

GO!
EASTERN OREGON

Learn
Spartan
for the Arts

Road
Dumplings
Summer
Brewery
2021

Listen
Cherry
Coke
Spork
2021

'Fan-favorite' designation energizes SAGE Center
PAGE 8

SIDE
BREWING

When food is fresh, locally sourced and ultra-tender, it's hard to resist. That's why the SAGE Center is proud to offer a variety of fresh, locally sourced meats and produce. For more information, visit us at www.sagecenter.com.

1275 Washington Ave • La Grande, OR 97030

SAGE CENTER ENERGIZED
IN GO!

THE BRICK OFFERS UNIQUE DINING OPPORTUNITY
BUSINESS, A6

JOSEPH SENIOR PROJECT BRINGS XC RACE TO COUNTY
SPORTS, A9

\$1.50

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

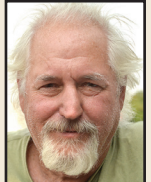


137th Year, No. 23

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Wallowa County Voices



Paul Survis
Lostine

Appreciates acceptance in county

ENTERPRISE — Paul Survis of Lostine has lived in Wallowa County for 31 years, first living in Joseph before settling in his current home.

He and wife, Kate Barrett, have two grown children who have moved on from the county.

A retired employee of the U.S. Forest Service, he worked 20 years as a silviculturist for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. A silviculturist studies reforestation and tree growth.

He recently shared his thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

My favorite thing is the people. They're amazingly acceptable toward any type of people who come. For a seemingly un-diverse county, they're extremely diverse in terms of their acceptance of people.

It's been 20 years since 9/11. How did it change your life?

Obviously, terrorism's a big issue, but living here in Wallowa County, it didn't seem to change my life. Being as isolated as we are ... I don't think it did (change things.)

Are you concerned about the recent coronavirus spike?

I'm definitely concerned about it. We had a handle on it for about a year. It seemed Wallowa (County) was doing quite well with its number of cases, and now we've kind-of lost ground. My wife and I got vaccinated — she's high risk — so we were concerned about the number of cases.

What do you think of government mandates on face masks and vaccinations?

I have no problem with that. I realize that the argument against it is it's a violation of your rights, but it's not your rights anymore when it can affect other people. I'm very much in support of masks and vaccinations.

As summer nears its end, what was your favorite experience?

Hiking in the Eagle Caps.

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

(Laughs) I understand tourism, but it's been about 7,000 people for I don't know how long and we don't want to see that change.

NEVER FORGET: IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE 9/11

Locals remember terrorist attacks that changed the world



Michael Foran/Contributed by Wikimedia Commons

Twenty years ago, on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the twin World Trade Center towers in New York City were brought down by airliners piloted by Islamic terrorists. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and another was forced down by passengers in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain



Andy Marcum/Contributed Photo
Andy Marcum of Enterprise, who served as a military working dog handler in the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan, is seen here with his dog Bandit. Marcum and Bandit were among those Marines vital for the detection of improvised explosive devices in the field.

ENTERPRISE — It was just over 20 years ago — Sept. 11, 2001 — that 19 Islamic terrorists hijacked four airliners and crashed them into the twin World Trade Center towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and changed the world forever.

According to history.com, nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks, which triggered major U.S. initiatives to combat terrorism and defined the presidency of George W. Bush.

Most of the terrorists were Saudi Arabian nationals trained under al-Qaida in Afghanistan where they were sheltered by the Taliban. They were led by Osama bin Laden, who was later killed by a U.S. Navy Seal team in Pakistan.

The attackers smuggled box-cutters and knives through airport security and overpowered those in charge of the California-bound planes. It is believed they used those particular planes because of the large payloads of fuel they had for the cross-country flights, but instead they became guided missiles used on the East Coast.

According to the Washington Post last month, after the 2001 attacks plotted by bin Laden, President George W. Bush demanded that the Taliban hand him over and dismantle terrorist training camps. The Taliban had provided a safe haven for al-Qaida's camps. When the Taliban refused, Bush launched a campaign



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

A flag hangs from an Enterprise Fire Department truck outside City Hall to remember 9/11 on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

of U.S. airstrikes that, combined with Afghan Northern Alliance ground forces, toppled the Islamist regime. That began the war in Afghanistan that is just now winding up — America's longest-ever war.

Local veterans

Although Wallowa County is far from any likely terrorist targets, the attacks still touched people here.

Andy Marcum, who now works as the supervisor of the Wallowa County Vegetation Department, served as a military working dog handler in the U.S. Marine Corps from late 2010 to spring 2011 during the U.S.' initial push through Sangin, Afghanistan.

See Attacks, Page A7

Shortage of employees leads to new business models

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
and **ALEX WITTWER**
EO Media Group

Editor's Note: This is the second in a five-part series by EO Media Group looking at the issue of the lack of workers for jobs in Central and Eastern Oregon — why workers are not returning to previously held jobs and how businesses are pivoting to function without being fully staffed.

LA GRANDE — Enterprise isn't the largest town in Eastern Oregon, with a population of 2,052. But it's just a few miles from the ever-popular town of Joseph and its vistas across Wallowa Lake to the peaks of the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

In a normal summer, Terminal Gravity Brewing in Enterprise would be busy all days of the week serving local, hand-crafted beers to patrons and traditional brewpub fare. But due to a labor shortage this summer the company had to cut hours during its lunch rush, and close

altogether on Tuesdays.

Natalie Millar, chief executive officer of the Wallowa County brewery, said it's an inevitability that they'll have to close for even more days as their skeleton crew of cooks, servers and hostesses return to school — high school, to be exact.

"Heading into fall it is looking like we're going to have to cut an additional day and probably cut lunches," Millar said. "It is pretty brutal."

Demand for restaurant meals soared over the summer as restrictions lifted across Oregon. Nearly all restaurants saw a huge uptick in customers. But where demand reached new heights, a new challenge appeared — staffing the restaurants that have balanced narrow margins and threats of closure since the pandemic hit.

In order to keep employees from burning out, Millar cut operating hours and closed down the brewery on Tuesdays to keep what employees she has from becoming overwhelmed in an industry well known for its high



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Mariah Davis pours an IPA for a flight of beers for customers at Terminal Gravity Brewing and Pub on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021. Terminal Gravity recently closed on Tuesdays following a staff shortage. Many of the kitchen staff are high school students, who have returned to school, leaving the Enterprise brewpub further short staffed.

turnover rate and low wages.

"I think we've reached the mindset of 'we have what we have,'" she said. "We'll keep hiring as much as possible, but we need to understand that we've got

to adjust with what the situation is instead of waiting for the situation to adjust itself."

See Workers, Page A7



7 29467 50001 3