

Soap made from 'love, art, herbalism'



BIZZ BUZZ
By Bill Bradshaw
Imnaha woman offers unique bath and body products



Terra Snyder, of Peak Fusion Studio, shows some of the soaps and other products her Imnaha-based business produces. She was displaying them during the Holiday Bazaar at the Joseph Community Events Center on Friday, Nov. 26, 2021.

IMNAHA — Do you like bath and body products with a distinct aroma derived from naturally occurring products in Wallowa County? Well, Peak Fusion Studio of Imnaha has what you're looking for.

"I predominately make handcrafted soap. I also make bath bombs, perfume, lotion bars and salve," said business owner Terra Snyder, who runs the business out of her Imnaha Canyon home. "My motto is we create in the spirit of love, art and herbalism."

And she's not alone in the venture.

"It's a family-run business, for sure," she said. "Everybody helps out."

The family includes husband Jason, who runs Jason Snyder Construction, and their four children, ranging in age from 15-25.

The Snyders have been living in the canyon for 21 years come June.

"We both moved back after being gone from home for years," she said. "We both were really in love with the Imnaha area, the people, the river, the life style."

Special ingredients

"What makes my products

special are a few different things," Snyder said. "Every bar of soap has hand-rendered lard in it."

She said she gets the lard from pigs raised at Square Mile Ranch in Lostine. Soap also can contain beef tallow, which she may use in the future, but for now, she sticks with lard.

"I can do vegan soap and will make it if asked," she said.

The family also keeps bees, which go into the mix.

"We raise bees and put

our own honey and hand-rendered beeswax in our soaps," she said. "It's really special stuff. It's really good quality."

Then there's the plants and herbal ingredients.

"We love to wild-harvest. I predominately will wild-harvest invasive species," she said, emphasizing that she avoids native species. "I do not wild-harvest any indigenous food sources for profit."

These may include biscuitroot, camas root or huckleberries.

"I may harvest them for

my own use, but I will not profit from it," she said. "It's a way of showing respect for the Nez Perce people of this land."

Snyder also infuses her products with botanicals.

"I wild-harvest and grow flowers and herbs that I then infuse oils with and then I make my products from those oils," she said.

Infusion is the process of pouring an oil over plant matter and waiting anywhere from four to six weeks to a year for the oil to soak up the

essence of the plant matter.

"The oil will smell like that plant matter," she said. "If I infuse olive oil with lavender, that olive oil will smell like lavender."

She also adds cocoa butter and shea butter she gets from a company in Northern Ghana that uses the proceeds to help women and children.

"Those are wonderful butters to have in soap," she said. "They're very moisturizing."

She keeps busy

Much of Snyder's busi-

PEAK FUSION STUDIO

What: Bath and body business

Who: Terra Snyder

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Instagram: peakfusion-studio

ness is online, although she does offer her wares at various outlets in Wallowa County and she recently was at the Holiday Bazaar at the Joseph Community Events Center.

She said that right now, she's making about 30 bars of soap a day, five days a week. Fall and spring are the busy seasons for production, while she devotes winter and summer to sales.

Beyond Wallowa County, Snyder said she has customers from New York to Los Angeles.

But it's not all about making money, she said, adding that 10% of her proceeds go for "indigenous reparations," which goes along with her love for the original inhabitants of the county.

"I have very much a heart for the indigenous community," she said.

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



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CLUES ACROSS

1. They're above abs
5. Event with deep-fried food
9. Dishonest person
14. Sentry's order
15. Gladys Knight's range
16. Spew lava
17. Ideal piece of pasta, e.g., informally?
19. Gets together
20. "Seriously!"
21. Thing for walking the dog?
23. Type of sauce in teriyaki dishes
24. Tickled doll
26. Skirts with a pancake variety
28. Query
31. "I've never heard that song sung in two keys simultaneously," for one?
35. Bit of kindling
37. Ready
38. Switch topics
39. Thing to keep your eye on
40. "Bear" related to a wombat
43. Go on a tirade
44. One with many world views?
46. ___ the groundwork
47. Confessional confessions
48. Complicated network of relationships at Buckingham Palace?
52. BOS rival, in baseball
53. Postpone
54. "Table" or "sea" follower
56. Do something
58. Strongly against
60. Lift
63. Prickly plant
65. "My life has been reduced to these few sentences on a dust jacket!?"
68. Feature of 70-Across's clue
69. Male deer
70. Peter, Paul and Marry, for one
71. Project details, briefly
72. Feature of 70-Across's clue
73. Tidbit of vanilla

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71						72					73			

CLUES DOWN

1. Tammy Duckworth's deg.
2. Bring in, as money
3. Activist and poet Wade
4. Not fresh
5. One might have a nose wire
6. Apple pie ___ mode
7. Modest response to praise
8. "Mr. ___" (Styx song)
9. Show stoppers?
10. Mine cart cargo
11. "Nope, try once more"
12. No more than
13. Site for handmade goods
18. Breast ___ (baby-feeding option)
22. Loud laugh sound
25. Cookie that can be personalized
27. Lyft alternatives
28. Chance to hit
29. Mowed path
30. Did a crossword in the waiting room, say
32. Even a little
33. Like eggs over easy
34. "Heavens to ___!"
36. What polarized tenses reduce
41. What bills might become
42. 12 months before now
45. To the extent that
49. Longing
50. One who creates
51. Chatter indiscreetly
55. Charges, as at windmills
56. Alphabet
57. Corn or barley
59. Wee, cutely
61. Certain
62. Lake by Toledo
64. Theater chain
66. Tree's "blood"
67. Weightlifter's pride, briefly



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