

PLAN

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We also will continue to address questions and concerns from all of you who continue to be interested in the Blue Mountains forest plans. When the final EIS, three revised forest plans and three draft records of decision are ready, these documents will be available for public review for 60 days during the objection period. Individuals and entities who submitted substantive formal comments during the opportunities for public comment may file an objection if they do not feel their issues were satisfactorily addressed. Once the objection process is finished, the regional forester will sign each forest's Record of Decision.

In closing, we would like

to express our appreciation for your involvement in the stewardship of your national forests. We are committed to using the information you have provided to shape the revised forest plans. Over the coming months, we will strive to keep the lines of communication open through the sharing of information via email, mail, phone and the Internet. Please refer to www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountains-PlanRevision for the most up-to-date information, and if you have any questions, please email bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

Steven K. Beverlin is forest supervisor for the Malheur National Forest. Genevieve Masters is forest supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest. Thomas Montoya is forest supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

HEARTS

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Shirts and jackets, dishes and toys, Christmas presents and the coolest retro duds in the county that grace the fashion conscious ladies who show up on Mondays and Tuesdays to shop. And visit. Shopping at the Soroptimist Thrift Shop is a community experience, and probably the most democratic one you'll find in the county. It might be a little heavy on the female side, but age and socio-economic status are across the board.

Did I mention that an average of 200 people come through the doors each day? That it takes eight or 10 hustling women to run the shop, but an army of others who sort cards and clothes, skeins of yarn, jeans, collectibles and

jewelry. And this small organization, this crew that now numbers 36, annually gives away over \$50,000 in scholarships, donations to community organizations like the Joseph Center, and to international projects aimed at educating women in Afghanistan and Nepal and El Salvador.

When the noise on TV is too nasty, when you get fed up with political bombast and promises, overwhelmed with instagrams and apps, turn everything off, grab your kids or grandkids, go to the Wallowa Homeland and see what time and love can make of logs and timbers. If it's Monday or Tuesday, stop for a shop at the Soroptimist Thrift Shop. And smile back at those big-hearted ladies.

Columnist Rich Wand-schneider lives in Joseph.

LETTERS

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The alternative suggested to abortion is adoption. But a discussion by the Panel on Infant Lives doesn't go down that road. How about taking the unwanted child and leaving it on the doorstep of Congressman/Senator [Whoever] and let him/her love the infant life with all the care in his heart?

Patrick Dunroven
Troy

To our customers

We received a letter from the Wallowa County Commissioners on March 21 informing us that the fees to dump garbage at An Flat Landfill will be increased April 1 and again July 1. These increases represent a 38 percent hike in dump fees. The county's justification for this substantial increase is to balance the operating budget and to

bring the Wallowa County landfill into line with surrounding landfills. This rate increase will affect all users of the landfill.

Rahn's Sanitary Service is a family-owned small business operated by your friends and neighbors since the 1950s. We have maintained our prices at an affordable level for many years. Our last county-wide rate increase to our customers was in 2011 — a 10 percent hike on average.

However, we cannot sustain a 38 percent increase in our costs without passing that on to you, our customers. We regret this, and we particularly regret the lack of notice that we were able to supply. Our stance is to hold with our current rates until we can complete an in-depth assessment of the rate increases from the county. We value each and every one of our customers and ask that you give us your understanding and patience.

Mike and Mona Rahn
Brian and Amanda Rahn
Enterprise

Wallowa Memorial adds occupational therapist

Wallowa County Chieftain

When Angela Mart walks out to meet you, you instantly get the feeling that everything is going to be all right. It's something in her smile, her confidence and the fact that you can tell right off the bat that she's a small town girl and proud of it. She's one of "us."

Mart is the new occupational therapist at Wallowa Memorial Hospital.

She works with the other physical therapists, but occupational therapy is a little different.

A physical therapist focuses on increasing mobility and reducing pain after surgery or injury, an occupational therapist focuses on helping patients improve the way they function in all their environments: home, work, school, community.

That might include doing an evaluation of a stroke patient's home to help make daily tasks easier and safer, or providing guidance and education for caregivers of older patients experiencing cognitive and physical declines.

Mart graduated from Pacific University in Forest Grove in 2006 and then spent six years at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, then moved to a skilled nursing facility for the past three years. At 45 she's experienced, mature and knows what she wants out of life.

