

Chamber partners with bowling alley to secure business sponsorships

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with La Grande's new bowling alley, Brickyard Lanes, to bring the project to fruition. Doors are set to open before the spring thaw, according to the Chamber.

The historic Eagles Lodge building that is home to Brickyard Lanes has been renovated to highlight the beautiful architecture, complete with the original standing-wood beams and rustic brick walls. Lanes and pinsetters are going in over the holidays, and the mezzanine is almost ready for spectators.

The Chamber encourages local businesses to build a legacy by sponsoring the bowling alley. Through investing in the Buy-a-Brick program, businesses will have their names added to the Founders Wall and will

receive free bowling games and other incentives.

In addition, local businesses are being offered a couple of excellent brand promotion opportunities in exchange for sponsorship support.

Buy-a-Brick options

PERFECT GAME \$500

- 100 open bowling games
- 20 percent food and non-alcoholic beverage discount for six months
- name-engraved brick permanently set on the Founders Wall

TURKEY \$250

- 50 open bowling games
- 15 percent food and non-alcoholic beverage discount for six months
- name-engraved brick permanently set on the Founders Wall

STRIKE \$100

- 20 open bowling games
- 10 percent food and non-alcoholic beverage discount for six months
- name-engraved brick permanently set on the Founders Wall

SPARE \$50

- 10 open bowling games
- 5 percent food and non-alcoholic beverage discount for six months
- name-engraved brick permanently set on the Founders Wall

SPLIT \$10

- two open bowling games

Sponsorship options

LANE SPONSOR \$1,000 (ONLY NINE AVAILABLE):

- For one full year, bowlers and spectators will see your company name and logo on your assigned lane.
- company name/logo posted prominently on one lane for one year
 - company name/logo included on rotating digital

ads display for one year

- name-engraved brick permanently set on the Founders Wall
- invitation for two to attend the Brickyard's Night Before Opening event

BALL SPONSOR \$250:

For the life of the bowling ball, every bowler who chooses your ball will see your company name.

- company name engraved on a house bowling ball
- company name/logo included on rotating digital ads display for one year
- name-engraved brick permanently set on the Founders Wall

For more information on how existing businesses can contribute to La Grande's new Brickyard Lanes bowling alley, stop by the Chamber at 207 Depot St., call 541-963-8588 or email info@union-countychamber.org.



Observer file photo

This is the 500,000 gallon capped metal reservoir for Island City's new well on McAlister Road. It was built as part of the city's \$2.9 million water improvement project.

WELL

Continued from Page 1A 500,000-gallon capped metal reservoir. It also paid for the installation of larger pipes in much of the city and other upgrades. The project is being funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan.

Also on Monday the city council discussed an upcoming opening on its city council for Position 2. The seat will become vacant when councilor Robb Rea

is sworn in as Island City's new mayor on Jan. 14, 2019. Rea, who has served on the council for about 20 years, was elected mayor in November. He will succeed Mayor Delmer Hanson, who did not run for re-election. Applications for the position are available at Island City's city hall, 10605 Island Ave. The successful applicant will be appointed by the city council. The unexpired term of Position 2 runs through the end of 2020.

FIRE

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Goodrich said when funding through the Natural Resource Conservation Service created 50/50 cost-share opportunities for private landowners to reduce the number of standing trees per acre on their property, the Forest Service was asked to do the same on its side of the line.

"Our Wallowa Front Wildland/Urban Interface project covers everything considered high priority along the whole face of the Eagle Caps," he said.

Much of the private land along the Wallowa Mountain front is directly adjacent to the Eagle Cap Wilderness line where no harvest or fuels treatment is allowed. Complicating matters, Goodrich said, some of the land not included in the wilderness is not accessible by vehicle.

"For decades there were parcels of ground bordering private land we couldn't manage because they were isolated and there was no way to get there but to hike in," he said.

But when push came to shove, hike in they did, to burn up brush piles and dead and downed debris along the public/private border.

However, the unique project didn't attract any supplemental funding, so Goodrich said he has to be prudent when deciding where he sends crews to thin, pile and burn.

"We are not going to do all the acres, but concentrate on the lower 300 feet from the private boundary," he said.

Reducing the number of small trees on both sides of the public/private border is a priority outlined in the recently updated Wallowa

County Community Wild-fire Protection Plan. The plan divides the county into zones, highlighting areas particularly at risk.

The Protection Plan also designated the area called The Divide as another high priority wildland/urban interface where private inholdings, some of them hundreds of acres, abut the national forest northeast of Joseph.

In response to the county's Protection Plan and the Good Neighbor Authority — a program under the 2014 Farm Bill that allows the Forest Service to enter into contracts with state forestry departments to perform forest management services on National Forest System lands — the Wallowa Mountains Office is looking at treating a 25-acre unit completely surrounded by private land. District Silviculturist Clint Foster

explained how federal land managers, state foresters and private landowners work together.

"Under the Good Neighbor Authority I will develop prescriptions and the state will make the timber sale. When the sale is under contract, seed money from the receipts will help fund future projects," Foster said.

Goodrich said the Wallowa Mountain Office staff is also working on a plan to reduce fuels on about 200 acres around the Canal Burn area near Salt Creek Summit. Here, too, Natural Resource Conservation funding is helping private woodlot owners reduce the number of trees per acre and the threat of crown fires, on their properties.

