

# USDA awards funding to biomass collaborative

Wallowa County Chieftain

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon is applauding the U.S. Department of Agriculture decision to award a groundbreaking project with funding to continue its innovative work using wood waste for renewable energy.

The Oregon Torrefaction Project will convert forest wastes to a low-carbon product that can be used to heat and

power homes and businesses. Processing in John Day will create access to rural jobs and reduce transportation costs.

“Thanks to community efforts that responsibly tripled the harvest from the Malheur National Forest, there’s a huge increase in the amount of biomass available,” Sen. Wyden said. “This project addresses several local industry and community needs by building new

markets for wood wastes from forest health restoration and wildfire risk reduction, all while creating good-paying jobs in the woods.”

The project is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Endowment, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and private entities including Ochoco Lumber and Portland General Electric.

“We are excited to work with our partners on the ground, including the local collaboratives and the Forest Service, to build markets that can enhance forest restoration activities,” said Matt Krumenauer, Project Manager for Oregon Torrefaction. “Projects like ours not only help build resiliency in the forest, they support family wage jobs and the health of our rural communities.”

# Small business advisor hire on the horizon



Kathleen Ellyn

Ed Pitts, Acting Chair of Wallowa Business says that Blue Mountain Community College is just about a week away from announcing who will replace Marc Stauffer as the small business advisor in Wallowa County.

Stauffer left that position March 31 citing an “unexpected increase in market area and resulting increase in business” for his fine furniture refinishing business.

The business advisor for Wallowa County is employed by Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Wallowa Business, which has served 914 entrepreneurs through its contracts with advisors since 2001, entered a service agreement with SBDC in 2015 to serve Wallowa County. SBDC brings an array of business tools and experience developed in its network of SBDCs in 1,000 counties across the nation.

While on the job as business advisor Stauffer served 22 clients, some of whom have already opened new businesses in the county from his office inside the Tomas Building in Enterprise next door to the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce.

And in the “so many good meetings, so little time” category, here’s a very short report on the meeting held last week at Winding Waters Boathouse where Judy Goodman presented information on how she took her company, BGood Bars, public. Goodman is taking advantage of a new state law that allows ordinary folks — who don’t have to be “accredited investors,” as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission — worth \$1 million to qualify as investors and purchase shares in local companies.

The presentation gave an overview of the exemptions, the community public option and what it means for small business and entrepreneurs. Then, Goodman talked about the details of her offer. You can see her prospectus online

at the Hatch portal: <http://hatchoregon.com/invest-public-offerings.html>.

NEOEDD will offer training for business owners interested in going public this summer in Union County, though dates have not yet been set.

I didn’t make that meeting because I was out at Hurricane Creek Grange taking part in the Friends of Family Farmers listening session.

Next time the FoFF comes around (in another two years) I highly recommend as many family farmers as possible come and be part of this discussion. Although the meeting is meant to brainstorm issues to take to the legislature, solutions to those issues were also discussed and connections to other folks in the county, working on the same issues are extremely valuable.

One of the subjects that came up is the lack of seasonal workers in Wallowa County, which connects to the lack of housing for seasonal workers, which connects to the cost of training workers and business concerns about rising wages. These are all subjects that should be in the forefront of legislators’ minds, and getting them there by means of as many organizations — like FoFF, The Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, Oregon Tilth, National Small Business Association and others — is essential.

And finally, a bit of sad news: Sarrah Wells Crist, owner of Wynken Blynken and Nod Children’s Thrift and Consignment Clothing store in Joseph recently announced that the store is closing. The closing date depends on when new renters are found, so the store is still open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily as Crist decreases inventory.

She cited the short season, the high cost of labor, high rental cost and her own very busy schedule with five children as reasons for the closure. “It’s sad, because I think it’s a really good shop, but maybe I was a bit premature in my plans,” Crist said. “I wish it could make it here, I think it’s something the community needs.”

Please send your Biz Buzz news tips to Kathleen Ellyn at [kellyn@wallowa.com](mailto:kellyn@wallowa.com).

# Home care registry now open to all

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Home Care Commission (OHCC) unveiled a new service on May 10 that connects people needing in-home care with caregivers. The Homecare Choice Program provides consumers with access to the OHCC’s online Registry of home care and personal support workers who have been background checked and trained.

