What's Happening

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26

Food Giveaway: 11:30 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center in Wallowa, 11 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center and noon at The Place in Joseph. Sponsored by Wallowa Fresh Food Alliance. Perishable food available. Repeats Jan. 2.

Rotary Club of Wallowa County: Noon, St. Katherine Catholic Church, 301 E. Garfield St., Enterprise. Public is invited. Repeats Jan. 2.

Adult Clay: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Josephy Center, Joseph. \$65 for first class, \$20 each class after. classes@josephy.org or 971-303-2987.

Core Yoga: 5:30 p.m. above Lostine Tavern in Lostine. All levels, focusing on strength, flexibility, clarity and focus.

Kickboxing Fitness Class: 6:15 p.m. Oddfellows Hall in Enterprise. Hurricane Point Fitness. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131. Repeats Monday.

Yoga Rotation: 6:30 p.m. The Place in Joseph. Classes vary from week to week. salutationsstudio.com.

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

Kickboxing Fitness Class: 5:15 a.m. The Vault in Enterprise. Hurricane Point Fitness. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131.

Pilates: 9 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center, 204 E Second, Wallowa. Sponsored by Community Connection.

Wallowa County Chess Club: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Josephy Center, Joseph. Free. Tourists and players of all levels are welcome.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

Zumba: 6:30 a.m. The Place, Joseph. No experience needed. Instructor: Tammi Chapman.

Purely Restorative: 9:45 a.m. above the Lostine Tavern in Lostine. A gentle style of yoga. salutationsstudio.com

Food Giveaway: 11:30 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center in Wallowa, 11 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center and noon at The Place in Joseph. Sponsored by Wallowa Fresh Food Alliance. Perishable food

MONDAY, DEC. 31

Adult Clay: 9 a.m. to noon. Josephy Center, Joseph. \$65 for first class, \$20 each class after. 971-303-2987.

Paul Castilleja Retirement Open House: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wallowa County Courthouse. Refreshments served.

TUESDAY, JAN. 1

Polar Bear Plunge: 10 a.m. sharp! Wallowa Lake, north end. Don't be late or you'll miss the action!

First Day Hike at Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site: 10:30 a.m. Hike will start at the parking lot of Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site. The hike is moderate and everyone is welcome. Dogs must be on six-foot leash. Bring snowshoes or Yaktrax for slipping. The park will have a few snowshoes available. Hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores provided. Sponsored by Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept. Free. 541-432-8855.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2

Adult Clay: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Josephy Center, Joseph. \$65 for first class, \$20 each class after. classes@josephy.org or 971-303-2987.

Core Yoga: 5:30 p.m. above Lostine Tavern in Lostine. All levels, focusing on strength, flexibility, clarity and focus.

Kickboxing Fitness Class: 6:15 p.m. Oddfellows Hall in Enterprise. Hurricane Point Fitness. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131.

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Prepare to plunge on Jan. 1

By Kathleen Ellyn Wallowa County Chieftain

Leave it all behind! Wallowa County's best opportunity for a fresh start takes place January 1 at 10 a.m. on the north shore of Wallowa Lake.

Yes, it's time for the Wallowa County Polar Plunge, when self-proclaimed "crazy people" take that chilly dip and leave 2018 behind, emerging ready for a brand new year.

Anyone can join the crowd, which swelled to over 60 last year. Visitors and visiting relatives often join the group and even dogs have accompanied their owners — to the edge of the lake to witness the event; none have taken the plunge.

The only rule for the plunge is that you are standing at the edge of that freezing (but not frozen over) lake at 10 a.m., ready to go. A tradition of linking hands during the 10 second countdown before the crowd plunges has developed as the crowd has grown — assuring that neither you nor your friends back out of the deal.

The originators of the tradition were hardy souls with a competitive streak. It began in 2007 when they challenged one another to go jump in a lake. News of their tradition leaked out and more and more folks began showing up for the fun.