During a field trip of various fuels reduction sites in mid-November Goodrich pointed to small "hand piles," trees cut and

stacked to be burned in a year or two by Forest Service fire crews. On flatter land, larger slash piles had been pushed together by bulldozers. Masticating, a technique the North Zone is just starting to use, shreds small trees and leaves their chips on the ground. Eventually, the organic material will become part of the forest soil.

The late fall field trip was attended by representatives from government agencies and area nonprofit groups. Eric Carlson of the Oregon Department of Forestry is helping landowners determine which treatments are best for their side of the public/private property line. He said while one landowner used heavy equipment to clear out trees with mistletoe and thin out thick crops of grand fir, another followed up a timber harvest with

mastication.

"Mastication settles down and returns nutrients to the soil with less impact, no equipment tracks and no burning," Carlson said.

Before mastication, the fairly flat ground had as many as 1,800 trees per acre, Carlson said. Afterward there were as few as 250.

"The specs call for an average of 14-foot spacing," he said.

The field trip was an expansion of what the Forest Service calls an After Action Review where timber and fire managers meet on the ground with specialists to look at the effects of ground disturbances like thinning and prescribed fire.

"We go out to monitor initial fire effects and a year later go and look again to see if the effects are what we intended or not," Goodrich said.

COP

Continued from Page 1A

tree for my mommy?" she asks, her dress adorned with a Christmas tree.

"Yep," Jensen responds with a smile. "How's that?"

"Good!" Lakoda exclaims as she resumes her search for the perfect gifts with extra pep in her step.

Lakoda, a student at Island City Elementary School, was one of the 15 children from five local schools participating in this year's Shop with a Cop event, which is sponsored by the LGPD. Officers from the LGPD, the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police all take part in the event. The children are chosen by school counselors at their respective schools, and they each receive \$100 to buy Christmas presents for their family. After they are finished shopping, the children drop their presents off with volunteers who wrap them, then they eat lunch with the cop they shopped with.

When the program began in 2009, the police department received a \$1,000 grant from Walmart. Now the program receives a \$2,000 grant from Walmart and between \$1,000 and \$2,000 from community members and business contributions.

LGPD Sergeant Jason Hays, who coordinates the

event, said the officers look forward to Shop with a Cop.

"As far as the officers are concerned, this is the one thing we do out of the entire year where the entire thing is positive," Hays said. "Spending that one-on-one time with children is very positive, and we are doing that in a fun environment."

OSP Trooper Kainoa Delatori has been participating in the shopping event for three years and said he enjoys volunteering for it. "On a normal workday, when someone sees us, whether it's an adult or a kid, they automatically think negatively, whether that's from what they see on TV or what they see in the community," Delatori said. "When we get to interact with kids like this in a positive light, take pictures, run around Walmart, (and) they get to go pick out Christmas gifts — there's nothing negative about it."

Shop with a Cop gives children a positive early impression of police officers, the state trooper added.

"It shows them (at a young age that) interaction with law enforcement doesn't always have to be negative," Delatori said.

Delatori was paired with Damian Picard, a 10-year-old who attends Central Elementary School. He said he had fun shopping.

"I had never shopped with a cop before," Damian said.

Officers weren't the only ones helping the children shop. Chief Brian Harvey joined in on the fun as well. Harvey has taken part in the event since he became chief nine years ago. He said the event is refreshing for cops.

"It's reaffirming to be able to help give kids a season of hope," he said.

While the event started before Harvey became chief, he said he had no hesitations about continuing the practice when he joined the LGPD.

"When they told me what they were doing and what it was all about, I was 100 percent on board," Harvey said. "It's a great, great outreach program."

Shop with a Cop events can be found across Oregon and around the country, though it's not clear where the tradition started. Hays said the LGPD was inspired to put on the event by the Redmond Police Department.

Approximately 35 volunteers help put on the event, which is a partnership between LGPD, Walmart and Loveland Funeral Home. Over the past 10 years, the event has served 150 children in the area. The children hail from La Grande Middle School, Central Elementary School, Greenwood Elementary School, Island City Elementary School and the La Grande School District's Rising Stars

program.

While the children get to do the shopping, Harvey said they aren't the only ones reaping rewards from the event.

"It's just powerful. It's revitalizing for us and reminds us why we do this job. We deal with a world that has a lot of sorrow and tragedy and we see a lot of that firsthand. Having this experience for us is really helpful. We benefit from it as much as the kids do."

Anyone who wishes to make a donation to this event can contact Carla Greenough at the La Grande Police Department 541-963-1017



Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

Damian Picard stacks up his items for family members in the cart. He has \$100 to spend, which was donated by Walmart and members of the community.

Introducing Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Adam Heisinger

- Doctor of Osteopathy, Des Moines University, Iowa
- Internship and Residency completed in orthopedic surgery at Affinity Medical Center, Ohio; Fellowship in sports medicine completed at Orthopedic Research of Virginia, Richmond
- Served four years as flight surgeon, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina

Dr. Heisinger will be seeing patients at Wallowa Memorial Hospital regularly for clinic visits and surgery. Ask your physician for a referral today.



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