

# MONEY: Schools, agencies get funds from harvested timber

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Daniel Hauser, policy specialist for the County Road Program for the Association of Oregon Counties warned counties that the numbers were "very much esti-

mates, as there are a variety of unanswered questions still in play. The payments can swing by over \$8 million (statewide) over the next two years based on these unanswered questions, a significant variation." The exact breakdown of

where the money goes within the county, and how much each agency and school will receive will be published as soon as it is available. SRS money comes from timber harvested on U.S. Forest Service land with some

additional funds from the Bureau of Land Management and is designed to help rural communities that relied on timber harvest for economic stability. Senator Wyden co-wrote the SRS program in 2000 with

then-Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho. It amended the original 1908 Forest Service County payments program to better reflect the needs of rural counties that had been reliant on timber money. The program has faced

funding problems ever since, expiring in 2007 to be reinstated in 2008, and expiring again in 2014. The reauthorization retroactively restores funding for 2014 and carries that through 2015.

# HOMAN: New super will stay on as AD

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At SOU, Homan earned his bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in elementary education.

Homan returned to Wallowa County and taught two years of elementary school starting in 1999, before relocating with his wife, JCS teacher Beth Homan, to Rockaway Beach on the Oregon coast. The couple returned to the Wallowa Valley about 10 years ago.

Homan's interest in becoming athletic director stemmed from a lifelong interest in athletics. "I played baseball, football, basketball and golf when I went to Enterprise. I've always coached, as well. When Jason Crenshaw, our last AD, left, this opportunity presented itself and I took it," Homan said. His coaching experience includes basketball, football and golf.

He credited his AD ex-

perience with preparing him for the superintendent role. "It was a natural step into administration experience, interacting with coaches, working with parents — it was a good fit." Homan intends to stay on as the school's AD.

Homan said he's had his eye on an administration position for some time, preparing himself for its eventuality by working toward a certification in administration through Concordia University in Portland where he obtained certification in 2012. After Shirley announced her retirement plans, Homan applied for the job.

A number of other candidates applied as well. "The school district hired a firm in Pendleton to do the search. They narrowed it down to a list of a few candidates and handed it over to the school board, who chose who they wanted to interview," Homan said.

That part of the hiring

process was very intense, as Homan recounted answering questions from parents, students and teachers before the school board interview, after which he was subjected to more questions from community members, more teachers and parents. Neither Superintendent Shirley nor Sherri Kilgore, Joseph Charter School's principal, were part of the process.

The school board hired Homan that same day, on March 17. "It's the same day we got keys to our house. We'd just got back from training in Portland that morning and taught school until three. I did the interviews, and the board chair called later that evening," Homan said.

The July start for Homan doesn't hold any surprises as Homan has no large changes planned. As one of the JCS directors Homan spent several years working on budgets with Shirley, who prepared him well

for his position. "We've done a lot together since I was hired, and we're working on the transitioning now. She's been a lot of help," Homan said.

Principal Kilgore remarked, "Lance has served many roles in our district: teacher, coach, athletic director and is one of the charter school directors. Lance has worked closely with Rhonda Shirley, over the last two years while completing his admin license so he knows firsthand why financial decisions were made and both the history and future of the budget because of that time spent with Rhonda."

Greg Brink, chairman of the JCS board, is happy with the hiring. "Lance offers a lot of longevity to the position. Many of the candidates were close to retirement. Lance has done a terrific job for the school so far. We're happy to have him on board and this is a great opportunity for him and us."

# ACCESS: Construction prompts entrance closure

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Kathleen Ackley, executive director of Wallowa Land Trust, which is part of the Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership (WLMP), said many moraine hikers are surprised when they learn that nearly all the East Moraine is private property and that hiking trails on the moraine are used by the public at the forbearance of property owners. "Part of the problem is that people have historically trespassed and assumed a sense of community ownership," Ackley said.