Some of the plungers from the 2017 Polar Plunge. Admit it, this looks like just the sort of fun that Wallowa County residents love and you want to join these people.

Any family friendly attire is allowed. Wet suits, although not prohibited, may be interpreted as a measure of your courage and wearing one will leave you open to snorts and ribbing.

Some hardy souls do more than plunge, they swim out to the furthest dock pylons to prove their mettle. But most folk opt for the waist-deep run in, a short dunk at the apex of the in-run, and a run back out to the shore.

Screaming and gasping are not only allowed but applauded.

Commitment is key in your planning. Wallowa Lake likes to keep plungers guessing, and sometimes hides under ice until the very morning of the event. So, calling around hoping to hear the lake is frozen over and

the plunge is challenged will not get you off the hook with your friends. You just have to show up.

The plunge is not a formal event, a fundraiser, or anything like that. There are no official organizers. This happens and you can join if you want to, but don't expect anyone to be installing warming tents or serving cocoa. You are your own responsibility. Many plungers have a friend or loved one standing by with a blanket when they emerge and a hot drink waiting in their car.

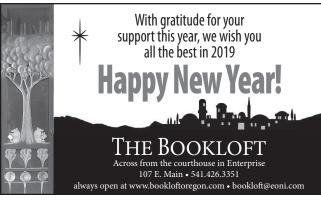
As a word of encouragement, plungers are assured that the lake is usually warmer than the air, which on the first of January can be from zero to 18 degrees.



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The Best in the West



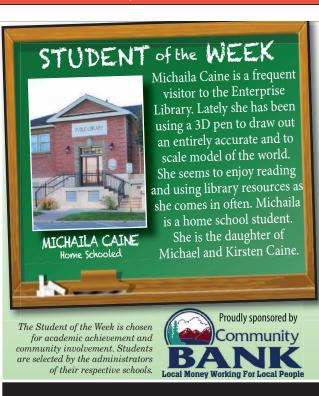
















Kathleen Ellvn/Chieftain

Summer hikers at Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site come down the steep hill to the parking lot.

Location planned for New Year's Day hike changed

reation Department has Day Hike on New Year's Day has changed.

The hike will now leave from Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Park between Joseph and the north end of Wallowa Lake. There is a parking lot at the south entrance of the park and restrooms. The hike was originally scheduled to along the East Moraine Trail across from the south entrance of Iwetemlaykin.

The hike around Iwetemlaykin Park is moderate. The trek will take you up a steep hill and then drop down into a quiet area around Knights Pond with big ponderosa pines, the sound of water and

Oregon Parks and Rec- frequent wildlife sightings.

Hikers are advised to be advised that the Wallowa prepared and bring snow-County location for the First shoes or Yaktrax, water, snacks and layered clothing. The park will have a few pairs of snowshoes available to borrow and hot chocolate and s'mores will be available after the hike. Dogs must be on six foot leashes.

Hikers can register for the hike at the Oregon Sate Parks Store, http://bit.ly/ ParkStoreEvents. Registration, although not required, will help park staff plan for the hike. Contact information: (541) 432-8855.

Share photos of First Day Hikes via Twitter and Instagram by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes or tagging "Oregon State Parks" on Facebook.



Courtesy of Weather Underground • wunderground.com **Conditions** High Low

Dec 27	* *	31	20	PM Snow Showers
Dec 28	* *	31	26	PM Snow Showers
Dec 29		35	27	PM Showers
Dec 30	* *	35	30	Snow Showers
Dec 31		34	27	Rain and Snow Mixed
Jan 1	* *	37	27	Snow Showers
Jan 2	* *	37	23	Snow Showers

Phases of the moon







Jan. 21

1st Quarter Full Moon WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE & SUNSET DEC. 27-JAN. 3 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
7:28	7:28	7:28	7:	7:28	7:28	7:28
4:12	4:13	4:14	4:15	4:16	4:17	4:18