

Old Town Café is ‘turning a page’



By Bill Bradshaw

JOSEPH — A longtime presence on Joseph’s Main Street is “turning a page” Oct. 3, as that day, owners Jacob and Olivia Losby close the Old Town Café for the last time.

The Losbys sold the business in April after operating it for eight years.

“A lot of people are sad to see it go, but it’s a time for us to turn the page in our lives,” Jacob said. “Ideally, it would’ve gone to somebody who was going to continue it. We’re the third or fourth owners of this business as it is. Ideally somebody like us would’ve come along to continue it, but we had it on the market for over a year and somebody came along and it was the right opportunity for us, so we had to go with it. It’s sad to see it go, but it’s also exciting to see what it’s going to become.”

He said he understands the new owners plan to continue it as “something with food,” and it’ll reopen sometime next year, but he’s unsure of the particulars.

Jacob said he and Olivia are just ready to move on. Just in their 30s, the couple is far from ready to retire.

“We’re sticking around here,” Jacob said. “We’ve got a lot of different projects we’re involved in. We’re not



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Olivia and Jacob Losby stand in front of the entry to the outdoor seating area of the Old Town Café in Joseph on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021. The couple is closing the business Oct. 3 after having owned and operated it for eight years.

entirely sure. We’re going to take the fall and decide what’s next.”

Olivia agreed, saying it is just time for a change.

“It wasn’t our lack of success,” she said. “We were looking for something different.”

Started young

Jacob said that when they took over the café, they both were 22 and had goals for the restaurant.

“We set up a bunch of goals and we accomplished them,” he said.

Those goals included upgrading the outside seating, updating the infrastructure and getting a foundation under the entire

building, he said.

Olivia said they made a few changes to the menu, but mostly just improved on what it had been.

“Yeah, I don’t think we took much out,” she said. “I don’t think the breakfast menu has changed at all, we’ve just changed things to make things a bit more efficient in the kitchen or things that weren’t made in-house before are now. We make all the crepes, biscuits, French bread.”

Jacob said they now make “a lot of the stuff that used to be bought.”

“We make all of our soups and we expanded the lunch menu quite a bit just because of the lunch crowd

in the winter,” Olivia added.

“We needed to find a way to make a good place to go for locals as well as for folks from out of town. We tried to expand the lunch menu.”

The café has regularly employed about a dozen people during the tourist season, with two or three staying on during the winter months.

“We’ve had a lot of really good employees over the years and a lot of seasonal employees coming back,” Jacob said.

In fact, they got into the café as employees.

“Olivia had worked here in high school. It was her first job and she had a good relationship with the

OLD TOWN CAFÉ

WHERE: 8 S. Main St., Joseph.

WHO: Jacob and Olivia Losby.

PHONE: 541-432-9898.

EMAIL: oldtowncafejoseph@gmail.com.

HOURS: 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; closed Wednesday.

previous owner (Tammie Couch),” Jacob said. “That’s kind of how we got into this position.”

Olivia’s familiarity with the café was instrumental in their success.

“Olivia had a pretty good understanding of what this place was about,” Jacob said. “We wanted to elevate it even further.”

Feeding many

Catering primarily to breakfast and lunch customers, the small café seats 35-40 people at a time, including the three inside tables and the garden outside.

“Because of COVID, we’re still doing counter service so we had to change the inside seating a little bit, so there’s only three tables in there right now instead of seven,” Olivia said. “Out here (in the garden) it’s pretty much the same as it has been in the past.”

“At our peak in 2018, we were open all but four days that year, but we’ve definitely pared back, both for our sanity and just because of COVID regulations,” Jacob said. “We can churn a lot of people through this small space. I don’t know how we do it.”

But now it’s time to move on.

“It’s time for something else — a new chapter,” Jacob said. “It’s time to evaluate what we want to do next, and we’ve got plenty of stuff to do.”

“We’ve appreciated our customers and their support throughout the years ... because we truly couldn’t have made it this far without them,” Olivia said. “We’ve met a lot of awesome people who made our time at the café really meaningful. This was an incredibly difficult decision for us, and we spent a lot of time discussing it with each other and family and friends before we accepted the offer.”

As for the future, the Losbys may not be done.

“We also wanted to add, there may be a recipe book in the works for some favorite soups and sweets that we’ve made at the café,” Olivia said, adding that people can follow them on social media for details in coming months.

