

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Putney joins Baker County Extension as new forester

BAKER CITY — Jacob Putney is the new extension forester for Baker County through the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Putney, who was born and raised in Canby, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forest management at OSU. While studying in Corvallis he worked at OSU's research forest. Putney is looking forward to learning more about the forest types of Northeast Oregon and meeting and working with the region's woodland owners. In his free time he enjoys hiking, backpacking and fishing.

Putney can be reached at the Baker City Extension Office at 541-523-6418 or jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu.

Hildebrandt named new vice president of Northeast Oregon Board of Realtors

LA GRANDE — Kelli Hildebrandt, of La Grande's Valley Realty, recently stepped into the role of vice president of the Northeast Oregon Board of Realtors. As such, she will contribute articles to the Northeast Oregon Real Estate guide.

Hildebrandt is a former La Grande High School girls golf coach, after which she went into banking and then real estate. In the summer of 2018, she joined the team at Valley Realty, which has served the community for nearly 50 years. Both La Grande natives, Hildebrandt and her husband, Ryan, own and operate Prosper Business and Tax Services.

Free online training for roofing safety available

SALEM — Employers and workers in Oregon's roofing industry now have a free and convenient way to boost their ability to address fall hazards by using an online video training course launched by Oregon OSHA. The course, "Fall Protection for Roofing," is the latest in a series of online educational offerings created by the division to help address fall hazards across specific industries and different on-the-job situations. The course includes insights from industry leaders and covers topics such as hazard identification, fall protection equipment and systems, safe access and training.

The roofing course includes the opportunity to receive a certificate of completion. The third of five planned online courses about fall protection, the roofing course joins "Fundamentals of Fall Protection" and "Ladder Safety." The Fall Protection Suite of courses is available at <https://osha.oregon.gov/edu/courses/Pages/fall-protection-suite.aspx>. Those who complete the course have the option to receive a certificate of completion.

Oregon OSHA's technical staff members can answer questions to help employers understand how to apply rules to their workplace. For more information, call 503-378-3272 or email tech.web@oregon.gov or consult the regional field office in Pendleton at 541-276-2353 or stop by 200 SE Hailey Ave., Suite 306.

Byproducts of grassfed industry used in 'regenerative' manufacturing

DENVER, Colorado — According to a press release from the American Grassfed Association, based in Denver, Colorado, the grassfed industry promotes human health, animal welfare and environmental sustainability. Now there is a growing market for products made from grassfed byproducts like leather and tallow. Other Half Processing was founded to get those byproducts into the hands of manufacturers, and a new partnership with Timberland is a big win for the regenerative agriculture movement.

Currently, OHP is supplying grassfed cow hides to support Timberland's special launch of thousands of pairs of "regenerative" boots, slated for summer 2020. AGA supports further partnership with Timberland's parent company, VF Corporation, which also owns Dickies, Eastpak, Jansport, The North Face, Vans and 12 other consumer footwear and apparel brands. For more information on OHP, go to www.otherhalfprocessing.com. Information on AGA is available at www.americangrassfed.org.



Oregon Public Broadcasting file photo

Hundreds of people protested earlier this year in favor of cap-and-trade legislation at the Oregon Capitol in Salem. Oregon leaders say they'll take a crack at regulating the state's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

What's cap-and-trade's future?

By Dick VanderHart
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — For the third year running, Oregon leaders say they'll take a crack at regulating the state's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. But with the monthlong legislative session set to begin Feb. 3, just what those regulations will look like is still anybody's guess.

What does seem clear: Any proposal will be less strict than one that failed dramatically earlier this year.

Still smarting from the unexpected demise of their last attempt to enact a cap-and-trade policy in the state, Democrats have been mulling a wide array of changes that could more gradually phase in regulations and ease requirements for rural communities or industrial polluters.

Such concessions, the thinking goes, are possibly key for ensuring Republicans in the Senate don't once again flee the Capitol to block legislation. But changes to the proposal also can't be so severe they risk losing support in the more progressive House of Representatives, or making enemies out of environmental groups.

"What the ultimate bill looks like I think nobody has any idea yet, but there are lots of people talking," said Doug Moore, executive director of the Oregon League of Conserva-

tion Voters, a central proponent of carbon regulation. "I've probably heard 40 or 50 ideas that people have come up with about tweaks they could make."

The carbon bill that died this year, House Bill 2020, will serve as a starting point for new proposals.

Developed over a course of years, that bill would have regulated the state's largest polluters — operations like fuel importers, manufacturers, and gas and electric utilities — forcing them to purchase credits for greenhouse gases they emit. An overall cap on total emissions from those sectors would be established, then lowered over time. Regulated companies could trade credits among one another.

