



Ellen Morris Bishop

Shake the Lake has put on a great fireworks display, but needs more than \$6000 in contributions to continue next year.

Fireworks: Will the 'shew' go on?

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we want to put on a memorable show. The chamber decided to offer the best program we could possibly deliver."

Shake the Lake benefits most of the communities in Wallowa County, including restaurants, lodging, and even gasoline sales in Wallowa Lake, Joseph, and Enterprise, Searles noted. "If we eliminate our fireworks, other communities that have fireworks—La Grande, and Pendleton especially—will lure the 4th of July visitors," she said. "But Shake the Lake is not so much for visitors as it is for us—it's an event for the families of Wallowa County."

Searles is hoping that individuals and businesses will step up soon to help ensure that Shake the Lake will continue into the future. Fourth of July fireworks have a long tradition. The very first 4th of July fireworks was in Philadelphia in 1777 — before the fledgling republic had any independence to celebrate. And on July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail: "This day in July will be the most memorable Epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty; it ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

But with Shake the Lake on shaky ground, it remains to be seen whether our "shew" as Adams wrote, will go on.

THREE THINGS TO DO ON THE FOURTH

The Fourth of July is a time for barbecues and fireworks. Here are three events in Wallowa County that can enrich your family holiday.

1. Wallowa Fourth of July Parade, 11 a.m. Not too many parades mark the Fourth of July any more. Wallowa's parade is a tradition there. The parade starts at 11 a.m. near the High School and Wallowa History Center on the west side of town and proceeds to the City Center. Bands, cheering, horses, and history. Fire trucks. Flags. There's a barbecue right after the parade.

2. Courthouse Concert, Enterprise: 5:30. The Music Alliance presents a free concert every Thursday at the gazebo on the northeast side of the County Courthouse in Enterprise. This Thursday's concert just happens to also be a Fourth of July Concert. Free music by Joey Carper/Elwood.

3. Shake the Lake, about 9 p.m. The classical climax to a perfect Fourth of July. Epic fireworks display begins about 9 p.m. at the County Park at the north end of Wallowa Lake. Get there early for the best seats (actually you have to bring your own chairs). Enjoy what is forecast to be a perfect summer evening outside with friends.

STAY SAFE ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

Fireworks ignite an average of 18,500 fires and cause thousands of injuries each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Here are some common-sense rules for safety from the National Safety Council and Prevention Magazine.

- Keep pets inside and in a place where they feel safe. Many dogs react to the explosive sounds of fireworks with almost mortal fear. Provide a safe place for them. Better yet, consider the fear you may instill in your pets, and those of neighbors, as well as wildlife, and just go to Shake the Lake.

- Don't let young children handle fireworks, including sparklers.

- Wear safety glasses.

- Don't light a firework in your hand.

- Clear the area where you are going to ignite fireworks. There should be nothing

flammable—dry grass, shrubs, trees or buildings—anyplace that fireworks' hot materials may burn or fall.

- Keep buckets of water and a live hose handy to douse any fire that may start.

- Stay away from/don't use M-class fireworks, including M-80s and M-100s. They are dangerous, unpredictable and powerful. They are also illegal.

- Never re-light a "dud" firework. Sometimes the fuse on a firework may be slower than you expect. If you go back to "relight it" you may arrive just as it goes off—at a very close range.

- When you are done, douse all fireworks devices with water, and as a precaution, wash down the area where you've been setting off the fireworks. This will help avoid late-night surprises, trash fires, and unwanted visits from your local fire department volunteers.

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Public Events Every Night at Wallowa Lake Lodge - 7:30pm



Monday, July 8-7:30 FREE

Welcome - Shannon McNerney

Opening Address - Luis Alberto Urrea

Tuesday, July 9 -7:30pm FREE

Faculty Readings - Sharma Shields, Beth Piatote,

Scott Russell Sanders

Wednesday, July 10 - 7:30pm FREE

Faculty Readings - Perrin Kerns, Kim Stafford, M0sley W0tta

Thursday, July 11 - 7:30pm FREE

Faculty Readings - Anis Mojgani, Laura Pritchett,

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Friday, July 12 - 7:30pm Tickets \$25*

Keynote Address - Molly Gloss

Faculty Reading - Jamie Ford

Saturday, July 13 - 7:30pm Tickets \$25*

Screening of the award-winning documentary, *Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin*

Panel Discussion: *Dreams and Tales: Remembering Ursula* with Molly Gloss, Luis Alberto Urrea, and Scott Russell Sanders

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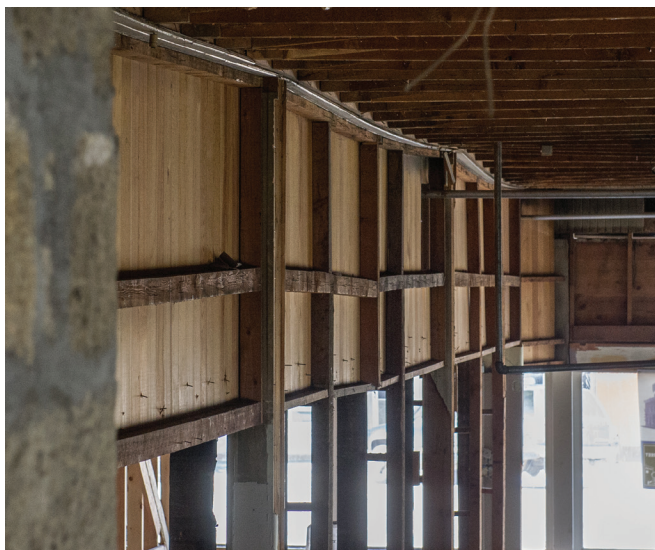
Fishtrap
Writing & The West

Litch: Overhaul project moves forward

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move them." When the second story was constructed in 1909, skylights admitted lots of daylight to the interior of the Litch Building's upper story. McKee plans to restore them. Their presence is clearly outlined by the pattern of joists and beams where there once were plaster ceilings.

McKee sees the population of downtown by professionals as an essential step towards a revitalized community. His upstairs apartments will be energy-efficient and thoroughly modern. For the businesses downstairs he is in negotiations with a Council, Idaho restaurant that specializes in in-expensive burgers, and who would like to open a second restaurant in Enterprise. "It's hard to find a burger here for under \$12.00," he said. A pizza place could, perhaps fill another space. For the larger, marquee retail space



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The sagging structure of the East side of the Litch Building shows up as warped beams and ceilings.

with the front door squarely at Main and River streets, McKee is toying with the idea of inviting proposals from local and other businesses—especially restaurants. "If it seems like the right idea," he said, "maybe we could work out a deal for lower rent for the first year

or two so they can get there feet under them, if they can help manage the building or provide other benefits."

"If you have people living here, and if we can develop a thriving series of restaurants and other businesses, Enterprise can regain its vibrant character," he said.