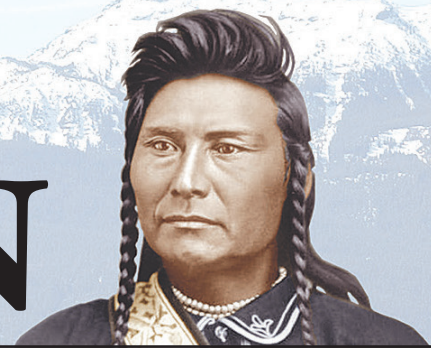




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



136th Year, No. 26

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Wallowa County Voices



Kayleen Lewis
Lostine

Globetrotter returned to county

ENTERPRISE — Kayleen Lewis is a Wallowa County native who got some globe-trotting experience before settling near Lostine.

Right now, she's an accountant for Chrisman Development in Enterprise.

Having grown up in Wallowa, she and her husband, Bobb, lived in Papua, New Guinea, and Malaysia for awhile.

"Then we came home," she said. The Lewises have five children. All live outside the county — including one daughter in Australia — except for one son who comes back part time, as his wife is in veterinary school at Washington State University in Pullman.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The beauty of it. I just love looking at the mountains all year long. It doesn't matter what season. I love the trails and being out in the woods. I really like that. Also, the friendliness of the people.

The county has had a few COVID cases. Are you particularly concerned about it?

Not super concerned. I think COVID's going to be around a long time and either you get it or you don't. I take precautions because I have elderly parents and I don't particularly want them to get it.

What are you going to do this fall?

Just getting the yard ready for winter, and putting away ranch equipment at my dad's cattle ranch on Alder Slope.

What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

Have a job first and be willing to adapt because we have a slightly different culture here. It's gotten better. People have gotten a little more open than they used to be. In some ways Wallowa County's tribal in a good way, meaning that when people are hurting or in crisis, everybody just rallies around and they're really good about that, where you don't necessarily get that if you're in a city. I think our culture ties us together more than some places. When you come from a big city and you're used to anonymity, you don't get that here — and that can be good or bad.

— Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Chantay Jett, left, stands with her son, Keelan McBurney, at their Joseph home in front of a buggy she said will be a project for McBurney to work on with his grandfather. McBurney's left leg was seriously injured in May, but he's well on the road to recovery.

Back from the brink

Youth, who nearly lost leg, well on road to recovery

By Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — It was a tragic accident that nearly cost him his life — or at least a leg — but Joseph Charter School cross-country runner Keelan McBurney isn't letting it keep him down by any means.

It was May 15 when McBurney, then 15, had gone to visit a friend who lived about three miles south of Joseph on the back side of the west moraine. He decided to keep the friend, who was the same age and has since moved out of the area, anonymous.

The accident

"About 45 minutes later," said his mom, Chantay Jett, "I get a call from his friend who is so distraught that he's not able to speak on the phone. I could hear Keelan in the background and he said, 'Mom, I've been in an accident. I think I broke my leg. It's really bad, you need to come immediately.'"

Jett said that the two had driven the friend's mom's car down the driveway to the mailbox and upon returning, McBurney was guiding the friend into a parking spot at the house when the friend thought he had the car in reverse, but it was in drive. The friend hit the gas, panicked and hit the gas harder and pinned McBurney to the house, crushing his left leg.

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Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Keelan McBurney shows the scar from a leg-saving procedure called a fasciectomy, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020, where skin was removed over injured muscle tissue in May to allow the swelling tissue to heal. He said he's been told most of the scar should disappear over time.

Chieftain wins four first-place awards

Paper wins General Excellence award and two for best feature stories

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Chieftain won four first-place awards in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspaper Contest, including general excellence and two for best feature stories.

The awards are for work done during the 2019 calendar year.

"I am very pleased that our peers would recognize the Chieftain as a newspaper of general excellence," Jennifer Cooney, general manager of the Chieftain, said. "Everything from photography, writing, editorial page and front-page design were all considered. Basically, all aspects of the Chieftain have been judged amongst the best in the state. It makes me very humble and thankful for the work of our staff."

The general excellence win represents the highest award presented to Oregon newspapers and entries are considered to be the best examples of the industry, according to the ONPA website. The con-

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This Wallowa County Chieftain from June 26, 2019, was featured in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association awards for best design. The centerpiece of the page is a story and photos by Ellen Morris Bishop.

Three local measures on November ballot



By Ellen Morris Bishop
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The ballots arriving in the mailbox during the week of Oct. 19 contain three local measures that will affect the future of Wallowa County communities.

The Enterprise School District bond would improve the security and long-term viability of school facilities, the local marijuana tax would provide more income for the city of Joseph, and the

Greater Idaho initiative would require meetings of the county Board of Commissioners to contemplate the consequences of becoming part of Idaho.

"The school bond is important because the needs are not extravagant. They are necessities for safety and accessibility in a 100-year-old building," Enterprise School Board President Kate Fent said. "Even more important, the district has been awarded a one-time, \$4 million grant from the state that will match the bond, which translates to \$8 million worth of work for a price tag of \$4 million to the voters. If the bond does not pass, the district loses the grant."

The school bond is the most expensive, and perhaps most consequential of the measures on the ballot. If passed,

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Wallowa County Chieftain, File
New secure metal ballot boxes have been installed outside Wallowa City Hall and Joseph City Hall.



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