The Ham family plans to eventually donate about 70 percent of the property outright to Wallowa Land Trust, Ackley said. The WLMP is currently negotiating with multiple moraine property owners to lay out a specific trail/path along the moraine and protect the scenic view. "So folks can walk from Iwetemlaykin and walk along the moraine crest. They can do it now, trespassing, but we want to ensure that the public legally has

that access," Ackley said.

This includes negotiations for property owned by The Ronald C Yanke Family Trust, which owns about 60 percent of the East Moraine (1,791 acres) and is looking to sell or develop the property. "We're not necessarily in the business of preventing people from exercising their right to build on their property, but we'd like to provide them with opportunities to do something else with their property," Ackley said.

The moraines partnership is currently in the running for a grant of \$3 million from the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund, which would aid in the purchase and subsequent protection of a large portion of the East Moraine.

The no-trespassing sign will not hinder the yearly "Into the Wallowas" moraine hike. Participants will simply use a different access trail, as moraine landowners generously allow access to their property, according to Wallowa Land Trust.

# STUDY: Alternate heating options explored

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"My thinking is, a mind is like a parachute; it only works when it's open," Lear said. "I'm not sure this will work, but I don't want to look back in five years and say 'Wow, did we miss an opportunity.'"

Once the plans are complete, Enterprise City Council will be able to evaluate the

findings to determine if the plans represent a benefit to the city and residents.

Lear wants the evaluation to be based on financial reality, he said. "I want to keep it real simple," Lear said. "If we spend, say, \$1,000 in heating can we save X?"

Councilors are aware that other small cities have benefited from Cohesive Wildfire

Strategy grants and are moving toward biomass heating in a big way, Lear said, citing John Day's installation of boilers at both the Grant County Regional Airport and the Blue Mountain Hospital in 2011. The hospital system cost \$411,000 and was projected to save approximately \$50,000 per year in heating costs. Since then John Day's Prairie City School and Grant

Union Junior High/Senior High School (2012) have also gone to biomass heating.

Since the 2013 study, Wallowa County's nearest source of biomass fuel, Integrated Biomass Resources, in Wallowa, has made numerous improvements and strengthened its ability to provide different varieties of fuel to meet the needs of biomass conversions.

# LATTA: Older Americans need variety of services

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At the heart of the legislation is the goal of promoting self-determination and independence.

The programs created by the Older Americans Act include the National Eldercare Locator Service; support services such as Transportation, Homecare, Legal Aid, and Adult Daycare; nutrition programs like the Senior Centers (meal sites) and Home Delivered Meals; Respite Care and Education; Health Promotion; the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC); employment opportunities for older adults (the Title V program); and programs which protect elders from abuse and violation of their rights, such as the Long Term Care Ombudsman and Adult Protective Services.

Although older individuals may receive services under other federal programs such as SNAP (Food Stamps), Medicare, and Medicaid, the Older Americans Act is considered to be the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social, health, and nutrition programs for senior

citizens and their caregivers. Its wide array of programs are managed at the community level through a national network.

In Oregon, there are 17 Area Agencies on Aging, and Community Connection of Northeast Oregon manages the programs for Union, Bak-

er, and Wallowa counties.

As we celebrate its 50th anniversary, let's remember that the Older Americans Act serves millions of citizens in every community, honoring them with services that play a key role in maintaining their independence, health, and well-being.

Pam Latta serves Union and Wallowa counties as a Transition Coordinator assisting elders and persons with disabilities when they enter or leave nursing facilities. She has worked in various capacities for Aging and People with Disabilities for the past 31 years.

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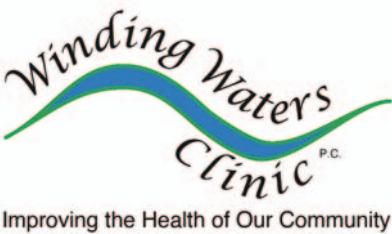

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