

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 27
Community Connection is hosting free Energy Education Workshops with door prizes and giveaways from 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Wallowa Senior Center. Energy Education workshops are free and will give you some useful information on how to save money on your energy bills.

Sam Collett hosts a twice-monthly still life drawing gathering, complete with a live model every first and third Wednesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Josephy Center. \$5-10 suggested donation for model. All skill levels welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 28
The Big Read brings you a free movie: "OT: Our Town" is an award winning documentary film. It shows how in the impoverished Los Angeles neighborhood of Compton, a group of intrepid inner-city students and two courageous teachers attempt to do what has not been done in more than 20 years: put on a school theatrical production. The film will be shown simultaneously at 7 p.m. at three locations — Josephy Center, 403 N Main St. in Joseph; Fishtrap, 400 E Grant St. in Enterprise; and Wallowa City Hall, 104 N Pine St. For more information on The Big Read, contact Fishtrap Program Manager, Mike Midlo. mike@fishtrap.org.

Come see the designs for the Joseph City Park Playground Renovation, 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph Community Center. Learn about the project and get involved. In addition, hear a musical performance by the Joseph Charter School K-3 grades and feast on some yummy treats. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/JosephCityPark or contact Marla Dotson (541-398-1415) or Penny Arentsen (541-263-1454). To donate to the project, send checks to Building Healthy Families (payable to BHF with memo to JCP Playground) to 207 East Park St., Enterprise, OR, 97828.

Friends of Wallowa School District will hold a Bingo night from 6-8 p.m. at the Wallowa Senior Center. Cards are \$1 each. All ages welcome. Free snacks. For more information, call 541-408-3417.

Friday, Jan. 29
Watch "Emperor of the North" on a large screen when the Friends of the Joseph Branch host another movie night, 6:30 p.m. at the Elgin Depot. Admission is free, but a can of food per person for the local food bank is encouraged. Free popcorn, coffee and cocoa will be available. Oscar winners Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine star in the PG-rated 1973 railroad film classic. This is the second in a series of movie nights with railroad themes at the depot.

Saturday, Jan. 30
Lower Valley Farmers' Market, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 301 E. 1st St., Wallowa.

Sunday, Jan. 31
Enterprise Mayor Steve Lear will be hosting his bimonthly meeting, "An Afternoon with the Mayor," 3 to 5 p.m. in the Tomas Building Conference Room, 309 S. River St., Enterprise. The purpose of the meetings is to get local residents more actively involved and to move their issues forward.

The Wallowa County Chamber Citizen Awards Banquet takes place from 4 -7 p.m. at

Cloverleaf Hall, 668 NW 1st St. in Enterprise. The banquet recognizes individuals within our county who have given of themselves to make Wallowa County a great place to live. There will be dinner, music, table gifts, raffle baskets, games, centerpiece drawings, trade-show tables and a social hour. Tickets may be purchased at the Wallowa County Chamber office. Be sure to make reservations early by contacting the chamber office at 541-426-4622 or info@wallowacounty.org. For more information, visit www.wallowacountychamber.com

Tuesday, Feb. 2
You're invited to the Fair-board Scholarship Groundhog Day Dinner and Bingo, 6 p.m. at Cloverleaf Hall. Funds raised to support a senior scholarship for a Wallowa County student. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids age 9 and under. Silent dessert auction. Live quilt auction. All-you-can-eat pancakes. First Bingo card is free.

Josephy Center Brown Bag Lunch: Fishtrap's Mike Midlo will lead a Big Read discussion of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" and "Bridge of San Luis Rey." This is a way to catch you up on the books and all the events of this year's Big Read celebration. Noon start. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, Feb. 4
The Big Read brings you a panel discussion exploring the themes in Thornton Wilder's novel "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" and his play "Our Town." Moderated by Anthony Robinson, this event utilizes local faith leaders to help us interpret and make sense of the disasters and tragedy that take place both in Wilder's work and in our lives. Minister Steve Klierer of the Lostine Presbyterian Church, Pastor Cherie Johnson of the Joseph United Methodist Church, and Reverend Clairissa from the Wallowa Buddhist Temple fill out the panel. 7 p.m. Joseph Methodist Church.