This state-run registry is the first of its kind in the nation because it serves all populations, not just people who have state-funded plans. Previously, the OHCC’s registry primarily served Oregonians receiving in-home care

through Medicaid and Oregon Project Independence. As the 65-plus population continues to grow, more seniors and people with disabilities will require in-home care. The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis estimates the number of Oregon residents age 65 and over will reach nearly 796,000 by 2020.

The Homecare Choice Program is available to people of all ages and ability levels who need support to stay at home. The registry can be accessed 24 hours, seven days per week, and the hiring process includes doing self-assessment, choosing the services needed and selecting and interviewing a pre-qualified caregiver. From there,

consumers sign a written service plan, set their schedules and supervise the caregivers in their homes.

Services available through the program include assistance with personal care, household tasks, companionship, meal preparation, pet care, running errands and medication.

“The Homecare Choice Program simplifies the process of finding and hiring a safe, qualified caregiver. It also helps people handle the legal requirements, such as payroll and taxes, which lifts a burden of responsibility off of them,” said Cheryl Miller, Executive Director of the OHCC.

The Homecare Choice Program was created by the

Oregon Legislature in 2014 (SB 1542) to meet the growing demand of those needing in-home care by allowing private pay consumers to purchase home care services from the OHCC through its registry. The OHCC has managed a successful, functioning registry of home care and personal support workers in all 36 counties across Oregon since 2008 that serves people receiving in-home care through Medicaid-funded plans and Oregon Project Independence.

For more information about the program visit [www.HomecareChoiceOregon.com](http://www.HomecareChoiceOregon.com), email [homecare.choice@state.or.us](mailto:homecare.choice@state.or.us) or call 1-844-494-4227.

# USFS seeks input on tree removal project

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is asking for public comments on a project proposal to cut and remove danger trees and trees broken by wind along forest road 3960, camp-

grounds and surrounding areas

For specifics about this project please visit <http://tinyurl.com/go5jnjj> and click on the project name: “Road 3960 Windthrow and Hazard Trees.”

Forest staff are working to complete the planning and

analysis for the project by August.

The Forest Service encourages those of you who are interested in this project to become involved in the planning process by providing us with your comments on these projects and visiting with our staff. Please submit written comments to: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa Mountains Office, Attention: Sitka Pence (Planning Program), P.O. Box 905, Joseph,

OR 97846

Comments also can be submitted via email to [sitkapeuce@fs.fed.us](mailto:sitkapeuce@fs.fed.us).

To submit comments by telephone, or for more information about the project, please contact Sitka Pence at 541-426-5689. Please submit your comments by June 17. Comments provided as well as the name and address of the person providing the comments, will become a matter of public record.

M. C R O W & C O .



L O S T I N E , O R

**Student of the Week**

Courtney Bailey is a sophomore at Joseph Charter School and is the daughter of Stephanie and Chris Bailey. Courtney maintains 4.0 gpa while competing as a three sport athlete. She engages in upper level classes such as Future Health Professionals and Success 101 both for college credit and is in advanced math. Courtney is active in FFA, Natural Helpers and FCCLA and serves as her class’s Secretary. The staff and administration would like to congratulate Courtney on being student of the week and thank her for making our school outstanding.

**Courtney Bailey**  
Joseph Charter School

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

**OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

**BLAZE A TRAIL: MAY 2016**

**Wednesday May 18, 2016,**  
in recognition of Older Americans Month, Community Connection will provide a **COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH** to Seniors and their spouses over the age of 60 at both the Enterprise and Wallowa Centers.

Cake, Refreshments and Information will be provided at the Enterprise Center from 1pm to 2pm.

*We hope to see on Wednesday May 18th!*

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We invite you to the

**Celebration and Unveiling Ceremony**  
for the

**Gateway Entrance Sign for the City of Enterprise!**

Ribbon cutting will be at 9:30 am, Friday, May 27th at the sign, located at the top of the hill overlooking Enterprise from the West on Hwy 82.

For safety considerations, please park in the Baptist Church lot and walk the short distance to the sign.

We thank everyone who contributed to this project especially our major contributors:

**Community Bank, Pacific Power, Wallowa County, Glenn Martin, the Wallowa County Cultural Trust, and the City of Enterprise, Ralph Swinehart**