

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

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Cracks in Blue Mountains plan?

Dunn and Roberts sense Forest Service is listening to criticism

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

Kevin Martin, one of three forest supervisors in attendance at a Jan. 8 meeting held in Pendleton to discuss the Forest Service's proposed plan

to manage the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests in upcoming years, surprised some by his opening remarks.

With minimal preamble, the supervisor of the Umatilla National Forest referred to a statement



made by Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) Chairman Bruce Dunn in

a front page article of the previous day's Chieftain.

The topic of the meeting was a forest management plan the Forest Service has taken 14 years to draft called the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision, the same plan Dunn had dissed the previous day by saying that document "sucks."

And yet, said Dunn, Martin later told him the Forest Service knew going into the meeting that there were

concerns about the 1,400-page document, and referring to the newspaper quote from Dunn opened grounds for discussion.

Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts, who along with fellow Commissioner Paul Castilleja and Dunn attended the meeting, said progress at the session far exceeded her expectations.

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DESTINY'S DESTINY: Rodeo queen crown

By S.F. Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Not many 11-year-olds can claim the title of queen, but Destiny Barney can do so legitimately. After a grueling competition this summer in Philomath, Barney came away with the Junior Miss Oregon Rodeo crown, Wallowa County's first winner since 1997. A Jan. 17 coronation ceremony at Cloverleaf Hall is planned to celebrate the event.

Destiny Barney ("Dez" to friends) is the child of Vixen Radford and Ryan Barney. Radford's husband, Jeffrey Wecks, is Destiny Barney's stepfather.

The remarkably poised Barney said she's harbored a long-time interest in becoming a rodeo queen. "I've always loved horses and rodeos because it has my favorite animals. Once I saw the rodeo queens I said, 'I want to be one of those.'"

This is not the first title the ambitious Barney went after. She previously won crowns in the Santiam rodeo followed by one in Tillamook. Barney also competes in horsemanship events with 4-H and does open shows as well.

Vixen Radford said her daughter is a natural when it comes to pageants. "She is a showboater; she likes to model, and when she models, her personality really comes out. The pageants allow her to speak, she gets to model, and she gets to ride - she really enjoys it," Radford said.



ONCE I SAW THE RODEO QUEENS I SAID, I WANT TO BE ONE OF THOSE

Courtesy photo

Destiny Barney with her horse, Music. Barney's coronation as the new Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon will take place Jan. 17 at Enterprise's Cloverleaf Hall.

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More mills vying for local logs

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

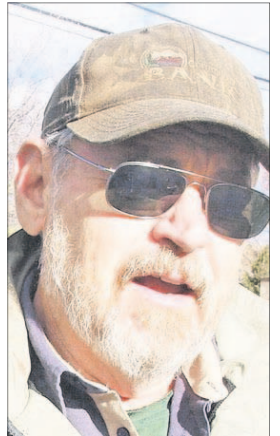
Near closure as recently as last August, Tanzey Forest Improvement, of Wallowa, has been granted new life courtesy of higher prices Boise Cascade is paying to purchase logs.

During a town hall meeting held in Enterprise late last summer that featured U.S. Rep. Greg Walden when forest fires were the primary source of discussion, local private properties timber manager Butch Tanzey told Walden and an audience of 40 people that his family's more-than-20-year-old business was halting its operations.

The reason, he said then, was that his business had lost money for five consecutive years because timber prices were consistently low; in his words because Boise Cascade had no competition to purchase timber harvested locally. At the time, Tanzey said, 10 families were supported by his logging operation.

But now, says Tanzey, Boise Cascade has raised timber prices \$20 to \$30 per 1,000 board feet since mid-summer and the local landowners who are his clients again are ringing his phone to secure bids to harvest their forest assets while prices are favorable.

But why this upswing in timber prices? Elwayne Henderson, owner of Wallowa-based Henderson Logging, says he's no expert on the marketing end of the timber industry, but he repeatedly points to the standard economic principal of supply and demand. "The price of domestic lumber is going up," says Henderson.



Tanzey

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New bakery uses wood-fired brick oven

By S.F. Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH - Business owners Chad and Nicole Wilcox opened their bakery, Local Loaf, shortly before the start of the new year at 19 S. Main St. in Joseph.

The couple and their four children relocated to the Wallowa Valley from the Portland area where Chad worked in construction as a heavy equipment operator and Nicole worked in both the American and European culinary arts and also dealt in antiques.

Nicole Wilcox voiced their reasons for relocating to the Wallowa Valley. "We wanted a simpler life with less people. We also wanted better weather with more quietness and peacefulness. We wanted certain things in our life and Joseph and the Wallowa Valley were a perfect fit."

Wilcox said she started Local Loaf as a bread bakery because she's baked bread since childhood. "Why buy it when you can bake it? Bread is ex-



S.F. Tool/Chieftain

Nicole and Chad Wilcox of Local Loaf in front of their wood-fired baking oven.

pensive, and when you buy it off the shelf it has conditioners and who-knows-what-else in it." Local Loaf uses organic flour sold by Bob's Red Mill.

The Wilcox family started refurbishing their building in early July of 2014, including building and upholstering the chairs, booths and tables. They also undertook extensive remodeling of the building.

Nicole uses family recipes and those of her own creation for the baked goods. She said she frequently experiments in the kitchen for the creation of new recipes.

The bakery features a very home-style atmosphere with the smell of baked goods permeating the air while both Chad and Nicole work the kitchen, which is in plain view from the

'We wanted certain things in our life and Joseph and the Wallowa Valley were a perfect fit.'

Nicole Wilcox

dining area. "Our restaurant is warm and inviting. We serve wonderful organic food. I have an opportunity to work at an art I love, and I want this to be a place that wraps its arms around you and makes you feel welcome," Nicole said.

Stuffed chairs and padded seating and booths make for a homey dining experience. Most remarkably, everything is baked in a wood-fired brick oven the Wilcoxes constructed that also warms the restaurant.

In addition to offering a number of baked goods including bread, pastry and cake, Local Loaf also has soups and plans to eventually add pizza. The bakery does not have a fixed menu, relying instead on variety to attract and keep customers.

At the present, the bakery

operates Thursday through Monday. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on Sunday, when the business closes at 4 p.m. Customers can expect pizza offerings on both Thursday and Saturday.

The bakery employs family members and one apprentice, Kelsey Juve.

Customers can contact Local Loaf by calling 541-903-1127, emailing to localloaf@yahoo.com. The bakery's Facebook page (facebook.com/localloaf) has the current menu.

The Wilcoxes say they are especially conscious of the need for local community support. "The tourists come and go, but our foundation is the community and what's important to me is fulfilling their needs," Nicole Wilcox said.

