

# Former painter turns to lawn care



By Bill Bradshaw

## Paul Vlietstra launches Lawns Northwest

**J**OSEPH — After more than a decade as a house painter, Paul Vlietstra of Joseph has hung up his brush and traded it for a lawnmower.

"I had a successful business called Plenty of Paint and I decided 12 years was enough," he said Saturday, Nov. 13. "I enjoy doing this and this is what I want to do."

His new business, Lawns Northwest, started in late summer after he was done with his painting jobs, summer being the prime season for house painting.

But to start a lawn-care business right when most people are putting their lawn-care tools away for the winter raises a question: Why now?

"The reason I started then is because I painted all summer and then shut that business down," he said. "I started now because that will give me a foot in the door for the spring rather than trying to start in the spring, people can hear about me now. ... I've had some clients, but I'm just getting started."

Vlietstra is looking ahead for the new venture.



Paul Vlietstra stands alongside a couple of the implements he uses in his new Lawns Northwest business Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at his home in Joseph. At left is a brush hogger and at right is a blade for plowing snow.

"I was planning ahead on getting my new business started," he said. "I just painted through the summer and then sold my equipment and started this."

Lawns Northwest is primarily a lawn-care business, Vlietstra said.

"The main focus of the business is scheduled lawn maintenance and lawnmowing," he said.

But he also offers other yard-care services. He has trimmers, does fall and spring yard cleanup, has a blade for his small tractor so he can plow snow or maintain gravel driveways and can cut brush.

"I have a tractor now, so I do brush hogging," he said. "I have a couple goats here, so they keep my pasture down, but in situations

(without goats), I can brush cut. ... But it's based around lawns."

Looking over the implements he has sitting in his yard for the business, he emphasized they are extras.

"This stuff here (plowing, brush hogging) is just other stuff that I offer," he said, noting his smaller tractor can "get into the smaller spots."

The long-time Joseph resident has lived here since 1989. Vlietstra graduated from high school here in 1995, but went directly to work rather than college.

Now he's ready to service as much of Wallowa County as is practical.

"It just depends. I service as much of the county as I can," he said. "But it makes it kind of tough to go mow a

### LAWNS NORTHWEST

**What:** Yard maintenance service

**Who:** Paul Vlietstra

**Where:** 501 E. Wallowa Ave., Joseph

**Phone:** 541-263-1247

**Email:** lawnsnorthwest@yahoo.com

**Web:** lawnsnorthwest.com

lawn way out in Wallowa."

His fees usually include a charge for the distance he has to travel.

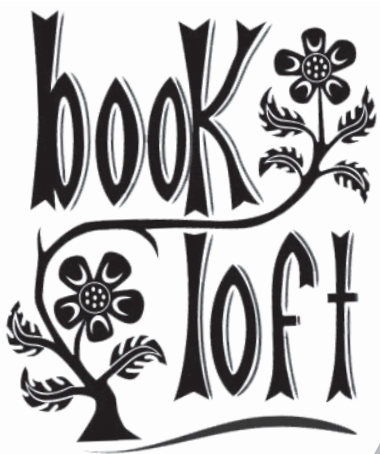
"I don't want to scare people away, but it kind of has to be that way," he said. "It's all affordable. It depends on the size of the job."

Vlietstra said jobs cost when he bags yard waste because he has to haul it to the landfill.

"It makes for slower mowing, too," he said. "But it depends on what the customer wants."

"Me not having any employees, I'm able to keep my prices down. I really don't plan on having any employees; that's what I did with the painting business," Vlietstra said. "Unlike some other construction guys have tons of employees, but this is completely different. This is me doing the work."

*Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.*



## & Skylight Gallery

Finding books is our specialty

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Where the Ganges flows
5. Defeats
10. "My Life" musician Billy
14. "My Life" or "My Universe"
15. An architect of D.C.'s National Gallery of Art
16. Strongly encourage
17. Tesla Model 3, e.g.
18. Certain woodwinds
19. Huge: Prefix
20. Distillery calculation
22. No longer stylish
23. Utensil for ice cream
24. With 27-Across, acts with precision
27. See 24-Across
33. Pet in the weasel family
34. City by the Illinois River
35. "O sweet my mother, cast me not \_\_\_!" (Juliet)
36. Supporting
39. Tough journey
40. \_\_\_ room (foosball venue)
41. Ancient Roman racing vehicle
45. Metallic mineral, maybe
46. Pronouncing "churro" like a Spanish speaker
49. Early web portal
50. Card game with no face cards
51. Behave properly
60. Piano practice piece
61. Gunk in a pit
62. N, on a Spanish compass
63. Sought information
64. Pro
65. Black hair or brown eyes
66. One might use batik to decorate fabric
67. "Look over here!"
68. Rock concert lineup?

### CLUES DOWN

1. "Don't delay!"
2. Like grapefruit
3. Fascinated by

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29									30	31	32	
33								34						
35						36	37	38			39			
40				41	42					43	44		45	
	46		47								48			
			49						50					
51	52	53				54	55	56				57	58	59
60						61					62			
63						64					65			
66						67						68		

4. Outlet for pent-up sadness
5. "About Me" blurb
6. Add a raised design to
7. Pitchers' projections
8. Grow incisors, e.g.
9. Bro's sib, maybe
10. High court maneuver?
11. Cookie in many crosswords
12. Waffle in many crosswords
13. Low-fat
21. Golfer's warning
23. Location
25. Little one
26. Paranormal "power": Abbr.
27. Off in the distance
28. More recent
29. Malfroy played by Tom Felton
30. Mistake
31. Concert hall sections
32. Sushi bar beverage

36. Supporter
37. End of the ACLU's URL
38. Copacabana Beach's city, briefly
41. Was overly sentimental
42. Home of Hawaii's Liliuokalani Gardens
43. Burden
44. Many a city dweller
47. Word after "corporate" or "rope"
48. Mexican state below Arizona
51. Renaissance Faire beverage
52. Teeny-tiny
53. Quickly reheat, in slang
54. Zion National Park's state
55. America's Cup, for one
56. Krill, to a whale
57. Weight unit hidden in "skateboard ramp"
58. Cottony swab
59. Complete collections



### Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
**10 AM Worship**  
**Online AND In Person**  
 For More Info  
 541-432-3102  
 JosephUMC.ORG  
 Pastor Cherie Dearth

### Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main - Enterprise  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**at 9am**  
 Pastor John B. King Jr  
 phone (message): 541-426-4633  
 web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

### Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449  
 We have "In-person worship" @ 9:00 am  
 (Guidelines observed)  
 Sunday School at 10:30  
 Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00  
 David Bruce  
 Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

### St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise  
 NE 3rd & Main St  
 541-426-3439  
 Worship Service  
 Sunday 9:30am

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
 Worship Service 11:00 AM  
 Childrens program during service  
 Blog: dancingsforth.blogspot.com  
**541.398.0597**  
 Hwy 82, Lostine  
 Stephen Kliever, Minister

### Summit Church

**Sundays at 10 am**  
 at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise  
 Pastor: David Pendleton  
  
 www.summitchurchoregon.org  
 Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

### Wallowa Assembly of God

702 West Hwy 82  
 Wallowa, Oregon  
 541-886-8445  
**Sunday School • 9:am**  
**Worship Service • 10:am**  
 Pastor Tim Barton  
 Visit Us on

### Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson  
 Church Office: 541-263-0505  
**Family Prayer - 9 AM**  
**Sunday School - 9:30 AM**  
**Worship - 10:30 AM**  
 723 College Street, Lostine

### Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)  
 P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828  
 Church 541-426-3751  
 School 541-426-8339  
 Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886  
**Worship Hour**  
 10:30 a.m. - Noon

### Enterprise Community Congregational Church

Join us at the  
**BIG BROWN CHURCH**  
**Sunday Worship 11:00 am**  
**Bible Studies:**  
**Sundays 9:30 am**  
 301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR  
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