Saturday, Feb. 6
Ducks Unlimited is hosting its annual banquet and auction at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 and auction at 7:30. For tickets, call 541-886-8802.

The Friends of the Wallowa Library will hold a book and bake sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wallowa Senior Center. =Many books are for sale as well as baked goods and pie by the slice with coffee and tea. For details, call Sally at 541-886-4012

Lower Valley Farmers' Market, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 301 E. 1st St., Wallowa.

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Chamber Citizen Award Banquet this weekend

There are just a few days left to get your tickets to the Annual Citizen Awards Banquet set for 4-7 p.m. Sunday at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. Only 176 tickets will be sold and the event is nearly sold out.

The popular event honors those people in the community who have been nominated as leaders in the categories of business, employees, arts, education, natural resources, non-profits/events and unsung hero.

The award winners are nominated by members of the community, who often include pages of testimonial with their nomination forms explaining all of the ways their nominee has been serving the community — sometimes behind the scenes.

This is one of the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce's main events and remains a perennial favorite both because it's a great evening out

and because Wallowa County enjoys honoring deserving folk.

"The ability to come together and thank people for what they do keeps the event exciting — each year it's a new event," said Wallowa County Chamber Executive Director Vicki Searles.

The Master of Ceremonies this year is County Commissioner Mike Hayward. Live music will be provided by the Brann Family, and there will be raffle baskets from Newport

Beach and Walla Walla Wine Country, games, table prizes, centerpiece drawings, trade show tables and more.

Heirloom Catering will provide dinner. Menu options include prime rib, chicken or veg-an options.

For more information call 541-426-4622 or stop by the Chamber of Commerce office at 309 S. River St. in Enterprise to reserve your seats. Tickets are \$35.

Report: Ratepayers shouldn't pay for project

By Hillary Borrud
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon utility ratepayers should not be forced to subsidize an offshore wind pilot project near Coos Bay, according to a recent report by an advisory committee to Gov. Kate Brown.

Power from the project, proposed by Seattle-based Principle Power, would be more than four times as expensive as electricity from onshore wind turbines in the Columbia River Gorge, according to the Jan. 15 report obtained by the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau.

The governor formed the WindFloat Pacific Offshore Wind Advisory Committee in August, to help Principle Power secure a long-term power purchase agreement with Oregon utility companies. The guaranteed revenue stream would help the company to secure private financing.

Principle Power also needs a commitment by May 2016 that Oregon ratepayers will purchase the electricity from the 16- to 24-megawatt project, in order to qualify for the remaining \$40 million in a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"(Committee) members indicated that the Northwest's historically low-cost electricity would make it difficult for any utility to engage in a (power purchase agreement) with an offshore wind resource, given that

utilities are generally required to procure the lowest-cost and lowest-risk resources on behalf of their customers," the governor's staff wrote in the report, which they described as a summary of the committee recommendations.

The advisory committee held just two meetings and the Governor's Office originally said the meetings would be closed to the public. In the end, the Governor's Office allowed the public to attend the meetings but did not advertise their times or locations. Utility representatives said during the second meeting, in November, they did not want

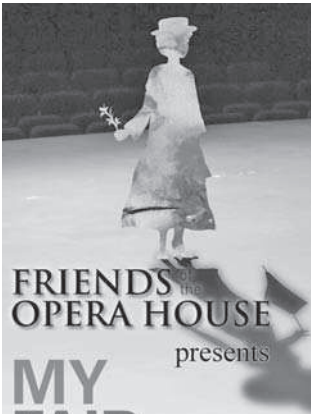
to purchase power from the project.

Kevin Banister, Principle Power's vice president of business development in the Americas and Asia, said the company was still considering how to proceed following the committee's recommendation.

"I think we need to take some time to digest what it all means," Banister said. "But it certainly doesn't make it easier for the

project to move forward."

As for whether Principle Power might give up on building a pilot project in Oregon, Banister said the company has not made any decision but has projects under development in other countries. "We've seen a lot of interest in the technology in other places in the United States, too," Banister said. "It is something that we have to take into consideration."



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