

# Ecotrust calls for stake in 'Ag of the Middle'

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press



ERICK MORTENSON — Capital Press

**Ecotrust, a Portland nonprofit, is retrofitting a former ironworks to become a regional food development and distribution hub. The group published a report on infrastructure gaps that hamper medium sized growers and producers.**

but too small compete in commodity markets.

"It's absolutely the most painful place to be as a producer," said Amanda Osborne,

one of the report's authors and Ecotrust's food and farms vice president.

The 250-page study describes a haphazard system in

**ONLINE**  
<http://bit.ly/1Kxg19t>

which growers and other food producers spend too much time on the supply chain instead of developing their product. They must cobble together outlets, pick, pack and store things themselves and deliver small amounts to multiple buyers.

Neighborhood grocery stores in Portland, especially those catering to consumers willing to pay more for local, organic or sustainably produced food, are besieged by clusters of delivery vehicles. Some of them amount to a cooler in the trunk of a grower's car. In Portland's increas-

ingly busy streets, getting from store to store isn't easy.

The founder of Portland's Bowery Bagels, which uses Northwest grains, told the report writers he delivers to 114 outlets on weekdays. "I can make more bagels," CEO Michael Madigan is quoted as saying, "but I can't deliver any more."

The report says Ag of the Middle producers often lack branding or marketing strategy and do without communications and strategic planning.

The result is a system that is "highly fragmented, lacking consistent data and information, and dependent on personal relationships," according to the study.

Ecotrust is investing in the solution. The organization is retrofitting a former ironworks building in Portland's eastside industrial area to be a food de-

velopment, storage and distribution hub.

The building on Southeast Salmon Street — called "The Redd" after the egg nests salmon make in streams — will have 16,000 square feet of development, incubator or processing space for meat, grain and greens. A mezzanine will contain 8,000 square feet of offices and educational space.

A building next door will have cold storage and warehousing space, and a delivery company that uses electric cargo bicycles capable of hauling up to 800 pounds of product to restaurants or other customers.

Portland has a reputation as a "foodie" city, but Osborne said Ecotrust and its partners are intent on developing a "food system, not a food scene."

## Merger: Deal should be done by the end of the year

Continued from Page 1A



AP Photo/Jeff Roberson

**Charter Communications is buying Time Warner Cable for about \$55 billion.**

Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler said that the FCC weighs every merger on its own to see if it will be in the public interest, and that "an absence of harm is not sufficient." He said the FCC "will look to see how American consumers would benefit" from the deal.

"One has to be sober about genuine risks that this deal could still be rejected," said MoffettNathanson's Craig Moffett in a research note Tuesday, given the number of Internet and TV subscribers involved.

The deal comes with a \$2 billion break-up fee if it doesn't go through. If regulators don't approve it, Charter would pay Time Warner Cable; if Time Warner Cable kills the deal and goes with another buyer, it'll pay.

Charter Communications Inc., based in Stamford, Conn., will provide \$100 in cash and shares of a new public parent company equal to 0.5409 shares of Charter for each outstanding Time Warner Cable Inc. share. The

transaction values each Time Warner Cable share at about \$195.71.

The companies on Tuesday valued New York-based Time Warner Cable at a total of \$78.7 billion, including debt.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

John Malone's Liberty Broadcast Corp., which owns more than a quarter of Charter's stock, is backing the acquisition, which puts Charter in the same league as Comcast. Liberty Broadband is expected to own about 20 percent of the new Charter, which will also include Bright House Networks, a smaller cable provider Charter said Tuesday it is buying for \$10.4 billion.

Charter, combined with Time Warner Cable and Bright House, will have nearly 24 million customers, compared with Comcast's 27.2 million. It also lags AT&T, whose pending deal with DirecTV would give it 26.4 million TV customers and 16.1 million fixed Internet customers as well as tens of millions of wireless customers.

Whether government regulators will approve the Charter deal after quashing Comcast's bid for Time Warner Cable remains to be seen. The Comcast deal would have given it more than half of the country's high-speed Internet subscribers, which the government feared would give it the power to undermine on-line video competitors.

Charter will have less than 30 percent of those fast-broadband customers, the company said Tuesday.

"We're a very different company from Comcast and this is a very different transaction," said Charter CEO Tom Rutledge on a conference call Tuesday. "We're confident it's going to get done," said Time Warner Cable CEO Rob Marcus.

In a statement Tuesday, Federal Communications



AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File  
A Time Warner Cable truck is parked in New York.

## Barnhart: Her family tried to help

Continued from Page 1A

Clatsop County, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Providence Seaside Hospital and Greater Oregon Behavioral Health are moving forward with a crisis respite center in Warrenton, which could provide an alternative for the mentally ill when prison or hospitalization are not options.

Artanya Barnhart shared her gratitude toward the Astoria Police, in particular, for trying to help her mother. She also thanked Norman Tutton,

a retired Wyoming police officer who lives in Surf Pines and has taken an interest in the circumstances surrounding Barnhart's death.

The family has declined to discuss Barnhart's mental health in detail, other than to say they had tried to help her.

"My mom was battling with mental issues for a long time," Artanya Barnhart said. "In my opinion, she wasn't asking for help, she was screaming for help."

"And she did not get the help that she needed."

Visit us online at  
[www.DailyAstorian.com](http://www.DailyAstorian.com)

65th annual  
**dance recitals**  
showcasing the students of Maddox Dance Studio  
SATURDAY JUNE 13 • 2:30PM & 6:30PM  
SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 2:30 PM  
Box office opens 1/2 hour before each performance  
Astoria High School Auditorium  
\$10 Adults • \$5 seniors & students • Under 6 FREE

Register Now  
**summer dance discovery**  
Ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics  
For absolute beginners and experienced dancers  
JUNE 23-JULY 16

NORTH COAST  
**Dance Camp**  
July 23, 24, 25  
Guest faculty from Oregon Ballet Theater & Nevada Ballet  
Sponsored by Little Ballet Theater, Inc.

Registration now open for  
**FALL CLASSES!**  
Ballet, tap, jazz, modern, musical theater, acrobatics, creative movement, tot/parent, hip-hop  
Pre-school specialists | Adults beginners welcome

**MADDOX Dance Studio**  
389 S. MAIN AVE. WARRENTON  
503-861-1971  
maddoxdancers.com  
Life member of Dance Educators of America | Certified to teach Dance Masters of America  
Member Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce



## ENERGY COSTS TOO HIGH? TRY LOOKING AT IT IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.

Want to lower your energy costs? When you update lighting and other equipment, you can see the difference instantly and recoup your investment in no time. Talk to a qualified trade ally to learn about Energy Trust of Oregon cash incentives for all kinds of energy-saving solutions.

**+** Get more from your energy.  
Visit [www.energytrust.org/mybusiness](http://www.energytrust.org/mybusiness) or call us at 1.866.368.7878.

Serving customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas.

