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Special Mother's Day tribute, pages A6 and 7



WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

Enterprise, Oregon

www.wallowa.com

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\$1.2M in timber money on its way

Numbers not yet concrete, commissioner warns

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County got word that its "timber money" was on the way last week when Sen. Ron Wyden announced that Oregon would receive nearly \$61 million in Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) money.

Wallowa County does not share in the BLM payments, but its award is estimated at

\$1,223,032. Title 1 money makes up \$1,039,577 of that and Title 2 money the balance of \$183,454.

Title II money is earmarked, by law, for restoration of public lands and nearby private lands. Weed control is an example of a program that benefits from Title 2 money. Approximately \$636,594 from the Title 1 money will go to roads. The balance of Title 1 money will go to schools

in the county.

The numbers are still not concrete, said County Commissioner Mike Hayward, because the amounts are dependent upon other considerations at the state level that have not yet been taken into account.

"As a good example of just how uncertain these estimates are, we already have a revision," Hayward said.

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OLD-FASHIONED WORKING HORSES



Lee Carlson, 73, walks his championship team up to their plow. Left, Fjord mare Carmel, 9; right, Haflinger mare Bella, 8. The pair proved their quality at the 17th Lee Scott Memorial Plowing Bee, May 2, east of Joseph.

SEE STORY, PAGE A12.



Homan

JSD hires Homan as new super

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph School District's board of directors recently hired Joseph Charter School's athletic director and sixth-grade teacher, Lance Homan, to take over the district's superintendent position. Homan will take over the position July 1. The current JCS superintendent, Rhonda Shirley, is slated to retire at the end of this school year.

Homan is a Wallowa County native, having spent grades 1-12 in the Enterprise school system. Upon graduation, Homan attended Eastern Oregon University for a year before attending Southern Oregon University in Ashland.

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Courtesy Photo

Construction of the Ham home is well underway on the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake. A well-used trail which runs very close to the site is actually on private property.

'NO PUBLIC ACCESS' TO EAST MORAINE

"PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE HISTORICALLY TRESPASSED AND ASSUMED A SENSE OF COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP"

Kathleen Ackley executive director of Wallowa Land Trust

By Steve Tool
Wallowa county Chieftain

The Wallowa Valley's uncharacteristic balmy spring weather has wrought not only the early bloom of wildflowers on the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake, but also the early start of home construction, as the main access trail from Wallowa Lake Highway to the moraine suddenly sprouted a "no public access" sign. Property owner Bruce Ham, a Portland

surgeon, erected the sign because the main access trail runs close to the construction site.

Despite Wallowa County's current land development ordinance, Article 44, adopted in 2002, which curtails and monitors development along the lake and its moraines, building is possible and legal. The site meets the design review criteria of Article 44, according to Harold Black, the county's planning director.

Black said a previous planning director, Diane Daggett, signed off on the original permit in December

of 1995. In December of 1999, Ham had a well and electricity installed on the property, which "perfected," or made permanent the opportunity to legally build on the site.

Black said the Hams are very conscientious landowners who are careful to follow the stipulations of Article 44, and continually consult with him during the construction process.

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A sign next to the Wallowa Lake Highway informs the public of interrupted access to a trail on private land.

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Biomass for downtown Enterprise studied again

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Resources Community Solutions Inc. (WRCS), of Enterprise, has won a \$30,000 grant to design and engineer the conversion of three public buildings in downtown Enterprise from heating oil to regionally produced woody biomass. The three buildings are the City Hall/Fire Station, the Enterprise Carnegie Public Library and Pioneer Guest Home.

It is the second study WRCS will have done on the feasibility of biomass heating for downtown structures. The company received \$9,000 in 2013 to study the feasibility of swapping out the city hall boiler for biomass. The city took no action on the findings at that time.

"At the time there was just



Rob Ruth/Chieftain

Pioneer Guest Home, Enterprise's historic structure at N. River and E. Main streets that was originally the Enterprise Hotel, is the third structure currently under study for biomass heating.

too much uncertainty to make a decision," said Enterprise City Administrator Michele Young.

City officials emphasize that the new, broader design project is no indication that any decision has been made

one way or the other about the potential conversion; it reflects the ongoing development of a potential market

for biomass that is one of WRCS's goals.

In fact, the U.S. Forest Service's Cohesive Wildfire Strategy grant is specifically designed to stimulate biomass businesses and create a higher demand for biomass, according to Marcus Kauffman, Oregon Department of Forestry biomass resource specialist. "The grants are designed to provide business the resources to jump-start new ventures that will utilize the low-value material resulting from forest health treatments," he said.

The city's involvement at this point is simply providing the blueprints needed to create the options the council will view when completed, according to Enterprise Mayor Steve Lear.

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