

# Kokanee Inn makes additions for third season



By Bill Bradshaw

**J**OSEPH — The Kokanee Inn in Joseph is offering something new this summer — bike rentals and limited alcohol sales.

The inn is not exactly a bed and breakfast, but the distinction is minimal.

“We call ourselves an inn,” co-owner Eric Makela said. “We’re basically an inn that serves breakfast.”

“This summer, we added the bike rentals,” wife and co-owner Michelle Britt said.

The former Chandler’s Inn has been owned by the Makela-Britt couple since 2018. Last year, like most businesses, the inn was hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting closures.

But now, Makela said, “People are starting to travel again.”

The couple said that most of their customers come from the Portland area and the Willamette Valley, but they also draw from all over the country. Monday, May 17, there was a car there from south-central Idaho. He said they also get customers from as far away in this country as New York, and also have drawn an international crowd. They’ve had customers from Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

“We have such a wide variety of people. Right now, we have one couple



Kokanee Inn owners Eric Makela and Michelle Britt, at right, chat with customers Alan and Janice Gaylord, of Portland, after breakfast was served Monday, May 17, 2021, on the upper deck of the inn in Joseph.

who are 19 and a couple on the upper deck in their 80s,” Britt said. “We have families and couples and singles and hunters and backcountry skiers — just across the gamut that’s really fun.”

In fact, the 27-bed inn has handled quite a crowd. During one wrestling tournament in Joseph, a team from Portland basically filled in the inn, and they had to squeeze them in with a shoehorn. Fortunately, some of the rooms come with pull-out beds in

couches, Makela said.

Among the two-dozen-plus beds are suites, single rooms and those that come with their own bathrooms or share bathrooms with others.

“We can mix and match,” he said.

The inn also does family reunions, weddings and other events.

But now, they’re getting ready to expand their offerings. Makela said they have 10 mountain bikes customers can rent. He said that

although there are bicycles for rent at the south end of Wallowa Lake, he doesn’t believe those rentals are as active and thinks the inn can offer more in the way of places to ride.

As for the addition of alcohol, that’s being done on a limited basis. The Joseph City Council recently approved their application. In that application, the inn will serve mimosas — breakfast drinks of champagne and orange juice — from

7-9 a.m. and they plan a happy hour 4-6 p.m. on weekends.

“We’re trying to limit it for now, because we want to see how it goes,” Makela said.

Britt agreed.

“We’re not trying to compete with anyone,” saying they will eagerly refer people to downtown establishments for more alcoholic offerings. “We’re trying to keep it family friendly and we realize that not everyone wants a cocktail. We

don’t want to be a drinking destination.”

Although their license only allows them to serve breakfast at present, they’re investigating what they can do to expand their food offerings to go with happy hour. For now, they’re envisioning some sort of snacks, as well as nonalcoholic drinks.

The couple has a son who lives in Enterprise, a daughter staying with them while she waits for college to resume in Michigan and two other daughters.

They moved here most recently from the Boise area, after working in full-time consulting jobs developing energy codes for businesses. But those jobs and the inn were too much.

“It’s hard to work two full-time jobs and run the inn,” Makela said. “We decided we needed a life change, so we worked our way out of the full-time jobs and are doing this full time.”

The couple are finding their new venture satisfying.

“It’s been an amazing place to open a business,” Britt said. “We get to play in the woods as much as we want and at the same time, make a living in an amazing location.”

But the customers are No. 1, as any good innkeeper knows.

“We want to make sure they’re fully fed and caffeinated,” Makela said.

*Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.*



## & Skylight Gallery

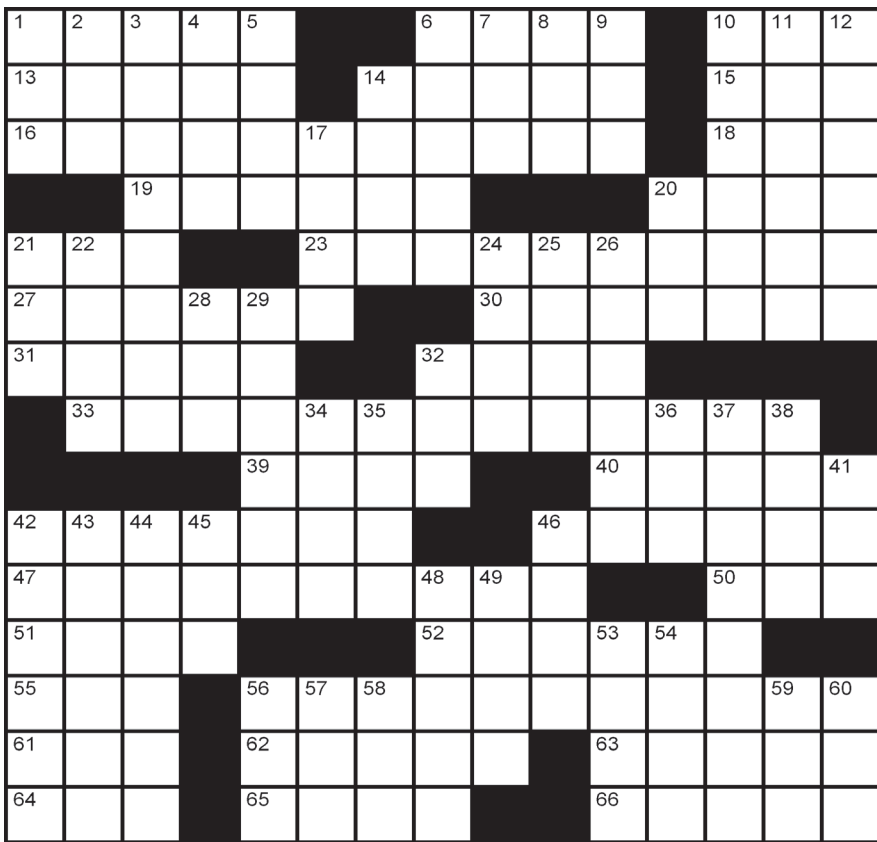
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Hot chocolate drink?
- Breakfast dish with chopped meat
- Furious
- Softball misplay
- Manuscript sheet
- Letters in some church names
- \*Alternative to a stud (notice letters 4 to 7 in this answer)
- Big Apple initials
- \_\_\_ with a kiss
- Lead-in to “girl!”
- Watercolors and such
- \*German women’s tennis great (5 to 7)
- Bob or bun
- New \_\_\_, Louisiana
- Sleep concern
- Human rights lawyer Clooney
- \*“Creature” that makes many children laugh (5 to 9)
- Capital west of Stockholm
- Where Christmas lights are hung
- Some instrumental music compositions
- Letter flourishes
- \*Occasional residence (4 to 7)
- Former WNBA coach Dunn
- Beers brewed using warm fermentation
- Delay
- Purge (of)
- Like many strudels, or the starred answers?
- Wile E. Coyote’s explosive
- Shouldered
- Actor Keach
- In the past
- Wait in neutral
- Lake vessel

### CLUES DOWN

- “I’m indifferent”
- Top Olympic prize, in Spain
- Crunchy Italian appetizer
- Desire



- Word after “Bay” or “gray”
- Massive crowd
- Comedian Wong
- Avarice, for one
- Monopolize
- Chanted phrase
- “The Joy Luck Club” author
- They won’t keep you up at night
- Worry
- Plus
- Number that only goes up
- “Eureka!”
- Engrossed
- “I wanna be there!” mentality, briefly
- Name hidden in “out of range”
- “Maybe later”
- Camcorder button
- “Fifty Shades of Grey” star Johnson
- Latin for “I love”
- Aspiring atty.’s exam
- “What \_\_\_ is new?”
- Roadwork goop
- Scheme that makes a villain say “Mwahaha!”
- APR-reducing loan
- ID often assigned around birth
- Leonidas I led its army
- Lubricating
- Must
- Billboards, essentially
- “Treat Yo’ \_\_\_” (“Parks and Recreation” catchphrase)
- Cologne’s waterway
- Mechanical learning
- \_\_\_ jockey
- Beauty supply chain
- Org. concerned with cybercrime
- Surf’s partner
- Reel’s destination?
- Earth-friendly prefix
- Turn blue, in a way



### Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
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 For More Info 541-432-3102  
 JosephUMC.ORG  
 Pastor Cherie Dearth

### Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main - Enterprise  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP at 9am**  
 Pastor John B. King Jr  
 phone (message): 541-426-4633  
 web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

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85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449  
 We have ‘In-person worship’ @ 9:00 am (Guidelines observed)  
 Sunday School at 10:30  
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 David Bruce  
 Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

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 NE 3rd & Main St  
 541-426-3439  
 Worship Service Sunday 9:30am

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
 Worship Service 11:00 AM  
 Childrens program during service  
 Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com  
 541.398.0597  
 Hwy 82, Lostine  
 Stephen Kliewer, Minister

### Summit Church

Sundays at 9:30 am and 11 am at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. Masks are required - but made available at the door.  
 Pastor: David Pendleton  
 Summit Church  
 www.summitchurchoregon.org  
 Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

### Wallowa Assembly of God

702 West Hwy 82  
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**Worship Service • 10:am**  
 Pastor Tim Barton  
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### Christ Covenant Church

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**Sunday School 9:00 a.m.**  
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 School 541-426-8339  
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