

# IBR changes name, takes on investors



By Bill Bradshaw

## Small-diameter mill continues same operations

WALLOWA — Integrated Biomass Resources in Wallowa has changed its name to Heartwood Biomass LLC to mark new beginnings for the small-diameter wood products facility.

But little else will change, Heartwood CEO David Schmidt said.

The name change was announced Wednesday, March 31, in a press release that said the mill continues to benefit from community support as well as a new investor base and a rejuvenated leadership team.

As for change in operations, Schmidt discounted any likelihood.

“There won’t be. Not a lot,” he said. “There will be a little bit less stress on us and ability to keep building what we set out to do and be more effective.”

Started in 2009, Schmidt and wife, Jesse, came to Wallowa after nonprofit Wallowa Resources first began developing a vision in 1996 to move to a restoration-based forest economy. The business was designed specifically to monetize low-value, small-diameter timber from forest restoration projects, the release stated. Val-



Kendrick Moholt Photography/Contributed Photo

Heartwood Biomass in Wallowa uses a highly mechanized system to turn forest biomass into valuable consumer products.

idating the need for companies like IBR, the U.S. Forest Service’s local forest restoration contracts grew from just one in the first five years of the business, to eight over the next five years.

Unlike traditional mills, the Heartwood facility can process small-diameter trees that increasingly dominate Western forests. Too small to be processed by traditional mills and used for lumber, these smaller trees are often left standing in tightly spaced forests, contribut-

ing to high-intensity, catastrophic wildfires and insect infestation that can destroy entire forest stands.

Heartwood uses them to create wood products like bundled firewood for grocery stores; agricultural poles for hop, vineyard and orchard trellising; and fence posts for ranches.

Heartwood grew out of a group of investors who identified an opportunity for broad impact at the intersection of rural jobs, forest restoration and community resilience. The company

believes the Heartwood facility is a scalable model that can boost forest health and community vitality across the Western U.S.

“We believe it’s critical to adapt our region’s economy to focus on what our forests and communities need, which is restoration and stewardship,” David Schmidt said.

After nearly a decade of growth, a devastating fire at the IBR facility in 2019 threatened to undo the company’s progress. With the backdrop of wildfires ram-

ping across the Western U.S. and the growing need to pivot rural communities’ natural-resource dependence to land restoration, a group of investors who had been following the important work of IBR embarked on a capital-raising campaign. The result culminated in the formation of Heartwood and its recent acquisition of nearly all assets of the original facility.

“I had the blessing to have grown up in Wallowa County and know how important Heartwood’s busi-

ness is in creating healthy forests for our planet and providing jobs and economic growth for this community,” said investor Jeff Nuss, founder and past president/CEO of Greenwood Resources. “I know I can speak for all of the investors when I say we are incredibly excited to be able to come alongside the management team and continue this important work. We believe these types of impact investments are in critical demand and Heartwood’s business model has a great opportunity to expand to other places.”

Heartwood was able to retain all the approximately 20 employees and the management team, as well as add important management capacity and infrastructure. The company will continue serving the established customer base and partnering with the strong supplier and contractor community that had been integral to the growth of the original business. Heartwood plans to look for opportunities to expand throughout the Western U.S.

For more information about Heartwood Biomass or to seek employment opportunities, visit [heartwoodbiomass.com](http://heartwoodbiomass.com).

“We’re going to be continuing to do more timber sales and lots of stuff,” David Schmidt said.

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or [bbradshaw@wallowa.com](mailto:bbradshaw@wallowa.com).



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### CLUES ACROSS

- Greet a monarch
- Targets of certain combs
- Protestant work
- “Moby-Dick” captain
- Latke topping
- Muslim sect
- \*Political spending on pet projects (note letters 5 to 7 in this answer)
- Living room piece
- “No ifs, ands or \_\_\_!”
- Toymaker for Santa
- \*With part of 32-Across and all of 27-Across, American Red Cross founder
- Heavy weight
- Dishwasher sound
- Whom “everybody loves”
- Three-layer cookie
- Examines, as a crystal ball
- \*With part of 50-Across and all of 40-Across, expelled from legal practice
- Main color on China’s flag
- Leaders of small colonies?
- Cohort before Gen Y
- Gym snack
- By means of
- Palme \_\_\_ (Cannes award)
- Ancient market
- According to
- \*With part of 72-Across and all of 61-Across, “It’s quite dark!”
- Parisian palace
- Hot-and-cold dessert
- Take the chance
- Artisans’ online shops
- The ugly duckling, eventually
- “That’s incorrect!”
- Show, as one’s teeth
- Some cross aves.

### CLUE DOWN

- They start and end on low notes
- “Fancy meeting you here!”
- Anticipate

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15				16				
17					18								
19				20					21				
22				23		24	25	26			27	28	29
30			31			32			33	34	35		
	36					37							
				38		39			40				
41	42	43				44	45	46		47		48	49
50										51			52
53						54			55			56	
				57	58	59	60			61		62	
63	64						65	66	67			68	
69												70	
71							72						73

### CLUES DOWN

- Flag pin’s place
- Nasdaq debut
- EMT’s specialty
- Caribou relative
- Biblical birthright seller
- Sour
- “Their Eyes Were Watching God” author
- Diamonds, in slang
- Cartoon frame
- Not \_\_\_ an eye
- Flow back
- Repeating exactly
- Dadaist Jean
- Issa of “Awkward Black Girl”
- “Yes,” to a sailor
- Province by N.Y.
- Romantic introduction?
- Meal with a special plate
- “Turn up the heat!”
- Without erotic attraction, say
- Six Flags draws
- Utter
- Proof letters
- Cry in a popular card game
- Most paranormal
- LeBron James’ org.
- Cleaning instructions’ location
- Hit show initials
- Some wood cutters
- Give a mean look
- Salad basics
- Actress Witherspoon
- Small islands
- As well
- Geo Wild
- RB’s gains
- One may be erasable
- Judge Lance
- Crowd around, as a celebrity
- “... \_\_\_ lack thereof”
- German article

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3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
Pastor Cherie Dearth  
Phone: 541-432-3102

Worship Online at  
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### Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main - Enterprise

**SUNDAY WORSHIP at 9am**

Pastor John B. King Jr  
phone (message): 541-426-4633  
web: [gracelutheranenterprise.com](http://gracelutheranenterprise.com)

### Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449

We have “In-person worship” @ 9:00 am  
(Guidelines observed)

Sunday School at 10:30

Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00

David Bruce  
Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

### St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise  
NE 3rd & Main St

541-426-3439  
Worship Service  
Sunday 9:30am

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM

Childrens program during service  
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541.398.0597

Hwy 82, Lostine

Stephen Kliever, Minister

### Summit Church

Sundays at 9:30 am and 11 am  
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Masks are required - but made available at the door.

Pastor: David Pendleton

[www.summitchurchoregon.org](http://www.summitchurchoregon.org)

Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

### Wallowa Assembly of God



702 West Hwy 82  
Wallowa, Oregon  
541-886-8445

Sunday School • 9:am  
Worship Service • 10:am  
Pastor Tim Barton

Visit Us on

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Pastor Terry Tollefson

Church Office: 541-263-0505

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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
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723 College Street, Lostine

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Church 541-426-3751  
School 541-426-8339

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