

Rough & Ready Lumber Co. provided \$2.85 million in grant, loan for energy

To help with energy-related projects, Rough & Ready Lumber Co., of Cave Junction, and Harts Nursery, of Jefferson, have been awarded \$2,920,000 in grants and loan guarantees by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

The funds are part of \$9,076,716 for 12 renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects nationwide announced by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns.

Rough & Ready's \$500,000 grant and \$2,350,000 loan guarantee from USDA Rural Development will help finance a \$5 million project that includes \$1.7 million in seed money form the nonprofit Energy Trust of Oregon Inc. The company will build a high-pressure boiler and back-pressure turbine generator system to increase steam production for its lumber drying process.

Additionally, the power plant will produce 1.5 megawatts of power. Excess power will be sold to the Pacific Power Grid and will be enough to provide electricity to some 700 homes.

Link Phillippi, R&R's president and general manager, estimated that the new boiler system will require approximately 30,000 tons of burnable material each year. Approximately half the material will come from trimmings at the company's two saw mills, and the remainder from fuels from thinning operations on nearby public and private forests.

The company, 6 miles

south of Downtown Cave Junction, has 85 employees and manages approximately 30,000 acres of forestland. It currently operates a wood-fired low-pressure steam boiler which produces no electricity.

"This is a big project for a little company like ours," said Phillippi, "but we needed the additional steam capacity, and this is the right opportunity to invest in more efficient technology to make the business more competitive, produce clean renewable energy and contribute to the overall health of Southwestern Oregon forestland," Phillippi said.

Harts Nursery of Jefferson received a \$35,000 grant and \$35,000 loan guarantee. The money will be used for an energy-efficient project to install two hot water condensing boilers in two propagation greenhouses and variable frequency drives on irrigation pumps for an annual energy saving of approximately 130,000 kilowatts of power.

"Both projects focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy which are priorities with the Bush administration and USDA Rural Development," said Mark Simmons, Oregon state director for USDA Rural Development. "We are pleased to be part of these projects and are looking for additional renewable energy projects to fund," he said.

In all, Johanns announced \$9,076,716 in grants and loan guarantees projects in Oregon, Iowa and Kansas.

"One year ago President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act, the most comprehensive overhaul of energy policy in over a decade that will help our enhanced energy security and greater energy independence," said Johanns.

"The renewable energy projects just funded are a step toward achieving that goal, promoting energy efficiency and the development of renewable farm based energy sources," he added.

USDA's Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency program provides grants and loan guarantees to eligible farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to assist in developing renewable energy systems and making energy improvements.

Projects must be located in a rural area (any area other than cities or towns of greater than 50,000 population and the immediate or adjacent urbanized areas of the cities or towns). Program details and USDA contacts can be found at the USDA Rural Development Oregon Website www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/9006.htm.

USDA will conduct information meetings in Oregon later this year to seek new applications.



THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY of Second Friday Art Walk occurred Aug. 11 in Cave Junction. Exhibitors included (from top clockwise)

Pearlene Gavlik with her watercolors at the Southern Oregon Guild display in Kerby; Tammy Smith (right) showing her designer crocheted purses to Deovon Derringer; Joe Chankin & friends at Rising Suns with Dane Saavedra sitting in on drum; Rebecca Pearson at BeBe's Art for Everyone with the art shoes in the auction fund-raiser for Illinois River Valley Arts Council; Bill Ott with his petroglyphs and pictographs at Changes Art Gallery; Mary Reynolds with her elegant bug jewelry at Jefferson State Financial Group; and Alisha Thornhill at Eye Care Group with art quilts by Kathy Ratiu-Kelley. Also participating were Taylor's Country Store, Pizza Pit, Time Capsule, Treehouse Florist & Gifts, Bagel Junction, and Nacho Mamas. (Photos by 'Illinois Valley News')



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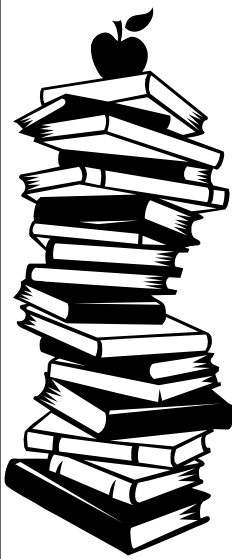
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