

FS burns coming to Wallowa Fire Zone

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest plans to burn approximately 8,000 acres across the forest this spring as it implements its prescribed burning program. Of that, approximately 3,000 acres will be in the Wallowa Fire Zone (WFZ), which includes the Wallowa Valley Ranger District, Hells Canyon NRA and Eagle Cap Ranger District.

The WFZ plans may include:

- Muddy Sled (1,000 acres) – 20 miles north of Enterprise
- Puderbaugh (1,000 acres) – 25 miles southeast of Joseph
- Cold Canal (500 acres) – 11 miles southeast of Joseph
- Ches Elk (500 acres) – 30 miles northeast of Enterprise
- B-Vine (1,000 acres) – 30 miles north/northeast of Enterprise

Prescribed fire is a major component of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy to meet the goals of restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes and creating fire adapted communities. They are often accomplished with combined resources of local rural fire departments, contractors and state and other federal fire agencies.

Wallowa County residents are advised that prescribed fire managers work closely with the Oregon State Smoke Forecast Center in accordance with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan to determine when, where and how much is burned on a daily basis. Smoke dispersion models are used and if a burn is forecast to produce smoke that will be a significant impact to a community or sensitive area it is rescheduled.

Wallowa-Whitman Forest managers have increased prescribed burning by 20 percent in the last five years. Twenty thousand acres of hazardous fuels were treated last year by fire or mechanical treatments.

For more information visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Fire-Aviation.

Businesses market with heart



Kathleen Ellyn

I'm so excited about this week's Biz Buzz — it's a tasty one. And it combines both fundraising for worthy projects with the introduction of new or expanding businesses. What a great way to promote your biz.

Our first announcement is that Dick and Deanna Van Doozer of Liberty Bakery, 61486 Liberty Road outside of Joseph, have gotten planning commission approval to expand their retail bakery business and develop a new bed and breakfast for those hordes of tourists we're expecting. It will be called Liberty Lodge and Bakery.

Although Deanna, like most Wallowa Countians, has been so busy with farming and other responsibilities that she's had to move her grand opening back a

bit, the paperwork is done and she'll be announcing her opening soon.

But there's no need for you to wait to enjoy her baked goods!

You can get her big, hand-held pies at Mt. Joseph Family Foods (if you're quick enough — they sell out fast) for \$5.50 each. Or you can gobble one up, pack away a week's worth for lunches. Or you may have seen them at the Easter Bake Sale in support of the Wallowa County Humane Society at Wallowa County Grain Growers on Saturday.

Deanna has donated some of her baked goods to the worthy cause of raising money for a permanent animal sanctuary.

For more information about Deanna's offerings at the Liberty Road location, call 541-432-BAKE.

Next up is another existing business branching out in a way that will benefit nonprofits and organizations supporting kids.

Bob Stangel's Buffalo Ranch outside

Enterprise already sells meat wholesale at Whole Foods Grocery stores and other locations in Portland and locally at a number of locations in the county (Heavenly's Restaurant, Terminal Gravity Brewery and the Dollar Stretcher Grocery). He also sells buffalo robes and skulls to artists and decorators. Now, he wants to help out local nonprofits by offering a fundraiser-friendly product that starts out right here in our own county.

With the assistance of processor and distributor Nicky Farms of Portland, Bob can now offer his Oregon grass-fed bison jerky in 3 oz. packages perfectly sized for fundraisers.

"We'll charge the nonprofit cost only and suggest they sell it for a bit more," Stangel said.

The minimum order is one box, with 40 packages to a box.

If retail outlets are interested in purchasing the goods, Bob will be happy to sell — provided a nonprofit receives some of the proceeds. For more informa-

tion, call Bob at 541-398-0594 or email norabob@eoni.com.

I'm thinking this might be a great offering at our local rodeos, several of which are dedicated to scholarships or other good works in the first place, and others might let a youth group set up a booth. As for me, as soon as one of those nonprofits picks this idea up I'm thinking stocking stuffers, gift baskets, lunch buckets and midnight snacks in front of the computer.

Many, many local businesses in Wallowa County put their heart into marketing in this way. I could flip to a page in the paper at random, stab an ad without looking and find myself pointing to a business I know has donated toward an event or program that benefits our kids, the arts, our hospital and more.

And that, my friends, is why we shop local.

Please send your Biz Buzz news tips to Kathleen Ellyn at kellyn@wallowa.com.

Individual Development Accounts program grows

Legislature OKs expansion to include more options

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County residents with relatively low incomes who would like to save to purchase a house, develop a business, pursue educational opportunities or purchase equipment that will make it possible for them to work can apply for an Individual Development Account through the NorthEast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) and get back \$12,000 when they save just \$3,000 over three years.

It's a significant "leg up" for families who are working hard to improve their lives. In 2015, 4,985 people statewide participated in the IDA program: 43 percent saved for education, 29 percent saved for a new home, 20 percent saved to open a small business.

The remaining 8 percent are saving to restore a home to a habitable condition or purchase equipment to support employment.

Now, Oregon Housing and Community Services has an-

nounced IDA funding awards of \$9.35 million in 2016, and expanded the savings categories.

The 2015 Oregon Legislature approved the expansion to include saving for retirement, paying down educational or medical debt, and much more. Additionally, new pilot projects were announced including a project with North East Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) to will help community members purchase reliable vehicles, which will help people get and keep jobs, take kids to school and more.

People interested in learning how they can save for an individual development account (IDA) should visit: <https://oregonidainitiative.org/apply>.

Local participants will work with NEOEDD which has offices located in the basement of the Enterprise Public Library. To qualify for

the savings account they will learn to make a plan to save and build financial skills and savings habits.

Introducing Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Adrian Davis

Dr. Davis will be based in La Grande and sees patients at Wallowa Memorial Hospital every other Monday and Tuesday.

- Sports medicine, orthopedic trauma, hip/knee osteoarthritis
- Dr. Davis served as physician for the USA Rugby Team, and several other professional Pittsburgh sports teams
- Education: medical school at Indiana University; orthopedic surgery residency at St. Louis University; sports medicine fellowship at Alleghany General Hospital

Ask your physician for a referral today!



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The
Wallowa
County
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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO HOMES?

HINT: IT HAS TO DO WITH SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY.

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Energy Trust of Oregon can help you find a trade ally contractor and provide cash incentives that help offset the cost of qualifying energy improvements. With upgrades to your insulation, water heater, appliances and lighting you could save up to 15 percent on your home energy costs while not having to scale back on comfort. And a house that costs less to operate is worth more.



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