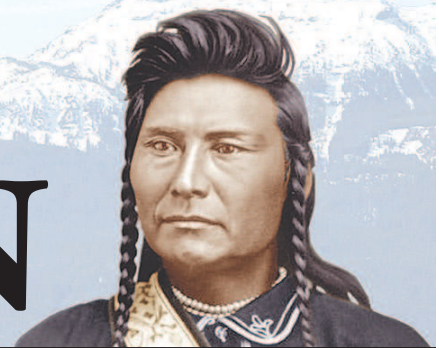




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Oregon seeks to become mass timber hub



George Plaven/Capital Press

Tyler Freres, co-owner and vice president of sales at Freres Lumber, said the new mass plywood facility will help to grow business and sustain the company's 470 current employees.

Wallowa County could benefit from new uses of Oregon timber, including construction of high-rise buildings

By George Plaven
For the Chieftain

Timm Locke relishes a chance to drive around Portland and showcase the latest commercial buildings made with mass timber, a construction material that uses wood beams and panels instead of concrete and steel.

First stop: Albina Yard, a four-story office building that opened in 2016 featuring cross-laminated timber panels from D.R. Johnson, a lumber company

south of Roseburg.

Every piece of cross-laminated timber — or CLT for short — is prefabricated, designed for a specific part of the building, said Locke, director of forest products at the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. That means buildings go up faster with fewer workers.

Wood is also environmentally superior to steel and concrete, Locke said, because it sequesters carbon and takes less energy to produce.

"There are so many benefits, it doesn't matter which one you choose to start with," Locke said.

First developed in Europe, mass timber is now catching on in the U.S., and Oregon is working to position itself as the industry hub, kick-starting rural economies such as Wallowa County's that have traditionally relied on forest products. On Aug. 1, Oregon became the first state to approve language in its building codes allowing for

wood-framed buildings up to 18 stories tall.

Locke, who was hired by OFRI in 2015 to help develop markets and supply chain for mass timber, said he believes momentum will only increase as the projects gain wider recognition.

"People like wood. It's a nice material," Locke said. "It has a great environmental story, and a great aesthetic."

Timber Innovation Act

Mass timber refers to several construction materials made of wood, including CLT, glue laminated beams, laminated veneer and mass plywood.

CLT, a prominent example, has been described as "plywood on steroids." It is made by gluing planks of wood in perpendicular layers, creating thick panels that can be used for walls and floors.

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KNUTE BUEHLER



KATE BROWN



Rejects 'partisan labels'

By PARIS ACHEN
Oregon Capital Bureau

Despite running for governor on the Republican ticket, state Rep. Knute Buehler has increasingly used the word "independent" to describe himself. Buehler says he rejects the "narrow partisan labels" that have increasingly polarized the nation.

"Oregon is hungry for an independent-minded leader who is able to close a lot of these divides ... and is a governor for everyone no matter who you are, where you live, who you love or even how you are registered to vote," Buehler said during a recent editorial board meeting of the Pamplin Media Group.

Since his election to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2014, Buehler has voted both with and against his party.

This is the second time he has challenged Democratic incumbent Kate Brown for state office. That last time they faced off was for Oregon secretary of state in 2012, a race won by Brown.

Here are the specifics on where he stands on the issues:

Education

Buehler released an ambitious outline earlier this year to boost the state's public

education system from bottom five among the states to the top five in five years.

Health care

Buehler has pledged to protect Oregonians from federal cuts to the Medicaid program, which provides health care subsidies for low-income residents, and to advance the state's innovative coordinated care organizations. He said he wants to integrate mental health care into the Oregon Health Plan — the state's version of Medicaid — and in health care delivered by those CCOs. He says he supports a woman's right to choose but has been criticized for voting against the state's Reproductive Health Equity Act, which bans a co-payment for reproductive health care and also requires the Oregon Health Plan to provide that care to undocumented residents, without charge.

Housing and homelessness

Buehler has proposed creating 4,000 emergency shelter beds statewide to get homeless residents off the streets, partly with state funding and partly with federal and philanthropic contributions. He supports measures to fast-track housing development and offer property tax abatement

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Sees herself as consensus builder

By PARIS ACHEN
Oregon Capital Bureau

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown — the nation's first openly bisexual governor and the face of progressive policies such as no co-payments for reproductive health care — is seeking a final term as Oregon governor. On Nov. 6, she is up against a moderate Republican, Oregon Rep. Knute Buehler of Bend, who she defeated in a 2012 race for secretary of state.

As a Democrat, Brown enters the race with an advantage among the state's liberal-leaning electorate. Her campaign has focused on her wealth of political experience beginning in 1991 and has sought to discredit Buehler's claim to support pro-choice policies.

In response to Buehler's outreach to Independents, nonaffiliated voters and even Democrats, Brown has highlighted the times when she brought conservatives and liberals together to address shared problems. Last year, for instance, she negotiated with Republicans to secure their votes for a \$5.3 billion transportation package.

"I'm the only one in the race that has a track record of bringing Oregonians together to tackle difficult issues facing Oregon," Brown said during an editorial board meeting at Pamplin Media Group on Sept.

19. "I'm a consensus builder and a collaborator. And that's the same kind of strategies I'll use if Oregonians give me the opportunity to serve as governor for four more years."

Here are the specifics on where she stands on the issues:

Education

One of her top priorities for another term is to improve the state's four-year high school graduation rate. Only 74.8 percent of high school seniors earned a diploma in 2016, making Oregon's the third worst on-time graduation rate in the nation. The first part of her strategy is to follow the statute that voters approved with Measure 98 in 2018.

Brown says she will seek to nearly double the investment in high school career and technical education to \$300 million in the next biennium. Secondly, she wants to expand access to prekindergarten programs to an additional 10,000 students. She wants to expand the school year to 180 days. Finally, she wants to look for ways to improve teachers' access to professional development and mentoring.

Health care

Another of her priorities is to increase

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Porking out at the Pig-nic

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

At Slow Food Wallowas' Pig-nic last Saturday at Emily and Rob Klavins' "Barking Mad Farm," participants got nose-to-snout with their food.

Not only was there live music, great food, interaction with friendly (and small) Kunekune pigs for children and parents, but the butcher demonstration put on by Nicky Briggs of C'est Bon Farms was a crowd pleaser.

Briggs made it look easy as the crowd packed in three deep around his table.

"You can turn a pig into a million things — it's a miracle animal," Briggs said.

Shortly thereafter, the assemblage enjoyed servings of five different pork-related foods prepared by local chefs.

The event was supported by 15 different businesses or organizations and ended with the award of a \$1,000 grant.

Nathan Slinker of Alder Slope Gardens took home the prize, but judges were so impressed by the top four Wallowa County applicants that board member Erika Polmar of Joseph and Portland, owner of "Plate and Pitchfork Dinners," contributed an additional \$1,500 toward future awards.

The other top three applicants inspiring the gift were Jacqueline Vali's "The Inspirational Garden," Mike and Sara Miller's "Bunchgrass Beef," and Lindsey and Nicky Briggs' "C'est Bon."

Slinker plans to use his grant to put in a low tunnel system to protect hardy greens, root vegetables, broccoli and cauliflower for an extended season. Slinker sells his produce to local stores, restaurants and markets.

"We began with a vision of doing something sustainable," Slinker said. "It's something I feel wholeheartedly is important."

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Ellen Bishop/Chieftain

Meat-cutter Nicky Briggs brings his Louisiana experience to Wallowa County as he demonstrates how to cut tenderloin, ribs, bacon, and other meat cuts from a Kunekune pig to a cold but receptive audience.



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