



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Wallowa County Voices



Hannah Shoffner
Enterprise

She's seen community come together

ENTERPRISE — Hannah Shoffner moved to Enterprise about a dozen years ago from Spokane, Washington, with her husband, Joshua.

One thing that brought them to Wallowa County was the presence of his grandmother, Lorretta Foster, who with her husband had owned numerous businesses here. Hannah and Joshua have two children, ages 4 and 16.

She spent several years working in social services for Building Healthy Families as a family support specialist and Safe Harbors as a victims' advocate. In 2020, the Shoffners took over JO Paddle, which rents clear-bottomed kayaks at Wallowa Lake.

She recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The community when hard things happen. They come together, no matter what their differences are.

What are you looking forward to in 2022?

The growth in my business and getting to know people who are coming into the county and who we're learning a lot about even in the short amount of time we've been here.

Did you make a New Year's resolution?

Not a real resolution; just something to keep in mind: to keep my family first and to be generous.

Have you broken it yet?

Nah. I don't make resolutions I can't keep.

What do you think of the return of the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race?

I'm excited. I'm glad that they're doing it because it's normal — or somewhat normal.

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

Be prepared for cold winters. If you're moving here from Portland, you're going to have a couple years of adjusting, but after that it becomes home.

— Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

EAGLE CAP EXTREME



Ellen Morris Bishop/Contributed Photo

Montana musher Clayton Perry hugs his dogs after winning the Eagle Cap Extreme early Saturday morning, Jan. 22, 2022.

PERRY EARNS TITLE

Montana musher takes 200-mile race, among three winners at the ECX

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Clayton Perry was in fourth place and well behind the race leaders coming into the final checkpoint of the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race.

One of his fellow mushers in the 200-mile race, Bino Fowler, asked him a question before he took off.

"He came over and asked if I was making a move," Perry said of Fowler.

The move to have his dogs pick up the pace and really test them paid off, and Perry crossed the finish line at 2:38 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, as the winner of the ECX in its return from a one-year hiatus.

"(I) took a high risk that they might not finish at all or get it done," Perry, the 2017 100-mile winner, said.

Perry was down nearly half of his team, as he started the race Jan. 20 with 12 dogs. He finished



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Nicole Lombardi of Lincoln, Montana, rounds the first turn at the start of the 100-mile competition Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, in this year's Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race. Lombardi won the 100-mile race.

with seven, losing five along the way to soreness.

But he trusted in the rigorous training he and his partner, Morgan Anderson, had put in. They had done several lengthy runs and, Perry said, put in more than 1,200 miles in recent months. He knew his team was capable.

"(I) had a lot of confidence," he said. "This year's training with Morgan Anderson gave us a lot of confidence. We knew they could do it."

Perry has been close in recent years, taking fourth in each of the last two Eagle Cap Extremes. He called the win "totally unexpected."

"Because there's a lot of competition. It's not easy to get done.

I'm older. Most of the other competitors are half my age," the 62-year-old Perry said.

He also had older dogs than many in the field, as well. Yet that experience — for both him and his team — was also a benefit. Perry is a veteran of the ECX who not only has run the 200-mile race the last few years, but had done the 100-mile race several times prior, including his win five years ago.

"Experience, knowing what to expect," he said. "Being here before (is) a definite advantage. Older dogs. More experienced dogs."

He outlasted a field that

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Morgan recovering after fall results in broken back

Enterprise resident not experiencing paralysis

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — An Enterprise man is recovering in Seattle after falling into a creek by his home and breaking several vertebrae.

The family of Sam Morgan, however, is counting their blessings that Morgan, 75, not only is still alive after a frightening ordeal that left him in Trout Creek for an estimated 90 minutes or more, but that he doesn't appear to have any paralysis or adverse effects from hypothermia.

"That's our first blessing — No. 1, he is alive," his sister, Susan Wagner, told the Chieftain Friday, Jan. 21. "No. 2, he is not paralyzed. He can move all extremities."

Wagner said her brother is not dealing with skin turning black or has lost fingers or toes from the time in the icy water.

"He doesn't seem to be experiencing any of that," she said.

Morgan, who just celebrated his 75th birthday, Wagner said, was "doing stuff outside" at his home around 10:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, Jan. 12.

"He has a little bridge that crosses Trout Creek," she said.

While crossing the bridge, he slipped.

"(He) fell across the bridge and broke several vertebrae in his back, and fell into Trout Creek," she said. The fall was between 10 and 15 feet.

Morgan was unable to pull himself from the water, Wagner said. Eventually, he got himself rested on the bank, though still up to his chest in water.

When he was delayed returning home, his son, Samuel Drake Morgan, went to check on him. He heard his father yelling, and eventually found him in the creek. He was located at around 12:30 p.m., Wagner said.

"He jumped over the bank to get Sam out, but he couldn't," Wagner said. "They called the ambulance, it came, (and) it took them six guys to get him out of Trout Creek."

According to Wagner, Morgan's temperature had dropped to 81 degrees. He had three broken vertebrae in his upper back, one or two in his lower back, and three cracked ribs.

He was originally LifeFlighted to St. Alphonsus in Boise for surgery, but ran into a snag there.

Due to the hospital being overrun by COVID-19 patients, "they didn't have room for him in recovery," Wagner said.

Morgan was transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seat-

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Ranchers concerned over Dean ranch cattle

Wolves enter the mix feeding on lost cows

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wallowa County ranchers are concerned both for the cattle under their care and their reputations in animal husbandry, not to mention the future of ranching in the county, rancher and Wallowa County Stockgrowers President Tom Birkmaier said last week.

Caring for the cattle
"As a whole, ranchers and live-

stock owners in this county deeply care for the health and well-being of their animals. It is important that we view this for what it is; an unfortunate situation brought on by a combination of mismanagement, poor decisions and challenging weather conditions," Birkmaier said in a written statement Wednesday, Jan. 19. "As difficult as it may have been, the cows should have been brought out of that country a month or two sooner. Our local cowboys are some of the best. They would've assisted



Birkmaier



Warnock

the Bob Dean ranch hands and gotten the cows out of there."

Birkmaier and Adam Stein, another county resident who was instrumental in rescuing the cattle and spotting them from the air, said that at least 29 cows are known to have perished in the deep snows and steep terrain of the Grouse Creek Ranch in the Upper Imnaha owned by Louisiana developer Bob Dean.

B.J. Warnock, who until Wednesday, Jan. 26, was manager at the ranch, said

his ranch hands began gathering cattle in September, there were 1,613 mother cows on summer range, of which 10 were unrecoverable. He said 1,548 Dean Oregon Ranches mother cows were successfully gathered by the ranch crew before the snow. After the snow, 34 mother cows were gathered, of which 26 were Dean cattle; the others were owned by neighboring ranches. Warnock said at that time aerial and ground searches were conducted with the hope of bringing in the remaining 29 cows.

Stein confirmed Jan. 20 that

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