

MUSTANGS

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tion only. But she met the BLM requirements, and was approved as a trainer, so she began training last September.

"Right now, I'm approved for two horses," she said. "But we're currently building on to train more horses, and we'll have an inspector come by in the next few weeks to inspect our facility."

The BLM requires 12-by-12-foot stalls for trained animals that are exercised daily and 20-by-20-foot corral spaces for untrained animals.

Dawn and Ed both work part time off the ranch to support their family and their mustang training operation. They assume all the

expenses of caring and feeding the wild mustangs they train. Ed Medley has been resourceful with his building materials, not wasting anything of usefulness, and would gladly accept donated supplies.

"We are looking for any kind of construction materials like 2x4s and 2x6s, fencing, poles — and we'd love help with hay," he said.

Their training operation is motivated by the compassionate feelings they have for these mustangs.

"These horses have been separated from their herd family, so we want to reconnect them to caring homes," Medley-Fowler said. "We want to give (the horses) a start of a foundation, and then let their adoptive owners finish their training." Since last September,

Medley-Fowler has trained two wild mustangs using the Pat Parelli method. She placed one in Medford, and she's almost ready to adopt out her second horse, Jabalina, a 6-year-old mare from the Black Mountain herd.

Medley-Fowler usually spends about 100 days in ground training on the mustangs. That means the animals are, at the bare minimum, trained to the halter, leading, picking up their feet and loading/unloading into a trailer.

"But we go further because we feel if a horse is going to be with us for a longer time, we want to do more like bridle breaking, desensitizing it with our kids, dogs, cats and we make it a family affair. The horse gets used to that," she said.

This lays a great foundation of training for the adoptive owners, and they can continue training the horse to their needs, whether that's for cow punching, trail riding or equestrian sports.

"The trained mustangs can be adopted for \$125 each, and a burro for \$75," the trainer said.

TIP trainers advertise their trained mustangs on Facebook and on mustang forums, so when someone wants to adopt, they can easily reach the trainer through social media.

The Trainer Incentive Program is sponsored by the Mustang Heritage Foundation in partnership with the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. The program is looking for qualified individuals who meet their requirements

to gentle up mustangs and burros for adoption.

Interested trainers may apply to become an approved TIP trainer by completing and submitting the TIP Trainer Application, which can be found

at www.mustangheritagefoundation.org.

Medley-Fowler shows her horses on the Medley's Mustangs Facebook page. Contact her at 541-577-3177 or medleymustangs@gmail.com.



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PG&E

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customers pay; those are decided by state regulators and politicians.

As for the lawsuits, PG&E will negotiate with the plaintiffs and its other creditors a reorganization plan based on how much the utility is able to pay, said Hugh Wynne of Sovereign Research, an investment research firm.

"You avoid a situation where some jury in California thinks PG&E is responsible for this fire, so we should hit them up for all these damages and let them sort out how they pay for it," Wynne said.

A bankruptcy also would allow PG&E to raise cash by selling assets — such as its gas business and hydropower plants — more easily, he said.

PG&E spent millions in an 11th-hour lobbying effort at the end of the California

legislative session in August in a failed attempt to change the law to reduce its liability in wildfires.

Before last year's disastrous fire in Northern California's Butte County, PG&E's stock stood at \$47.80. But in early Monday trading it tumbled \$8.48 to \$9.11, its lowest level in more than 16 years. Wall Street last week slashed PG&E's credit rating to junk status.

PG&E also filed for Chapter 11 in 2001 amid rising electricity prices during California's energy crisis.

California's new governor, Democrat Gavin Newsom, told reporters that "safety, reliability and affordability" are his top concerns, alongside protecting wildfire victims and ratepayers, in confronting the potential bankruptcy. He sought to assure the public that this potential bankruptcy won't result in power shutoffs.

He said addressing the pending bankruptcy, and potentially avoiding it, is a top priority for his new administration, but he hasn't settled on what actions to take. He said the state has "no choice" but to work collaboratively with the utility even though it has not been a "trusted player" in the past.

The Natural Resources Defense Council warned that bankruptcy could threaten billions in funding for PG&E's clean energy initiatives, which are key to California's environmental goals. PG&E is the state's largest investor in energy efficiency and electric vehicle infrastructure, said the NRDC's Ralph Cavanagh.

"California needs healthy utilities with access to capital to be able to meet its environmental goals and policies. It's essential," said Travis Miller, a strategist at Morningstar Inc.

EPA

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of waste and pollutants, a 40 percent increase from 2017.

