Farm-related business sweats amid drought



By Bill Bradshaw

ENTERPRISE — In a year when farmers are hurting because of the drought, related businesses also are feeling the heat as producers are struggling to harvest the meager crops that shippers such as Farm Supply take to market.

"It's a year like no other," co-owner Craig Willis said. "The harvest this year, as near as we can tell, is about 65% of normal in Umatilla County. It's just getting going here (in Wallowa County), but I'm sure it'll be affected here, also."

Farm Supply not only ships grain to market, but hauls fuel, chips, fertilizer, logs, cattle and nearly every commodity grown in the Northwest. The company, which Willis owns and operates with his wife, Candi, ships throughout Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Utah and Northern California.

"We haul ag commodities everywhere," Craig said.

"If it fits, it ships," quipped daughter Kylie.

Craig is even seeing ranchers shipping their livestock early, moving them from summer to winter pasture earlier or to feedlots.

"Normally, we don't haul a lot of cattle this time of year, but this year ranchers are getting them off of pasture or moving to different pastures" because of the drought, he said. "We're doing a lot of



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Farm Supply owners, from left, Candi and Craig Willis, stand with daughter, Kylie, near one of the trailers at their Enterprise operation. Like agricultural producers, related businesses like Farm Supply are feeling the heat from this year's drought.



Farm Supply/Contributed Photo

A Farm Supply truck takes a load of grain from a farmer's grain cart as it prepares to haul the crop to market.

cattle shuffling."

In addition to Craig and Candi Willis, Kylie helps out in the office and her husband, Klint, drives truck part time and takes care of the cows, while Craig and Candi's son, Skyler, and his

wife, Amber, take care of most of the farming.

Farm Supply has about 55 employees, 50 of whom are drivers of their 50 trucks. Most of the others are mechanics who keep the trucks operating, as do some

mechanics the company contracts with.

"We are thankful for the employees we have and couldn't provide great service without them," Candi said.

The Willises have owned

the business since 2004. Craig went to work there in 1977, but the company dates to 1938.

"It's an old, old company," Craig said. "I used to drive a lot. I drove every day for 32 years before I bought the company, and then I continued to drive and dispatch trucks as we built the company until about 2010."

"Now he just has to be within phone range because he's on the phone all the time," Candi said. The Willises both are

Wallowa County natives. "Our families go back

generations here," Craig

The company has three locations. In addition to Enterprise, they also have outlets in La Grande and in Lewiston, Idaho, where a fleet of 12 trucks are kept

In fact, Lewiston is one

FARM SUPPLY

Who: Craig and Candi

Where: 319 Golf Course

Road, Enterprise

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Phone**: 541-426-5915

Email: farmsupply@eoni.

of the more popular destinations for Wallowa County commodities, since the city on the Snake River gives the otherwise landlocked Idaho a seaport. While they also ship to Tri-Cities, Washington, "Lewiston is way closer," Craig said.

"For us, it made more sense to drive the bushels to a port closer to the ocean and that'd net the farmer more money for the same freight," he said.

But farmers here are going to be hurting once they get their droughtstricken crops to market.

"Yields are bad over (in Umatilla County), but the dryland here is just a catastrophe," Craig said. "The irrigated ground here, I think will be down, but not like the dryland. Even irrigated hay, the yields are down."

That's both because of limited water and heat.

"You just can't get over your ground fast enough to keep from being pinched by the heat," he 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.

> **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

> > at 9am

Pastor John B. King Jr

phone (message): 541-426-4633 web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

