

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. Joseph 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. Joseph 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 available.

MONDAY, DEC. 31

Adult Clay: 9 a.m. to noon. Joseph 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. Joseph 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.

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

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.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

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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With gratitude for your support this year, we wish you all the best in 2019
Happy New Year!
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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

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

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Location planned for New Year's Day hike changed

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has advised that the Wallowa County location for the First 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

frequent wildlife sightings.

Hikers are advised to be prepared and bring snowshoes 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 State 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.

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Dec 27 High 31 Low 20 Conditions PM Snow Showers
Dec 28 High 31 Low 26 Conditions PM Snow Showers
Dec 29 High 35 Low 27 Conditions PM Showers
Dec 30 High 35 Low 30 Conditions Snow Showers
Dec 31 High 34 Low 27 Conditions Rain and Snow Mixed
Jan 1 High 37 Low 27 Conditions Snow Showers
Jan 2 High 37 Low 23 Conditions Snow Showers
Phases of the moon
Dec. 29 Jan. 5 Jan. 13 Jan. 21
Last Quarter New Moon 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

STUDENT of the WEEK
Michaila Caine is a frequent visitor to the Enterprise Library. Lately she has been using a 3D pen to draw out an entirely accurate and to scale model of the world. She seems to enjoy reading and using library resources as she comes in often. Michaila is a home school student. She is the daughter of Michael and Kirsten Caine.
MICHAILA CAINE Home Schooled
Proudly sponsored by Community BANK
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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

PET OF THE WEEK
Brought to you by, CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME
ENTERPRISE Meet Kyle
A Male, short hair, Gray, Tabby with some lighter gray strips. Born Oct 7, 2018, he is a very gentle, loving kitten. He is a purring machine, loves to be held. Up-to-date on shots and worming, litter box trained, DOG FRIENDLY and enjoys the other cats. A very cuddly and loving kitten, ready for a new lap to lay in.
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