EPA referrals resulted in 62 federal convictions in fiscal year 2018, the fewest since 1995.

Scott Pruitt was the agency's head for most of fiscal year 2018, resigning in July amid ethics scandals over his spending and allegations of favor-seeking in office. Pruitt rankled many by insisting on an unusual round-the-clock security detail, which required drawing agency special agents from regional offices for stints guarding him.

Andrew Wheeler, whose nomination to succeed Pruitt as the agency's chief goes before a Senate committee Wednesday, stopped the 24-hour guard when he was named Pruitt's acting replacement.

Congress in 1990 mandated the agency's Criminal Investigation Division

deploy at least 200 special agents.

PEER said the number had fallen to 140 special agents by last April.

"They're being gutted," said Michael Hubbard, a former special agent who led the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division regional office in Boston.

With so few EPA special agents to investigate polluters around the country, "as leads come in, they can't be followed up on," Hubbard said. "You end up saying 'no' to potential leads routinely because you just don't have the wherewithal to investigate them."

Justice Department figures show the agency's referrals for criminal prosecution slowing even more in the first two months of fiscal year 2019, to 24, under Wheeler.

Wheeler, like Pruitt, at times emphasizes giving states more say in regulation of polluters within their borders. Wheeler also has continued a centralization

of enforcement action and decision-making within the agency. Critics say that could discourage enforcement.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, 2019

**Blue Mountain Conference Center
404 12th Street, La Grande, OR
Seminar 8:45 AM-3:20 PM**

8:45am Workshop & Workshop Overview

9:00 – 9:55am "Export Markets & National Beef Traceability Programs" Kent Bacus; Director of International Trade & Market Access, NCBA

9:55 – 10:50am "Practicality & Implementation of Beef Traceability Programs" Heather Donley; Director of Quality Assurance, Beef Marketing Group

10:50 – 11:20am Morning Break (provided by sponsors)

11:20 – 12:15pm "Value of Stockmanship & Low-Stress Systems in Beef Production" Dr. Tom Noffsinger; Veterinarian, independent consultant & Production Animal Consultation (PAC) partner

12:15 – 1:30pm Lunch (provided by sponsors)

1:30 – 2:25pm "Retailer & Consumer Perspectives of Traceability Programs" Dr. Wayne Morgan; Corporate VP & President of Protein Products, Golden State Foods

2:25 – 3:20pm "Economic Outlook & Impacts on Beef Marketing Systems" Katelyn McCulloch; Senior Economist, Livestock Marketing Information Center

Note: For more information, please contact Kim McKague at (541) 562-5129 ext. 21
kim.mckague@oregonstate.edu www.cattlemensworkshopnw.com



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OTEC nominating committee members appointed

Baker City, Oregon (OTEC) — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors have appointed the following members to the director nominating committee for Baker and Union counties:

Positions 7 and 8 — Union County

Seats are currently held by incumbents Greg Howard and David Baum

• Donna Beverage 541-786-1492
• Mary West 541-910-4546
• Russell Lester 541-910-0906

Position 9 — Baker County

Seat is currently held by incumbent Charlene Chase

• Diana Brown 541-523-3679
• DeeDee Clarke 541-524-1999
• Fred Warner, Jr. 541-524-2040

The nominating committee handles interviewing and recommendations of qualified candidates for the 2019 OTEC Board of Directors elections. If you are a member of the cooperative and are interested in running for the OTEC Board of Directors, please contact one of the committee members in your county.

The committee has requested any members interested in stepping forward for consideration, please contact them on or before January 29, 2019.

The nominating committee must submit its nominations to the board secretary no later than February 1, 2019.

Any member wanting to petition for placement on the 2019 Board of Directors election ballot should contact Lea Gettle (541-524-2831) for the petition and conflict of interest forms.

Nominations by petition must be filed no later than March 5, 2019, must be signed by the candidate and include at least 50 OTEC members' signatures who are qualified to vote. In addition, there must be a request that the candidate's name be placed on the ballot.

A copy of the bylaws describing the terms of office, application and qualifications needed to serve on the nine-member board, along with a conflict of interest policy are available online at www.otecc.com/about/annual-meetings

Each director's term of office is for three years. The election will be completed at the annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2019, in John Day at the Grant County Fairgrounds. All OTEC members and their families are encouraged to attend.

About the cooperative

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative that serves over 31,000 homes and businesses in four counties in Eastern Oregon. Headquartered in Baker City, OTEC has district offices in Burns, John Day and La Grande.