

Double rainbow



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Leprechauns must have snatched the pot o' gold at the end of these twin rainbows, as they weren't there Monday evening, April 26, 2021, during a lull in a rainstorm south of Enterprise.



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.

Lodge:

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widest variety of guests and customers, but also to see the community use the lodge more than they have before," she said. "I want this to be a gathering place, I want the community to feel very welcome here. For a long time the lodge was set apart and felt almost inaccessible. We want to be a place that the community uses."

Among the adjustments this season, which will run through Oct. 31, are restaurant hours being changed, and now being from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. It will have a happy hour from 3-5 p.m. on Tuesday through Sun-

day, and a brunch from 8-11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The restaurant will have a "Scandinavian-inspired menu," Lau said.

There also is a plan to have live musicians on the deck from 5-7 p.m. Friday nights, and pianist Gail Swart will play Sundays from 6-9 p.m. in the dining room.

With the deck coming in at about double the expected price due to a spike in lumber prices, the lodge has launched a gofundme.com page to help with the additional expenses. The page has a goal of \$15,000.

"Initially, the cost of the deck was half of what it now is, so we can use community support to get us there. Any little bit helps," Lau said.

Council: City council meets next on May 6

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boogeyman in the group? It's unfortunate it's that way. What concerns me is that you, as representatives of the electorate, go out and start soliciting people who would be interested in the job, I'd think this would be a negative hanging over you. I think it needs to be gotten out. I'm hoping all of these (accusations) are dismissed. That'd be the best thing in the world that somebody's making false accusations. I think somebody's got to take the leadership to put these to bed."

Braden has not been available for comment since his resignation.

But the council did make progress filling the void left by his departure.

City Administrative Assistant Jamie Collier, who worked closely with Braden, was authorized to handle most of the day-to-day administrator responsibilities until an interim administrator can be hired. The council placed limits on what Collier can do, largely based on recommendations from Patty Mulvihill, legal counsel for the League of Oregon Cities. Those limitations include requiring council assent for the expenditure of city funds exceeding \$5,000, signing a contract valued at more than \$10,000 and the hiring/firing or disciplining of city employees. The council did allow Collier to hire one person as a Main Street maintenance person, but others will have to wait for the interim administrator.

Other elements of Braden's job, for which outside help will have to be sought for, include the details of zoning and land-use questions. The city has



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph City Council members discuss the city government's future during an emergency council meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2021. From left are Councilwoman Kirsten Rohla, Councilwoman Tammy Jones, Councilman Stephen Bartlow, Mayor Belinda Buswell and Administrative Assistant Jamie Collier.

contacted Wallowa County Planning Director Franz Goebel, who agreed to help.

As for actually replacing Braden, the council is trying to find an interim administrator until a permanent one can be found. Some suggestions the council received from Mulvihill included finding someone with city management experience — such as a retired city manager. Mulvihill said there are people out there who regularly fill in on an interim basis.

One of the suggestions Mulvihill made was to appoint a council member to the job. However, Baum said that suggestion is the "more unusual" of the sug-

gestions Mulvihill made. He said he'd be wary of it "because of the separation of powers concerns."

The council agreed to table reviewing the job description they'd use to hire a new administrator until they can get input from the interim administrator they hire.

A meeting scheduled for April 26 to discuss the job description was canceled.

One of the biggest gaps left by Braden's departure is in preparing the annual budget that must be completed by June 30. The council delegated Councilwoman Kathy Bingham to meet with Deyette Perry, CPA, to prepare a draft of the budget and work toward

meeting the deadlines of having it ready for a public hearing and publishing prior to the council's early-June meeting.

This move was passed 6-1, with Lisa Collier being the lone no vote.

The council also learned from Jones that city budgets cannot get extensions. This was one of the questions posed during the April 16 meeting.

The council's next meeting — barring any more emergency sessions — will be Thursday, May 6.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

DYLAN JENNINGS

Dylan Jennings had a solid day for the Enterprise boys golf team on Friday, April 23, winning the Buffalo Peak Invitational in Union. Jennings had a score of 79, and helped the Outlaw boys win the tournament. Way to go Dylan, that makes you this week's Athlete of the Week!

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