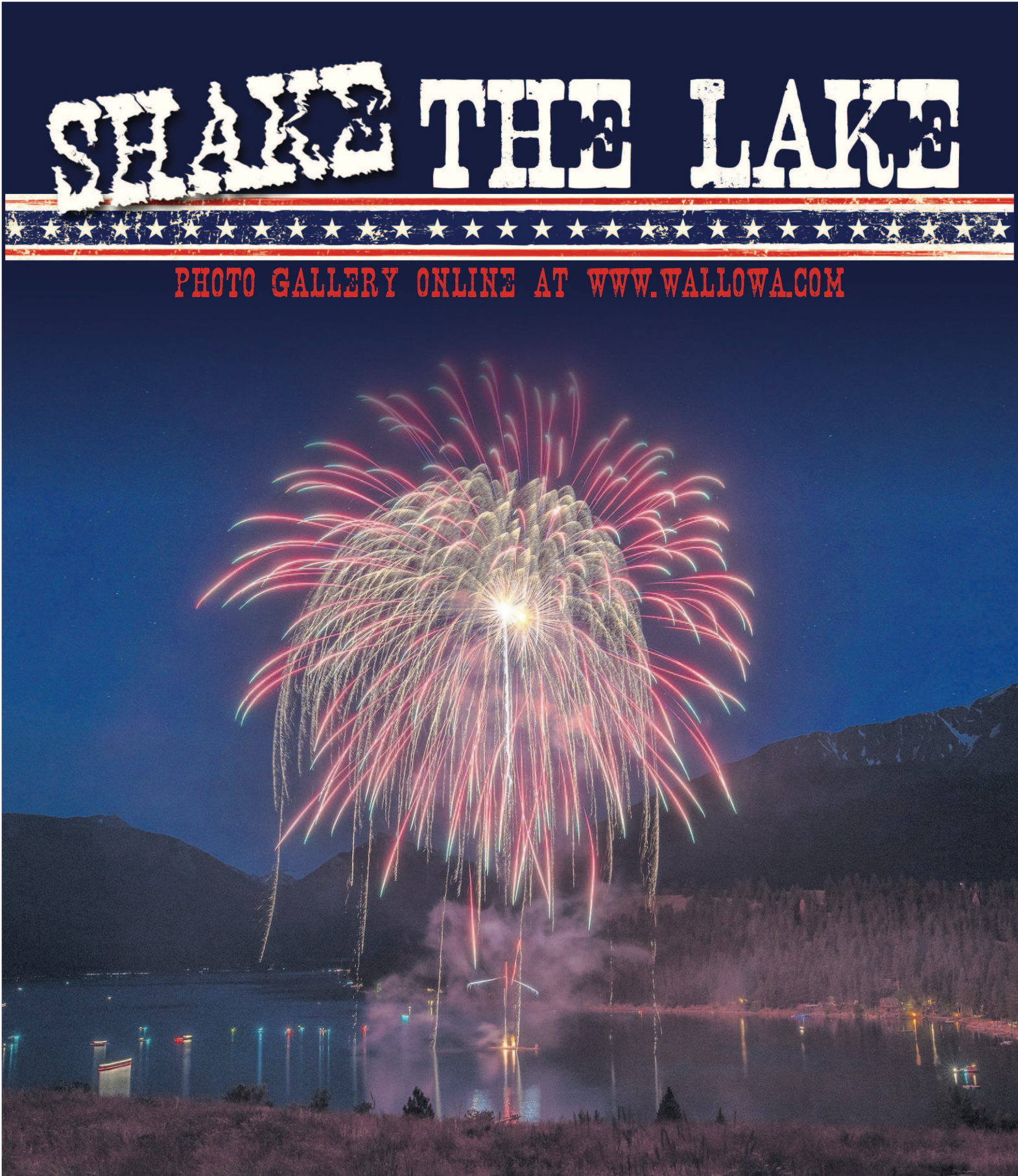
The Mount Howard summit is the terminus of the 3,700-foot Wallowa Lake Tramway.

Kris Stein, District Ranger of the Eagle Cap Ranger District as well as the Hells Canyon National Recreation

Area, said the designation process was underway before her 2013 tenure started. She said the Park Service coordinated the project with U.S. Forest Service biologists.

“We cooperated with them ... but we didn’t advocate for it in any way,” Stein said. She said her office is not required to manage the land any differently because of the designation.

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Thousands gathered at Wallowa Lake — on the water and on the shores — for another spectacular Shake the Lake fireworks show on Monday night in celebration of the Fourth of July. Visit Wallowa.com to see our online photo gallery from the event.

Joseph park lands grant

Parks and Recreation committee awards more than \$130,000 for playground

By Scot Heisel
Wallowa County Chieftain

A plan to rebuild the playground area at Joseph City Park received a major financial boost last week when an Oregon Parks and Recreation advisory board announced the project will receive more than \$130,000 through the state’s Local Government Grant Program.

The grant program divides applicants into three categories: Projects seeking more than \$75,000, those seeking less than \$75,000 and master plan funding.

As part of the process, the advisory committee ranks all projects in each category. The Joseph playground plan was the No. 1-ranked large-grant application among 38 in the state and the only project in Eastern Oregon awarded one of the larger grants.

Penny Arentsen, who co-chairs the JCP Playground Renovation Steering Committee with Marla Dotson, wrote the grant application on behalf of the city and pitched the project to the advisory committee in Salem in June.

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Bowlby Bash set to take over downtown Enterprise

Annual all-day event will ‘rock’ your world

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

It’s nearly time for Enterprise’s biggest downtown summer blowout — Bowlby Bash.

The all-inclusive, free, family-oriented event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and is named after the distinctive stone — Bowlby stone — used in the construction of the picturesque courthouse and several downtown buildings.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain archives

Last year in the 2015 Bowlby Bash Downhill Race, Nathan (Lamb) Eaves (green car) had a much smaller push engine than anyone else (his sister), but he still made it up the hill and coasted back down against Hartwell Brann in the OK Theatre Roadster. This year Nathan’s “mystery car” may have what it takes to beat that black “Roadster,” driven this year by Isabella Brann.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain archives

Dave Carpenter’s 2015 Peoples Choice Award “car” was Steer Yer Face, a jointed Conestoga wagon requiring two operators to drive. It was slow, but it was picturesque.