

JOBS

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At the moment, Nash works at Serenity Salon in Joseph, putting her cosmetology license to use. She also works at Wild Carrot in Enterprise.

Nash aired her feelings about finding full-time work in the county.

"I think full-time work is harder to find because it's more affordable to pay part-time workers," she said. "Especially in winter, a lot of people who own the businesses work the businesses. I think there is full-time work at the hospital, and I think there's full-time jobs if you're willing to work. It makes me sad that we've migrated into being a grant/gofundme economy. If people want to live here, I think there's jobs."

A self-described workaholic, Nash worked up to four different jobs last summer — by choice.

"For the type of brain I have, I need something different. I could never sit behind a desk from nine to five. Working at a boutique and making products — at Wild Carrot — that I can ethically stand behind and doing hair for creative flair ... make it manageable for me to have a comfortable lifestyle, and it keeps me sane."

Nash said she'd like to see people moving in to the county who have an interest in agriculture or natural resources, rather than tourists or property speculators interested in making a quick buck.

"We need people here who want to make investment in the community," she said. "There's the ability to create a sustainable economy here, but people have to work together. I don't think that's the case right now. If you're going to live and work in a small community like this, you have to find a way to envelop every aspect of it, and I don't think that's happening. I think we can bridge the gap so there doesn't have to

be a segregation between the new tourism/environmental protection group of people and the old-time farmers and ranchers who have been here for generations. The moment we choose to bridge those gaps, I think is when we'll become a truly sustainable community."

Kendrick Moholt

Born in Montana, Kendrick Moholt was two years old when his parents moved to Oregon. He eventually attended Oregon State University where he graduated with a zoology degree, eventually obtaining a masters in ornithology from Idaho State University.

After spending time in his youth leading backpack trips into the Wallowas, he fell in love with the area.

"It was my favorite part of the western United States," he said. "I've traveled all over the world and I still say this is the best spot."

Moholt, now 53, moved to Wallowa County full-time in the 1990s with his wife, Leslie who has a teaching certificate as well as being a trained biologist. The couple live in Lostine.

Moholt initially found part-time work doing botany surveys and other field work as independent contractors, which was worth it to the couple. "We picked Wallowa County because this is where we wanted to be." After eight years of scraping by on gov-

ernment contracts, Moholt started taking work out-of-the-area with natural gas companies, doing permits and biological surveys in order to sustain the family's lifestyle.

"It was a way to keep employed, keep mostly working outdoors and not get a real job. To this day, I've never been a full-time employee," he said.

Moholt is now part owner of Bio Resources Inc., which does surveying and permit work mostly for energy companies.

He also taught himself photography, which helps him in his field, and can also bring in extra income with his landscape photos.

"I spend about 50 percent of my time doing photography and 50 percent of my time doing biological consulting stuff. The biology work pays way better, but the photography has taken me to all seven continents of the world," he said with a laugh.

Although Moholt noted the lack of full-time work in Wallowa County, he thinks work of one kind or another is available to those who want it.

"As a self-employed biologist, I've had some lean winters (but) always been able to pick up work," he said.

He added that he hopes that doesn't change.

"It may be difficult, but it's partly what keeps the personality of this county as a rural, agricultural, resourced-based economy. I'd hate to see this place not having its primary income from agriculture and logging. That's what keeps Wallowa County Wallowa County," he said.



Moholt

BROWN

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Voters in November rejected Measure 97, which would have raised \$3 billion a year in corporate sales taxes.

Brown said she has been having "informal conversations" with members of the business community and labor community about potential tax reforms.

"I believe we cannot move Oregon forward without adequate and stable revenue for key basic services, and I will tell you that members of the business community that I have spoken with over the last several months agree, so now we have to figure out the right solution that doesn't provide further burdens for our working families across the state and also ensures that our economy continues to thrive in every single corner," Brown said.

Education

Brown's agenda includes creating a \$20 million graduation equity fund to replicate successful practices from around the state and address chronic absenteeism and expanding mentoring and professional development for teachers.

"My top priority will be to work to improve Oregon's high school graduation rate," Brown said.

About 74 percent of Ore-

gon students graduate within four years, the third worst rate in the nation.

Gun control

In July, Brown announced she would attempt to close two loopholes in state law on firearm possession.

One proposal would close the so-called "Charleston" loophole, which allows a gun purchase to move forward if law enforcement hasn't determined the buyer's eligibility within three days. She also is seeking to close the "boyfriend loophole," which expands the types of relationships that qualify for gun possession when convicted of domestic violence charges.

Her agenda does not include another proposal she unveiled in July to ban the future purchases of expanded capacity gun magazines.

"I was committed to working with community activists and gun control advocates that believe in common sense legislation, and frankly we struggled to get broad support to move forward on that legislation, but it doesn't mean that I am giving up," Brown said.

Call for bipartisanship

Brown opened her speech by invoking Republican Gov. Tom McCall's call during his 1967 inaugural address to govern in a spirit of bipartisanship.

"It is in that spirit that I address you, the members

of the 79th Oregon Legislative Assembly; and it is that spirit that I address all Oregonians," Brown said.

Her comments came shortly after Republicans cried foul over Brown's decision to change her proposal to place a public records advocate in the secretary of state's office after Republican Dennis Richardson won election to the position. Instead, Brown decided to propose placing the advocate in the Department of Administrative Services, which is under her control.

Brown was sworn in at about noon by Oregon Supreme Court Justice Thomas Balmer. In her subsequent inaugural address, she gave a nod to elected officials in the chamber and singled out state Rep. Vic Gilliam, who has continued his service as a state representative despite his battle with ALS and confinement to a wheelchair.

Former governors Barbara Roberts and Ted Kulongoski attended Brown's inauguration ceremony. Kitzhaber and Neil Goldschmidt, both former governors whose terms were touched by scandal, were absent from the event.

Brown's inauguration capped the swearing in of several new lawmakers in the House of Representatives and Senate and the reading of more than 1,500 bills introduced for the February policymaking session.

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Births

A daughter, **Isabelle Hadley Hayes** was born December 29, 2016 in Enterprise to Jaymz and Megan Hayes of Wallowa. Grandparents are Linda Estes, Curtis Goller, Dawn Rickert and James Weiss.

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