

The familiar Boggans Oasis gets new owners



By Bill Bradshaw

Restaurant getting new look inside, but staying the same

ASOTIN COUNTY, Washington — It's a familiar landmark to those making the trip from Enterprise to Lewiston, Idaho, and Boggans Oasis has new owners.

Louis and Tia Villagomez, formerly of Buckley, Washington — at the foot of Mount Rainier — closed on the purchase of the property in June and relocated to the area that month. The Villagomezes bought the property from Bill and Farrel Vail, who had owned and operated Boggans since 1984 and have now retired to Clarkston, Washington.

"I've been coming here since I was about 10," Louis said, recalling years of fishing expeditions on the Grande Ronde River that runs just across the road. "We're turning it from plain Jane to more like a resort."

Amid all the work on the inside of the restaurant, Louis finds time to take advantage of the river access.

"I fish a lot and I'm getting ready for the guiding season," he said, adding that he's a licensed fishing guide.

The restaurant

Tia said it's the licenses and other government red tape that are delaying Boggans from reopening.

"I think people think we're choosing to not be open right now, but ... we aren't legally allowed to quite yet," she said. "That's



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

From left, Louis Villagomez, Kevin Kurfurst and Tia Villagomez string lights Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022, in the restaurant area of Boggans Oasis. The Villagomezes recently purchased the business and hope to have it open by Labor Day. Kurfurst is a friend who moved there with them to help out.

been the longest process since we moved here is all the licenses and permits."

Louis said the health department wants to see the restaurant just how it will be when it's operating before conducting an inspection. Thus, they're taking the time to revamp the interior by painting, redecorating and doing a bit of remodeling.

They are keeping many of the mounted big-game heads and fish that adorn the walls of the restaurant, a testimony to outdoor activities of the restaurant since it opened in the late 1940s. They're also keeping the name.

"We had to keep the name to honor everyone's past memories, all of the past guests and hopefully, the future guests," Tia said.

"The name's really important. ... I was really adamant about keeping the phone number, too. ... It's kind of like a pit stop for people driving through. We're going with the idea of making it an oasis for people."

Louis said he wants to make it a real oasis.

"A wine-and-dine kind of place," he said. "Come hang out, cool off, check it out, watch some TV."

Tia said when they do reopen, they'll be keeping the same menu the Vails had when they closed. Then, modifications could be in the works.

"We'll talk to customers and see what they like and what they want and what we can feasibly do," she said.

Overnight

In addition to the cabins they now have, they're planning something a little different — geodesic domes as overnight accommodations.

Tia called the domes "a different, unique way to stay here."

For those who want to be more in the outdoors, there's also camping across the road at the river access owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Outdoors

In addition to serving as a fishing guide, Louis plans to have a hunting guide available. He has hunted big game in Alaska, but not yet in Washington, so he's leaving the guiding to a contractor. But Boggans will be selling

BOGGANS OASIS

Who: Louis and Tia Villagomez
What: Restaurant, hunting and fishing guide, cabins, river shuttles
Where: 61376 State Highway 129, Anatone, Wash. 99401 at bottom of Rattlesnake Grade
Phone: 509-256-3372
Online: Facebook
Email: boggansoasisllc@gmail.com
Hours: Seasonal

hunting and fishing licenses, as well as Discover passes, which are required for vehicle access to state parks and recreation lands managed by the state.

Wallowa County connection

Just five miles from Oregon, the Villagomezes look forward to getting to know their neighbors in Wallowa County. They said they hope to sell pies from one of the bakeries in Enterprise and to learn more about the Nez Perce Tribe and its ties to the land here.

"I'm big on all things Native American," Louis said.

With all they've had to do to get Boggans ready to open, they haven't had time to explore Wallowa County yet, but they certainly plan to.

Their kids, too, are eager to start school in Troy. Gabriel, a 10-year-old fifth-grader, and Graciella, a second-grader who's almost 7, will make up half of the school's student body as soon as their parents obtain a cross-state waiver.

"We kind of feel an obligation to enroll our kids there," Tia 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.



