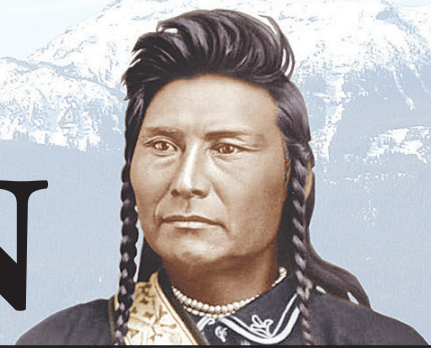




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



137th Year, No. 29

wallowa.com

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Wallowa County Voices



Lyvia Thorne
Wallowa

She loves her job working at lake

ENTERPRISE — Lyvia Thorne was in Enterprise on Tuesday, Oct. 19, but she's lived in Wallowa for the past two years.

Prior to Wallowa, she lived in Enterprise for about four years for about six years in Wallowa County. She lived in Pendleton before coming here.

Homeschooled, the 17-year-old high school junior lives with her parents, Jimmie and Ted Thorne.

But she does more than school, holding down a part-time job at Wallowa Lake Vacation Rentals as a cabin cleaner.

"I like it a lot; it's a very good job," she said. "I have a very good boss, too, Cindi Aschenbrenner."

Thorne recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The lake or the hikes that you can do. I usually just sit there and look at (the lake.) It's really cool; it's pretty. I like to hike at the lake or up Tick Hill or Bear Creek in Wallowa.

As we move into fall, what's your favorite season? Why?

Fall is my favorite season, because it's so pretty.

Are you concerned about the recent coronavirus spike?

No. (She hasn't been vaccinated nor does she plan to.)

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

I think it's mostly a waste of time, but that's just my opinion. I think if you're going to get it, you're going to get it, but if you have risks, wearing the masks and getting vaccinated are good.

With summer now over, what was your favorite experience?

Working. I really like my job.

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

I think that it's a very beautiful place to live in ... and it's a good community with good people around. But I don't know what advice I would give to someone moving here.

Hometown hero honored at Trail Blazers game

Brooke Langerman lauded for her diligence at county dispatch center

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

PORTLAND — Brooke Langerman, one of the Wallowa County 911 dispatchers, was celebrated Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Portland Trail Blazers game as "our hometown hero."

Supervisor Tammy Shaver nominated Langerman for the award for her hard work when most of the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office 911 staff was down with corona-

virus. Shaver wanted to recognize her dedication during a difficult time, said Brenda Micka, administrative services director for the county, in an email Monday.

Without Langerman, Shaver would not have been able to keep the 911 dispatch center up and running, Micka said. She willingly gave up time with her family to work extra hours when she could have succumbed to the pressure and fear of the COVID-19 outbreak in the center and

requested to remain quarantined or sequestered at home.

"Thanks to Brooke, our level of service did not waver and we continued to provide help and support to the members of the county and our responders," Micka said. "We want to recognize those who go above and beyond. Brooke did."

This wasn't the first time Langerman was honored for going above and beyond as a dispatcher. On Aug. 18 at their regular meeting, she was awarded the second-ever Golden

See Hero, Page A5



Portland Trail Blazers/Contributed Photo
Wallowa County's Brooke Langerman was honored as a "hometown hero" at a Portland Trail Blazers game Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, for her diligence in helping keep the local 911 dispatch center going during a COVID-19 outbreak.



Kendrick Moholt Photography/Contributed Photo
An assortment of biomass logs are staged for use at Heartwood Biomass in Wallowa. The small-diameter log facility makes use of timber that is too small to sell to a standard lumber mill.

Wallowa County leaders focus on Natural resources

Commissioners get update from Wallowa Resources

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Natural resources dominated the discussion Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the meeting of the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, primarily with a presentation from Nils Christoffersen, executive director of Wallowa Resources.

But first, the commissioners gave their approval to three letters of support to resource-related issues.

The first was a letter supporting the Wallowa County Energy Plan. The letter stated that "The effort would produce a county for energy resilience through local energy efficiency production and wise use, while at the same time contributing to local rural economic development."

Speaking on behalf of the letter was Joseph Basile, program manager for Wallowa Resources Community Solutions Inc., who said, "The Wallowa County Energy Plan is an effort with funding from the Energy Trust of Oregon with Wallowa Resources Community Solutions Inc. ... The intention of the effort is to develop a plan with holding near to the values of the community and the county as to what the energy picture of the county looks like in years to come. ... At this point we've asked the commissioners to provide a letter of support and we're also recruiting a leadership team. This is going to be a community-run project. ... With your help and leadership and input for the larger leadership team, we're going to commence that project here in the near term."

The second letter supported



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain, File
Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash passes along a core sample of a tree provided by Larry Nalls, a Wallowa Resources board member and consulting forester, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, during a walking tour of the East Moraine to consider a forest management plan for the area.

plans by the federal Bureau of Land Management for reseeded the area damaged by this summer's Elbow Creek Fire in the northern part of the county.

The letter had been discussed two weeks earlier by the commissioners.

Commissioner Susan Roberts said at that time she still had questions, but on Wednesday, she said those questions had been answered and was ready to recommend the letter's approval.

That letter, along with one supporting the Lostine River Wetland Project, which also had

been discussed previously by the commissioners, was approved in a single motion.

Wallowa Resources

Then came the presentation by Christoffersen, who was taking the opportunity to update the board, given a landmark date.

"This year is our 25th anniversary here in Wallowa County, so we hope to share a little about who we are, what we do and what we hope to do moving forward," he told the commissioners.

See Resources, Page A5

HISTORY OF WALLOWA RESOURCES

- 1996: Wallowa Resources founded.
- 1999: Participated in the Wallowa River restoration on the Doug McDaniel Ranch.
- 2000: Began a noxious weeds program.
- 2004: Launched youth programming.
- 2008: Took over campsite management of more than 100 former U.S. Forest Service campsites.
- 2009: Started Integrated Biomass Resources, now Heartland Biomass in Wallowa.
- 2010: Wallowa Resources moved to its current home.
- 2012: Organized forest collaboratives.
- 2013: Expanded educational programs.
- 2015: Created My Blue Mountains Woodlands Program.
- 2017: Supported the creation of the Hells Canyon Trails Association.
- 2019: Wallowa Lake County Service District hydro project.
- 2019: Helped acquire the property on the East Moraine.
- 2020: Launched the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center with Eastern Oregon University.
- 2020: Established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.
- 2021: Saw the release of "The West is Burning" documentary on Western fires. Aired over 1,200 times on PBS station.