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

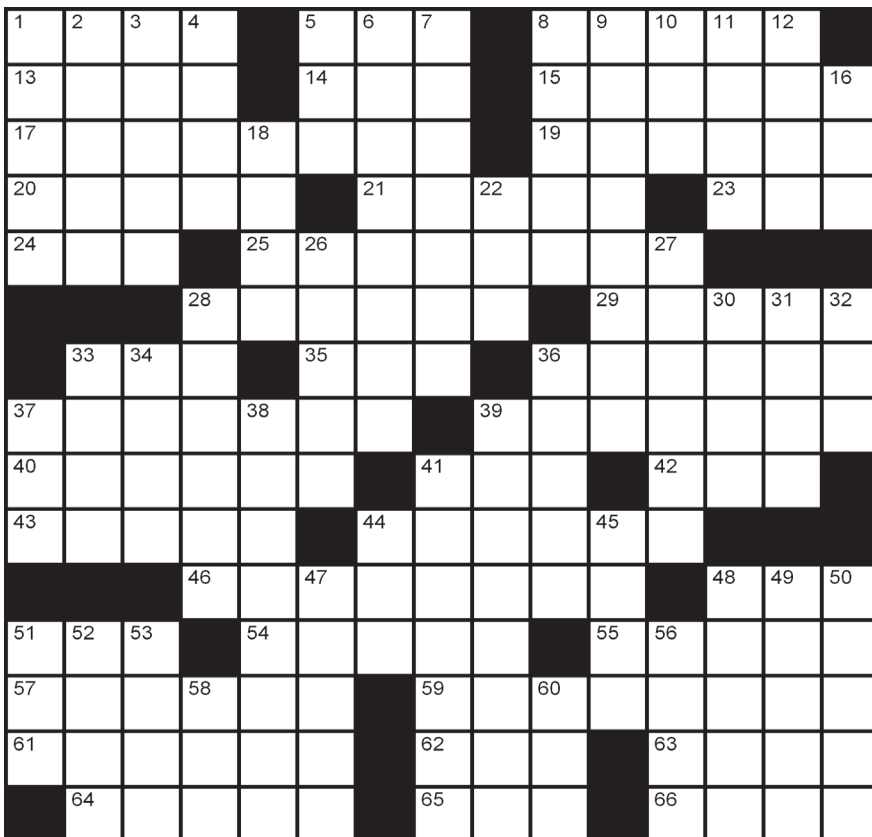
Finding books is our specialty

CLUES ACROSS

1. Testy response to “What a fun puzzle!”
5. Sixth sense, for short
8. *Juice pouch brand
13. Boy, in Bolivia
14. Sound of relaxation
15. “How curious ...”
17. Hypothetical situation
19. Short trailer
20. Thing to discuss
21. Fade (out)
23. For example
24. Tiny queen’s subject
25. Got a bit closer
28. Fanny
29. Embarrassing misstep
33. Venue for a facial
35. “White” or “Red” follower
36. “Wow, that’s neat!”
37. *What casts short shadows
39. *Some lie on top of blankets
40. Laptop part used for shortcuts
41. Jardin ___ Tuileries (Paris park)
42. Catan resource
43. Inauthentic person
44. Quinoa and teff
46. Scatter
48. Early programmer Lovelace
51. Unrefined
54. Secret supply
55. Goods
57. Estevez in “Repo Man”
59. Beach trip essential, or any of three squares in this grid that affects the starred clues’ answers?
61. Be overly fond of
62. It might need a massage after getting bruised
63. Muslim prayer leader
64. *Vitamin D source
65. ID on an IRS form
66. “Rent” actor Diggs

CLUES DOWN

1. App that has stories, for short



2. Send after, as an attack dog
3. Clumsy
4. “Beloved” author Morrison
5. Musician’s asset
6. Cry directed at a boat
7. *Arizona NBA player
8. Referenced
9. Had a healthy diet
10. TV ad for a good cause
11. “Dress for Less” sloganer
12. Lightbulb, in comics
16. *Partner of “various”
18. Grp. co-founded by Helen Keller
22. Casual top
26. Writing assignment
27. Chips that may be loaded
28. Bombed
30. Author Jonathan Safran ___
31. Golfer’s heads-up
32. Chi-Town trains
33. Guitari’s opportunity to impress
34. Plants’ places, perhaps
36. Desert haven
37. Go out early?
38. Mockery
39. Big embraces
41. *Summer shifts?
44. College app stat
45. Novice, in gamer lingo
47. Word after “rolling” or “stepping”
48. Candy store’s smell, e.g.
49. Radioactive process
50. “I’m an open book!”
51. *Feature of the Krypton skyline
52. “Famous” cookie man
53. Currently dating
56. Landed
58. Hawaiian graduation gift
60. Prefix for “smoking”



Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph

10 AM Worship
Online AND In Person

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

Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449

We have ‘In-person worship’ @ 9:00 am (Guidelines observed)

Sunday School at 10:30

Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00

David Bruce
Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
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: dancingsforth.blogspot.com

541.398.0597

Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliewer, Minister

Summit Church

Sundays at 10 am
at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise

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
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445

Sunday School • 9:am
Worship Service • 10:am

Pastor Tim Barton
Visit Us on

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-263-0505

Family Prayer - 9 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:30 AM

723 College Street, Lostine

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
Church 541-426-3751
School 541-426-8339

Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886

Worship Hour
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

Join us at the **BIG BROWN CHURCH**

Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Bible Studies:
Sundays 9:30 am & Thursdays, 5:30 pm

Led by Lay Pastor Archie Hook
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR
Find us on Facebook! 541.426.3044