"After almost 10 years in

Bend, I was ready for a change and a smaller community," Mart said. "I started doing some research on small towns with hospitals and Wallowa Memorial came up. I had visited the area before and knew it was beyond amazing."

Noticing the hospital had a physical therapy department but no occupational therapy program, Mart took a chance and decided to email the human resources department to see if they had plans to implement one someday. The response was "yes" and Mart moved just after Christmas, bringing her dog Kotter with her.

Her first day on the job was Jan. 4.

Wallowa County has turned out to be exactly the right place for the life Mart (and Kotter) wanted to live. They spend a lot of their free time outdoors. Mart is an endurance mountain bike racer, a mountain bike rider, a hiker, runner and camper.

"I love to explore new places," Mart said. "And Wallowa County people ... I volunteered at dinner for the sled dog races and saw what a cool community it was. I have loved every minute I've been here, and I am excited to have the opportunity to bring occupational therapy services to Wallowa Coun-

ty. I am grateful I get to do this in such a welcoming and friendly community."

The services Mart offers include:

- Evaluation of home environment for older adults to enhance safety and reduce the risk of falls
- Education for caregivers to help them better assist loved ones in daily activities
- Help and education for those with multiple sclerosis, Guillan-Barre, Parkinson's Disease or other neurological issues
- Strategies for improving attention and memory to enhance cognitive function
- Education and strategies for increasing movement and activity to improve function and mobility

Like physical therapy, patients need a referral from their primary physician to schedule an appointment. The frequency and duration of visits are determined at that time.

Coverage for occupational therapy is similar to physical therapy, and most insurances allow for it.



Mart

Public Meetings

- Monday, April 4**
- Wallowa County Commissioners: 9 a.m. at Thornton Room at the courthouse. <http://tinyurl.com/jo8bcya>
 - Enterprise School Board: 7 p.m. in the Home-Ec room at the high school.
- Tuesday, April 5**
- Enterprise Planning Commission: 7 p.m. at City Hall.
- Wednesday, April 6**
- Lostine City Council: 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Thursday, April 7**
- Joseph City Council: 7 p.m. at City Library, City Hall or Community Center. www.josephoregon.org
- Monday, April 18**
- Wallowa County Commissioners: 9 a.m. at Thornton Room at the courthouse. <http://tinyurl.com/jo8bcya>
- Tuesday, April 19**
- Wallowa City Council: 7 p.m. at council room in City Hall.
- Monday, April 25**
- Wallowa Lake Rural Fire Protection District: 7 p.m. Fourth Monday at Wallowa Lake Fire Station. <http://wallowalakefire.com>
- Monday, May 9**
- Joseph School Board: 5:30 p.m. at the school library. www.joseph.k12.or.us
 - Wallowa School Board: 7 p.m. at the high school library.

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Student of the Week

TJ Grote

Joseph Charter School

TJ Grote is a freshman at Joseph Charter School and is the son of Julie and Dennis Grote. TJ is an active member of FCCLA, FFA where he serves as the Greenhand Sentinel, and is the Freshman Class Treasure. TJ works diligently at school and maintains a 3.9 GPA all while being a three sport athlete. The staff and Administration would like to congratulate TJ on being JCS's Student-of-the-Week and let him know that students like him makes our school better.

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Wallowa 886-9151

The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

Are you feeling stressed and overwhelmed?

Do you feel hopeless or has the joy gone out of your life?

Are you struggling to make your marriage work?

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Make Prom Perfect!

WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, YOU'RE THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR TEEN WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES.

Remind your teen that you love and care about them, and have confidence in their ability to make good decisions.

Prom Perfect is a project coordinated by the Wallowa County Prevention Coalition, Baker County Prevention Coalition, the Union County Safe Communities Coalition and the Joseph Charter High School Community Health Class.

For more information contact
Wallowa County Safe Communities Coalition 541-426-9411
Union County Safe Communities Coalition 541-963-1068
Baker County Prevention Coalition 541-523-8364

Talk with them about your expectations and rules for the big night. Talk about:

- Your desire for them to have fun and be safe
- Their plans before and after prom
- A no-tolerance policy on alcohol and other drug use
- A plan with your teen so they can call for a ride if they feel unsafe