

Small-business & Ag

HAPPENINGS

BLM holds job fair in Vale this week

VALE — All levels of jobs are available at the Bureau of Land Management. A job fair will be held Oct. 18 for potential employees to meet the people who care for our public lands and explore how you to become part of the team. There are job opportunities — including helitack, engine shops, dispatch, SRV hand crews, hotshots, fire prevention, natural resources and administration — in multiple locations. Representatives from different BLM careers — including natural resources, administration, shop/repairs — will be available to talk to and answer questions at the Vale District Office, 100 Oregon St., from 9 a.m. to noon. All ages are welcome. For more information on how to apply for jobs with the BLM, go to www.usajobs.gov.

Blue Mountain Outfitters offers Gear Repair 101

LA GRANDE — Blue Mountain Outfitters' Outdoor School is hosting Gear Repair 101 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 17 at the store, 1124 Adams Ave., La Grande. According to organizers, “Eric and Steven (will) dispense the sweet details on getting those extra miles out of hard-used gear. From emergency repair kits and late-night sleeping pad field fixes to the more permanent approach for that foot-long rip in your rainfly.” Participants may bring worn gear to class for help. The evening will include pizza and drinks, a used gear sale and a raffle. Registration is not required.

Saturday's 'Pig-nic' celebrates local food producers

ENTERPRISE — Barking Mad Farm, 65156 Powers Rd., Enterprise, is hosting a family-friendly event featuring local food producers, farm animals, food, drink and music, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 19. Pig-nic: A Hog Harvest Festival will feature the farm's very friendly Kunekune pigs.

Tickets are \$25 (\$12.50 for 16 and younger) and include food tastes plus two drinks. Tickets are on sale at the The Bookloft and Ruby Peak Naturals in Enterprise, Marketplace Fresh Foods and Joseph Hardware in Joseph and online at <http://pig-nic.brownpapertickets.com>.

The event is sponsored by Slow Food Wallows, the local chapter of Slow Food USA, a nonprofit organization devoted to developing regional food systems and increasing access to good, clean and fair food. The Pig-nic will conclude with the announcement of a \$1,500 grant awarded to a local food producer selected through a competitive process.

JaxDog Cafe & Books opens in new location

LA GRANDE — JaxDog Cafe & Books has reopened at 1305 Adams Ave., La Grande. The business had an informal opening Oct. 11. Established in 2014, JaxDog Cafe & Books serves hearty and healthy homemade soups, quiche, salads and entrees with frequent vegetarian or vegan options. Premium pour-over coffee, handmade hot cocoa and organic teas pair well with pastries and baked goods, all prepared from scratch using real ingredients. Specializing in new titles, the bookshop stocks unique greeting cards, journals, calendars and a quality selection of used volumes and classics.

In November 2018, the business was forced to close when the suspended wooden ceiling of its former building collapsed. Owners Jon and Laura Hancock devoted months to searching for another space and have created in their new home “a harmonious blend of the cafe and bookstore with a laid-back and comfortable atmosphere.”

The reinvented cafe and bookshop is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Registration is open for youth ag leadership conference

PORTLAND — Young farmers, ranchers and others interested in agriculture are encouraged to register for the 2019 Oregon Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference, set for Nov. 15-17 at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. The conference is open to Oregon Farm Bureau members age 16-35 and is geared toward young people interested in improving their leadership and communication skills, learning about the most important issues impacting Oregon's agriculture community, gaining business tips from experts, networking with

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Agriculture forecast mixed



Dean Guernsey/Bend Bulletin

Logging, above, and cattle, below, were two of the Northwest's agriculture sectors that should be slightly profitable in the coming months, according to Northwest Farm Credit Services.

Northwest Farm Credit Services

SPOKANE, Washington — Northwest Farm Credit Services, an agricultural lending cooperative, has released its quarterly Market Snapshot reports covering the state of major agricultural commodities in the Northwest. The organization's industry teams throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington monitor conditions and report outlooks for commodities financed by the coop.

Northwest Farm Credit Service's 12-month outlook for the agricultural commodities most common in the Northwest are summarized below.