St. Patrick's

Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St. Enterprise

NE 3rd & Main St

Summit Church

Sundays at 10 am

at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise

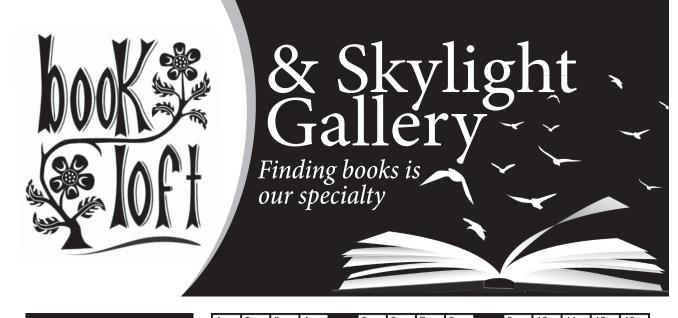
Pastor: David Pendleton

www.summitchurchoregon.org

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

541-426-3439

Worship Service Sunday 9:30am



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Girl who may say "nae" 5. Military wear, informally
- 9. Rhyming nickname for a '90s-'00s Britcom
- 14. Boat in "Jaws" 15. Acted just like
- 16. Navajo or Pueblo
- 17. Tournament favorite 19. Cliffside nest
- 20. Souvenir shop garment
- 21. Comes down hard? 22. Opposite NNE
- 23. Abbr. at the end of a
- business name 24. Geological period
- 25. Problem-solve 29. Simple chord
- 32. Word said with a sigh 33. Apply
- 34. Houston university
- 35. Try to prevent 37. "A Hard Road to Glory"
- author Arthur 38. Tribute from a poet
- 39. West Coast gas brand 40. Cook, as clams
- 41. Diagram of options
- 45. Photographer Adams 46. Suffix for "rocket"
- " (Spanish for " 47. "Te I love you")
- 50. Item an Olympian hurls 52. Heart hit with the words "I cast my spell of love on you"
- 54. Buzzing with activity 55. Yield the desired result
- 56. Bogus
- 57. A single time
- 58. Annapolis initials
- 59. Fabric for a professor's jacket
- 60. Ram like a goat
- 61. Like the observation
- "Crosswords are similar
 - to life ..."

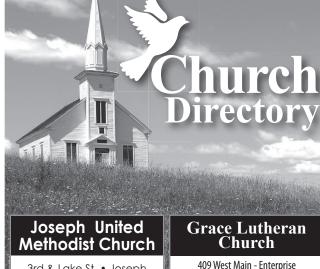
14 16 17 19 20 22 28 27 30 38 51 53 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Top housing options?
- 2. Astrological ram 3. Fastener that may be loose
- 4. Back talk
- 5. Slots' spot
- 6. Brief outline
- 7. Convene
- 8. Not divisible by two
- 9. Bewildered
- 10. Bottom-first kind of birth
- 11. Building with a bell and a pole
- 12. Not much
- 13. Flower pollinators
- 18. Bronze medalist's place 21. Pointy pickle piece
- 24. Fashion magazine
- Bo (exercise system)
- 26. Conductor's stick 27. Dept. of Labor arm
- 28. Abound
- 29. Put one's foot down?

- 31. Ornate-but-temporary
- 35. Towels off
- 36. Natural resource management
- 37. Absorbed, as a cost
- 40. Bottom line on a letter, say?
- 42. Cut with a scalpel
- 44. Wish undone
- 47. Get a smile out of
- 49. Available from a keg
- 52. Computer list 53. "Phooey!"

- 30. Carnival attraction
- winter structure
- subj.
- 39. Gave confidence to
- 43. It led to a 1773 Boston "party"
- 48. Acadia National Park's state
- 50. Ridiculous, to a Brit 51. Translation of Caesar's "vidi"
- 55. Go up and down



3rd & Lake St. • Joseph 10 AM Worship

Online AND In Person For More Info 541-432-3102 JosephUMC.ORG

Enterprise

Pastor Cherie Dearth

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

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Childrens program during service

Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com 541.398.0597 Hwy 82, Lostine Stephen Kliewer, Minister



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

Seventh-Day Adventist **Church & School**

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery) P.O. Box N. Enterprise, OR 97828 Church 541-426-3751 School 541-426-8339 Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886

> **Worship Hour** 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson Church Office: 541-263-0505

Worship 9:00 a.m. 723 College Street, Lostine

Enterprise Community

Congregational Church

Join us at the BIG BROWN CHURCH Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Bible Studies: Sundays, 9:30 am & Thursdays, 5:30 pm

301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR Find us on Facebook! 541.426.3044

