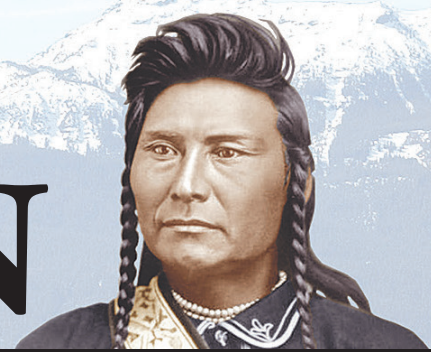


HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS RETURN  
Sports, A12-A13

# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



136th Year, No. 47

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

## Wallowa County Voices



**Katrina Haines**  
Enterprise

### She never wants to live anywhere else

ENTERPRISE — Katrina Haines has lived her whole life in Wallowa County and has traveled enough to know she never wants to live anywhere else.

"I just really like the place," she said. "I really don't want to go anywhere else."

A senior at Enterprise High School, her parents and sister also live here. At present, she has no college plans and just hopes to continue working at Safeway, where she hopes to have a career.

Haines recently shared her thoughts on living in Wallowa County.

#### What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

Honestly, because we're surrounded by nature all the way around.

#### What challenges do you believe Wallowa County faces?

Being kind of secluded from other, bigger places. It makes it harder to get things in.

#### How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

It's made work really hard for me because all of the mask-wearing and such. But other than that, it really hasn't affected me all that much.

#### Do you plan to get the vaccine against COVID-19 or are you hesitant as some people are?

Yes, as soon as it's available.

#### What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

A lot about what I want to do. I've been a lot of places but I haven't seen any other place I want to live. I want to live here. I've learned from visiting other places that they're just not my thing.

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

It's a really nice place, but you have to accept the fact that a lot of the things you might want to do you won't be able to do here.

— Bill Bradshaw,  
The Wallowa County Chieftain



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

A cut-to-length harvester operated by Tom Zacharias, of Pro Thinning Inc., of Joseph, falls, limbs and cuts a tree into standard 16-foot lengths in just minutes Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, on the Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project.

# Lostine Canyon project passes halfway point

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

LOSTINE CANYON — Despite past controversy, hard work and uncertain weather, the Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project is well underway, just past the halfway point in efforts to remove hazard and diseased trees, improve public safety and improve forest resources in the area.

"It'll be completely dependent on what the weather does for us," said David Schmidt, owner of Integrated Biomass Resources in Wallowa, which successfully bid on the timber harvest portion of the stewardship contract in September 2018.

The harvest is slated to conclude Feb. 28, 2023, he said, though it could qualify for an extension.

But the logging must be done under "winter conditions," said Jim Zacharias, a member of the Wallowa Resources Board of Directors. Schmidt said those conditions require 6

inches of frost or 12 inches of snow on the ground for logging equipment to operate on.

The approximately 2,110 acres of timberland along 11 miles of the Lostine River is being thinned of hazard trees and underbrush to make the area safer for recreationists and residents of the Lostine Canyon. The hazard trees appear the greatest threat to public safety, the experts said Thursday during an interview in the canyon.

"The Forest Service spends an abundance of time and effort trying to keep this corridor open safely to the public," said Mark Moeller, U.S. Forest Service assistant fire management officer. "That consists primarily of falling hazard trees that present a danger to the public."

A decision memo by the Forest Service dated in 2017 included photographs of those hazard trees that had fallen on tables in campgrounds and across roads, backing up the Forest Service claim of the necessity of their removal.

In addition to tree removal, the project also

includes installing a helicopter pad, re-decking the bridge at Lake Creek and removing slash leftover from the logging work. Some of the slash will be burned, while some will be masticated — ground into mulch for the forest floor. Some slash will be left for use by campers as firewood.

"The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of these forest stands in the corridor to future insect and disease impacts (such as falling trees), which, in turn, reduces the risk to the people who use this corridor, the improvements in the corridor to private land and the resource in the canyon including the riverfront," said Matt Howard, of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Wallowa Unit.

In addition to public safety, the timber harvest portion of the stewardship contract is seen as a benefit both for safety against wildfires and economically.

Moeller estimated there would be a total of 4 million board feet of timber harvested.

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## New four-wheel drive ambulance conquers winter weather

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP  
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Neither snow, nor freezing rain, nor fog, nor gloom of night, stays Wallowa County's emergency medical providers from the swift completion of their life-saving rounds. Their new, \$300,000 four-wheel drive, high-tech ambulance is designed and built to reach and safely transport critical care patients through the worst of Wallowa County's weather.

"It's what we've needed — very reliable ambulance to transport critical-care patients, especially to regional hospitals including Lewiston, Walla Walla, or Tri-Cities, and especially in bad weather," Wallowa Memorial Hospital Emergency Service Director Tim Peck said.

The ambulance, which went into service on Feb. 1, has already delivered on getting emergency patients to regional hospitals for critical care.

"We've already been through some difficult storms both going and coming. That includes a trip on Cabbage Hill in near-white-out conditions," Peck said. "And we've taken it over Tollgate and down Buford and up Rattlesnake



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

Tim Peck, left, and other members of Wallowa Memorial Hospital's Emergency Medical Technician staff stand in front of their new high-tech four-wheel drive ambulance on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021. The \$300,000 ambulance was funded by local Hearts for Health fundraisers, a matching grant from the Murdock Trust and an additional grant from the Lewis and Clark Valley Health Care Foundation.

ter weather we've had this season — sometimes led by ODOT plows to ensure everyone's safety."

The new medical capabilities include a neonatal transport system (BabyPod®), which is an enclosed capsule that creates a warm envi-

ronment for the newborn, Peck said.

"The new ambulance would be used if the crews responded to a precipitous home birth or other locations outside the hospital," Peck said. "The BabyPod's

warmer and other features, including openings for use of IV and ventilator, keep the infant warm and secure."

The ambulance was designed

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