Apples: Apple growers will see slightly profitable returns. Estimates call for a larger crop, which could pressure prices. Although trade tensions have eased with some countries, growers will be challenged to find enough markets, especially for older strains and varieties.

Cattle: Forecasts are for slightly profitable returns throughout the beef industry. Growing packer margins support a very profitable year while cattle feeders are expected to remain slightly profitable despite current negative margins. Producers still face uncertain calf prices that may limit profitability.

Cherries: Cherry growers should see profitable returns from early and late season



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

cherries while mid-season cherries are expected to return slight profits. The decreased California crop opened the market for early Northwest cherries. As is typical, increased supplies in mid-season depressed pricing.

Dairy: Dairies anticipate slightly profitable returns. Futures markets suggest Class III and Class IV milk prices will increase for the remainder of 2019. Increased attention

to managing feed costs will benefit dairy producers in the 2019-20 crop year.

Fisheries: Profitable returns for fisheries are expected. Bristol Bay sockeye experienced another outstanding year. Pollock pricing remains strong, buoyed by solid demand.

Forest products: Timberland owners should be profitable and mill operators

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Oregon receives \$2.1 million Specialty Crop grant

Oregon Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Oregon Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture have announced this year's recipients of Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds. In Oregon, nearly \$2.1 million will fund 14 projects to help boost the competitiveness of the state's fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops and other specialty crops.

“Specialty crops are a critical part of agriculture in the state,” says ODA Director Alexis Taylor. “The projects funded with these dollars are important to the diversity of Oregon agriculture across the state. The grants give our producers resources to become more competitive in the

marketplace.”

Over the past nine years, Oregon, which ranks sixth in the nation in production of specialty crops, has received nearly \$18 million in funding from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The grants pave the way for nearly 200 projects throughout the state and support priorities such as: local/regional/domestic/international market development, access, and certification; on-farm labor needs; cross commodity collaboration; food safety compliance and traceability; and addressing regulatory burden.

The 2019 funded projects involve a diversity of crops and span a wide geographic area of Oregon agricultural production.

At least one project directly involves Eastern Oregon: Oregon Aglink was granted \$78,453.76 to help fund the expansion of its Adopt a Farmer program on specialty crop farms into seven new counties in Southern, Central and Eastern Oregon.

During each academic year, all farm-classroom matches across the 14 total counties in this project will have one field trip to a specialty crop farm and at least two hands-on classroom visits from their farmer who will share their production practices, careers that help their farm succeed (agronomists, beekeepers, researchers, etc), and how their crops get to market so students, teachers and parents know where to buy Oregon specialty

crops. Two career expos will also be held for middle school students in the new regions to increase student understanding of career opportunities in Oregon's specialty crop industry. This project's engagement with middle school students across the state will enhance the competitiveness of Oregon specialty crops through increased knowledge and consumption of a variety of specialty crops including but not limited to blueberries, cherries, peaches, garlic, onions, potatoes, and peppermint.

For more information on the 2019 funded projects and the process of applying for 2020 funds, go to <https://oda.direct/SCBGP> or contact Gabrielle Redhead at 503-986-6473.

Improvements to airport will help boost area economy

EO Media Group staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Last month, Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) released a statement after the Economic Development Administration awarded a \$3 million grant to the City of Pendleton to support the expansion of the airport's Unmanned Aerial System sites.

“The Eastern Oregon Regional Airport plays a critical role in the region's economy, especially for Pendleton,” Walden said in the release. “The UAS Range is one of the leading ranges in the world, and I was happy

to work with local officials on securing this grant in an effort to further support development of the range. I look forward to seeing it pay off for the City of Pendleton and all of Eastern Oregon.”

According to the release, the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport not only helps the flow of goods and people but is also a local job supplier.

“This grant from the EDA will be used to provide much needed new hangar space and improved infrastructure for UAS Test Range,” said Pendleton Mayor John Turner in the release. “In the process it will bring

in new well-paying jobs and it will expand Pendleton's economy.”

The grant from EDA comes about one month after the Department of Transportation awarded the City of Pendleton a grant to help modernize the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport.

In the release, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross is quoted as saying these grants “will help develop a new UAS test range in Oregon that will bring cutting-edge technology to the region and create new jobs in an innovative industry.”