www.facebook.com/WallowaLakeLodge
This picture of refinishing the lobby floors received 65,000 views on the Wallowa Lake Lodge's Facebook page.

Bringing visitors and locals together at Wallowa Lake since the 1980s, Summer Fishtrap, a week-long writing workshop, was held the last two years online, but Lau said the lodge is working with the literary nonprofit based in Enterprise to bring the event back to the lodge next year.

On Saturdays, the lodge partners with the Wallowology Discovery Center in Joseph to offer nature walks that highlight cultural and ecological aspects of the area. Free yoga classes are led on the lawn on Sunday mornings, and Gail Swart entertains on the piano on Sunday evenings.

Besides the deck rebuild, Lau said the other big project this year was refinishing the lobby floors, which turned out to be a popular decision by fans of the lodge.

"We had 65,000 views of our photos on Facebook of the floors being buffed down," Lau said. "It was our most popular social media post, ever. It proved to me capital improvements are valuable and worth investing time, energy and elbow grease."

Lau first came to the county to work as an interpretive ranger at Wallowa Lake State Park in 2011, and the job piqued her interest in the local history and culture. A sixth-generation Oregonian from Stayton, she was traveling with her family in Europe when the decision was made to look for somewhere rural to settle down and raise her young children. She brings her love of history and culture along with her background in event planning to the lodge.

Beyond her own aspirations for the lodge, she credits the board's support and the staff's dedication to keeping the business running smoothly.

"We are feeling the staffing shortage like everyone else, and it takes long hours to make this place run," Lau said, "so it makes me feel inspired and optimistic that the team believes in what we are building."

For the full calendar of events, hours of operation and rates, visit www.wallowalake-lodge.com.