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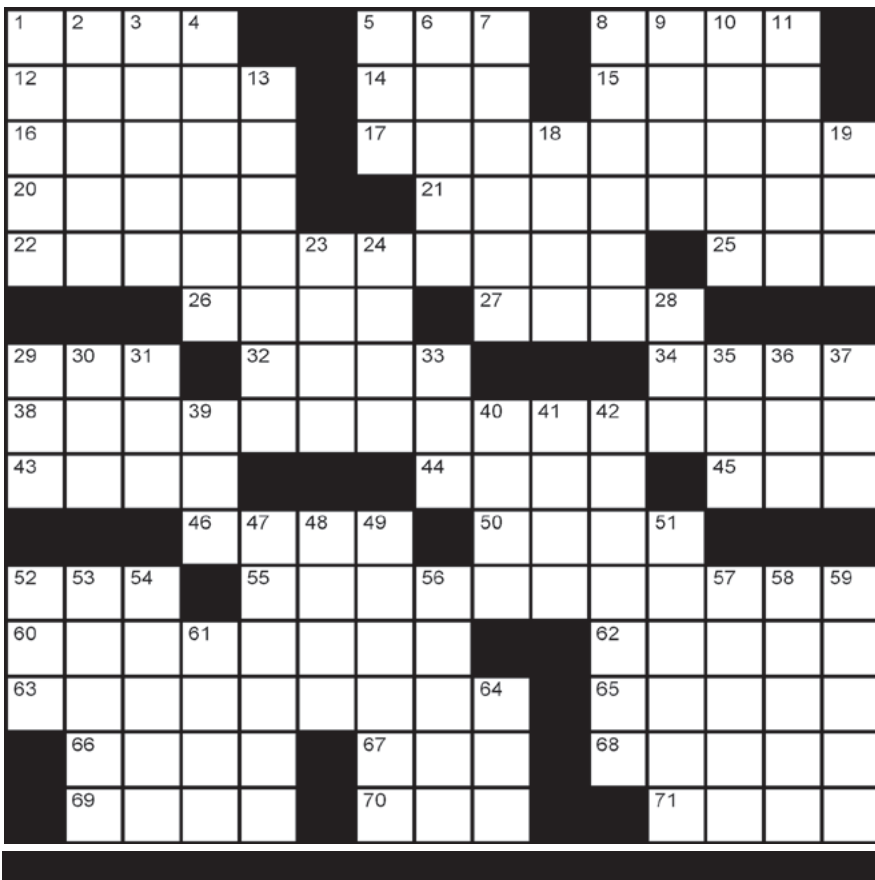


CLUES ACROSS

1. HS exams
5. P.E. class
8. Ponzi scheme, e.g.
12. "Moon Knight" actor Oscar
14. Tiny legume from Green Giant
15. Name within "hotelier"
16. "Whole ___ Love" (Led Zeppelin hit)
17. "Me too"?
20. Being broadcast
21. Topics for blues songs
22. "Let us pray"?
25. Indignation
26. With skill
27. Military press muscle, briefly
29. Apply sunscreen, say
32. Rowers hold them
34. Duck's woodwind in "Peter and the Wolf"
38. "Keep on keeping on"?
43. Requirement
44. Gold reward from a teacher
45. Halloween exclamation
46. Founded: Abbr.
50. Stadium seating level
52. Comedian's booking
55. "What goes around comes around"?
60. Big snake
62. Kind of leaf on the Canadian flag
63. "To infinity and beyond"?
65. Ring-shaped island
66. Word before "life" or "estate"
67. Chapter in history
68. Jeopardy
69. Flubs
70. Midweek abbr.
71. Cub Scout groups

CLUES DOWN

1. Farm towers
2. How two hearts might beat
3. Mongolian warrior hidden in "sergeant at arms"
4. Cannabis strain



5. 3,7, e.g., for a student
6. 1983 title role for Barbra Streisand
7. Capital of Spain
8. Follow-up movie
9. DJ's nighttime workplace
10. Garlicky mayonnaise
11. Coin collector?
13. Reindeer, by another name
18. Actress Skye
19. U-turn from WNW
23. ___ your way to the top
24. Bronte heroine Jane
28. Delivery from Santa
29. Dashed
30. Play for a fool
31. "See ya!"
33. AARP members: Abbr.
35. Lobster shack garment
36. Songwriter Yoko
37. Metaphorical massage target
39. ___ to the Classic Potato Chip (Trader Joe's product)
40. Caesar's question to Brutus
41. Mast attachment
42. GPS display
47. Shows disapproval
48. Nickname that may drop "Valen"
49. M.D. who hosted "Celebrity Rehab"
51. Like most horror movies
52. Chitchat
53. Become accustomed (to)
54. Crystal ball user
56. Close-knit group
57. Future fern
58. Fully committed to a pot
59. ___ Fargo
61. Policy overseer
64. Pathetic



Church Directory

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
10 AM Worship
Online AND In Person
 For More Info
 541-432-3102
 JosephUMC.ORG
 Pastor Beth Estock

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

 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 - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:00 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

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