



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

HOLLYWOOD  
IN ENTERPRISE  
BUSINESS, A6

137th Year, No. 3

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

## Wallowa County Voices



Lynn Wolf  
Joseph

### Former visitor made Joseph home

JOSEPH — Lynn Wolf moved here some 13 years ago with her late husband after visiting numerous times.

"I'd start crying when we'd have to leave town, and my husband said, 'I guess we have to move,'" she said.

So they moved from their former home south of Portland.

Wolf is "mostly retired," though she said she still does a bit of interior decorating and design work.

She has one daughter and son-in-law who live here and another son who is moving over here from the west side. Two other sons live in the Beaverton area.

Wolf recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

#### What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

I love the fresh air, the scenery, the no traffic. The people here are great. They support a lot of good causes. There's a wide variety of people.

#### What are your thoughts on Larry Braden resigning as city administrator over alleged harassment by council members?

I did not hear that, so I don't have any thoughts on it at this time.

#### What's your opinion of Joseph city government?

I've been waiting to give the new administration some time, but that's all for now. I haven't attended any meetings, so I have no thoughts on that.

#### How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

It's kept me home a lot. It wasn't super difficult for me, but I've thought it was important that we all pay attention to the protocols.

#### Have you gotten the vaccine against COVID-19 or are you planning to get it?

You bet; I've gotten the two shots of Moderna.

#### Which vaccine did you prefer?

I didn't care.

#### What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

To slow down and enjoy what's around me. I've always tried to do that, but it's easier to do here.

#### What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

Come with an open mind and an open heart. I would hope that they would be ready to improve on the things they love here. We're going to have to embrace some change, but we don't want change to be just for the sake of change to bring what you're used to here. A lot of people had a reason to move here and why destroy that?

— Bill Bradshaw,  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

City Attorney Wyatt Baum, second from left, talks with Joseph city leaders after an emergency City Council meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2021. From left are Councilman Stephen Bartlow, Baum, Mayor Belinda Buswell and Administrative Assistant Jamie Collier.

## 'FOG' REMAINS OVER JOSEPH CITY COUNCIL

### Council stays mum on legal advice on Braden probe

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Progress was made toward replacing resigned city Administrator/Recorder Larry Braden during another emergency meeting Wednesday, April 21, but the Joseph City Council failed to answer the question of whether there will be an investigation into Braden's claim of harassment.

The council went into executive session at the beginning of the meeting to seek advice from City Attorney Wyatt Baum, but declined to discuss in open session any advice he'd given on a possible investigation.

The question was at the forefront of the minds of several council members April 16 when Mayor Belinda Buswell read aloud

Braden's resignation letter in which he stated, "the stress of the job as it is today and constant harassment from members of the current City Council has become too much for me to handle and is affecting my private life in ways that I can no longer allow to continue."

After a suggestion that council members be authorized to fill in Braden's duties until a new administrator can be hired, Councilwoman Lisa Collier said April 16 she was opposed to the idea.

"I actually feel that given the nature of the letter it sounds like there's some harassment from City Council members, I'm not sure that I'm comfortable with giving access," she said.

Others agreed.

"I would concur with Lisa and it seems like we need more information," Councilwoman Tammy Jones said. "There are very clear roles for a board or a council and an administrator. It seems to me that's where we need to put some focus and figure out where are those boundaries to ensure that if there are some things that, as a council, that we are doing that impacts the city (administra-

tor) unable to do their job, then that's kind of a bigger issue. I agree that we need to get someone in to help figure some of those pieces out, and this is a really big deal."

At that time, the council agreed to seek Baum's advice on a potential investigation over the harassment allegation. But during last week's emergency meeting, the council declined to make public what Baum's recommendation was.

When asked directly during the public comment portion of the open session whether there would be an investigation, Buswell said, "As the presiding chair, I will say what I'll always say regarding what goes on in executive session, and that will be 'No comment.' It's just about public meeting laws and the protection of executive session."

Joseph resident Mike Lockhart wasn't satisfied with that.

"I've had conversations with several people about what's going on with the investigation," he said. "In today's paper, it puts a fog over the entire council. You know, who's the

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## Ready to entertain

### Wallowa Lake Lodge gets a new deck, has other plans in place for new season

By RONALD BOND  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — Leadership at the Wallowa Lake Lodge is hoping to have a new, improved and expanded deck completed by next month — just in time for the start of the new season.

It's the latest improvement at the lodge, and one that became a clear need last year after the COVID-19 pandemic forced business outside.

"It became really apparent last year when we had to move outside as much as possible because of coronavirus to stay open," said Madeline Lau, general manager of the lodge. "We had to limit our capacity in the dining room by half, so we could only get 42 people. Also with the views and the ambiance and the beauty of our location, people want to be outside anyway. It became apparent our deck had some structural issues last year."

Lau isn't quite sure when the deck was assembled for the 98-year-old lodge, but thinks it was possibly built during a major renovation to the building in 1988.

Lau said the old deck was ripped out during the winter, and the rebuild started April 5.

The new deck will have a bowtie

design and, at roughly 2,000 square feet, will be about 30% larger than the one it's replacing. The new deck will be built of cedar, and will include posts made of locally sourced juniper, juniper burls at the entry and a stainless-steel tension cable for the railing. The deck is being built by local community members.

The hope is to have the deck completed by May 21, in time for the lodge's opening on May 28.

"It's our goal to make the most beautiful deck in Eastern Oregon and a place where everyone is welcome," she said.

It's a season where Lau hopes to see a vision of the lodge being used by both locals and tourists. The local community has sustained the historic place and saved it five years ago.

"We are announcing that I want the community to use the lodge in a much bigger way," she said.

Lau said in the past, the lodge has been more of a destination for tourists, and the locals have wondered about the accessibility to them.

"It is my goal to make the lodge as accessible as possible to the

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Madeline Lau/Contributed Photo

Progress is made on the new bowtie deck being built at the Wallowa Lake Lodge. General Manager Madeline Lau said the hope is for the deck to be completed by May 21, 2021, in time for the May 28 start to the season.