The bill would have raised millions in grant money intended to help Oregonians transition to a lower-emission economy — even as it raised prices in such a way that, officials hoped, people would be coaxed to pollute less.

But HB 2020 saw intense backlash from industry and groups that complained it would poison the business climate in rural Oregon. And the specter of gasoline prices rising by more than 20 cents a gallon because of the regulations was a central talking point for Republicans, who uniformly opposed the idea.

HB 2020 passed the House by a 36-24 vote, but Republicans left the state before it could be called up in the Senate. The bill wound up dying after key Democrats pulled support following the walkout. Lawmakers are now busy trying to find a compromise that avoids the same fate.

One possible replacement for HB 2020 would delay regulation on fuel importers — pushing off any increases to fuel prices from the program by years — and give the state less say in how communities spend money to reduce their emissions.

That proposal, drawn up by Reps. Karin Power, D-Milwaukie, and Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, has been circulated among lawmakers and advocacy groups in recent days. Power and Marsh call it the Oregon Resilient Communities Act, or ORCA.

The idea largely relies on the framework of HB 2020, keeping intact regulations on industry and utilities. But the policy wouldn't force fuel importers to account for their emissions for two years after the program began.

Such a concession could give cap and trade an easier path to passage, but it would also delay money the state has planned on taking in to help communities reduce emissions and blunt the effects of climate change.

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Union County Chamber of Commerce 2020 Board of Directors welcomes new members

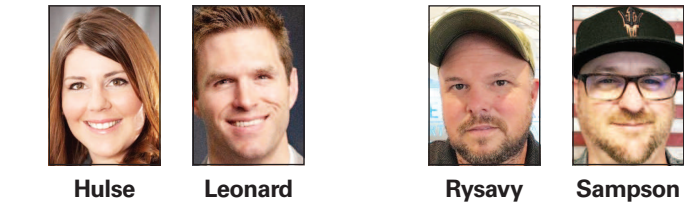
Union County Chamber of Commerce

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce announced the addition of three new board members — Ryan Leonard, Mike Rysavy and Caleb Sampson — as well as the return of Mollie Hulse for her second term.

The board provides leadership to carry out the chamber's mission to promote and support commerce in Union County.

MOLLIE HULSE, COMMUNITY BANK

Hulse is serving her second term on the board of directors. She has been on the Union County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for three years and is the current president. She loves living in La Grande and is dedicated to serving the community and helping make it a wonderful place to live. Hulse works as a commercial loan officer at Community Bank, where she specializes in small business, commercial and agricultural finance. Her career has deepened her involvement with the business community, and she is an avid supporter of the local economy and small businesses.



RYAN LEONARD, HEART 'N HOME HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Ryan grew up in Fruitland Idaho, the youngest of five boys who were all very athletic and musical. After spending two years in Russia on a service mission, he attended college and met his wife. He graduated with a bachelor's degree and went on to earn two master's degrees. Leonard has lived in La Grande for four years with his wife and two children. He has a passion for service and helping others to meet personal and professional goals. The combination of his degrees, certifications and job experience allows him to specialize in the development of leaders/managers, teams and organizations and will be well utilized for the Union County Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

MIKE RYSAVY, GRANDE HOT SPRINGS

Rysavy has a long history of

community involvement and tourism. He and his wife have been married for 16 years and have a shared love of hot springs. Together they have been to more than 250 hot springs throughout North America. From 1997 to 2001, Rysavy served on the board of directors of a non-profit organization that managed Bagby Hot Springs in the Mt. Hood National Forest under permit from the U.S. Forest Service, which receives more than 60,000 visitors a year. In 2001, he was voted in as president and chairman of the board of Northwest Forest Conservancy, a position he held until becoming executive director in 2009. Rysavy brings to the Union County Chamber of Commerce a combination of business and tourism-related experience.

CALEB SAMPSON, THUNDER RV

Sampson was born in Pendleton and grew up in Morrow and

Umatilla counties. After graduating from Hermiston High School, he moved to Portland to attend college and shortly after accepted an opportunity to learn welding. While working for Grating Fabricators of Vancouver, Sampson married his high school sweetheart, and they bought their first home and had their first of three children. In 2001, he was offered a job with Thunder RV, and he and his family jumped at the chance to move back to Eastern Oregon, to work and raise a family in Union County. Sampson is an active member of the community through volunteer work in a variety of organizations including Union County Search and Rescue and the La Grande Main Street Downtown.

The Union County Chamber of Commerce is appreciative of everything Karrine Brogoitti, Chelsea Hewitt and Ashley O'Toole have done for the chamber and looks forward to continuing to work with Donna Beverage, Brent Clapp, Jamie Daniel, Cindy Edwards, Patrick Flynn, Sherry Haeger Kevin Loveland and Shawn Risteen in 2020.