

Imbler grad earns national honor

Reva Hartenstein nominated for Rising Stars of Safety Award by National Safety Council

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

IMBLER — A Union County resident recently earned national recognition for her contributions to workplace safety efforts.

Reva Hartenstein, a native of Imbler, was nominated for the Rising Stars of Safety Award by the National Safety Council. Hartenstein's hard work toward ensuring workplace safety in Eastern Oregon earned her the recognition from the Chicago-based national nonprofit.

"When I got the award, I was very surprised and humbled," Hartenstein said. "There are 80-plus employees at SAIF that are very good at what they do and could have gotten the award. I'm very fortunate to have a team that is very supportive of one another."



Hartenstein

Hartenstein is in her sixth year working as a senior safety management consultant at the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation, Oregon's workers' compensation company. She is also a member of the Broken Top chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals, which services businesses and organizations in Northeastern Oregon.

A 2010 graduate of Imbler High School, Hartenstein enjoys providing support to businesses in the area she grew up in. Her family has been in Imbler for decades, and Hartenstein has been working out of Imbler for the last five years. She noted that sometimes resources and support are not as readily available in the eastern part of Oregon as they are on the west side.

"I'm very grateful to be able to live and work here and provide that support to really important businesses that need support in our area," she said.

Hartenstein's main tasks involve the safety and health side of SAIF Corporation, working with more than 80 businesses in Northeastern Oregon. She supports businesses in their safety and health efforts, guiding managers and owners in safety protocol and preventative strategies. Hartenstein's day can include a multitude of duties, such as fielding questions and offering resources, long-term safety plans and overall customer support.

"My goal every day is to partner with those businesses in creating the safest possible workspace," she said.

Hartenstein's hard work and dedication have earned her national recognition, but she credits the support of her network in making it this far. She stated that she is one of about 70 SAIF Corporation employees but also has connections through the American Society of Safety Professionals and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"I went into safety not knowing a darn thing and I had coworkers that could have easily just ignored me, but they were incredibly supportive and mentored me," she said. "They nominated me, so I'm very grateful for the folks I get to work with."

Hartenstein has expanded her efforts beyond her position at SAIF, taking over the chair position for the Blue Mountain Occupational Safety & Health Conference. The conference is hosted annually in Pendleton and serves as the largest health and safety conference in Northeastern Oregon — roughly 300 attendees come to the conference. Hartenstein has also used her experience in agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers in creating safe workplaces.

After six years in the industry, Hartenstein sometimes reflects back on her beginnings. She credits the mentors and coworkers early on for helping her learn the ropes, a role she hopes to play for future workers in the health and safety field.

"A big part of it is paying it forward," she said. "I want to make sure that people who are just starting their careers feel supported and know that they can be successful in whatever they're doing."

Working up a

Lather



MAIN: Terra Snyder, of Peak Fusion Studio, carries a basket full of yarrow down the hill near her Imnaha home that will be infused into the soap she makes. INSET: Terra Snyder cuts bars of soap at her Imnaha home.

Terra Snyder/Contributed Photos

Wallowa County family makes soap from 'love, art, herbalism'

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

IMNAHA — Do you like bath and body products with a distinct aroma derived from naturally occurring products in Wallowa County? Well, Peak Fusion Studio of Imnaha has what you're looking for.

"I predominately make handcrafted soap. I also make bath bombs, perfume, lotion bars and salve," said business owner Terra Snyder, who runs the business out of her Imnaha Canyon home. "My motto is 'We create in the spirit of love, art and herbalism.'"

And she's not alone in the venture. "It's a family-run business, for sure," she said. "Everybody helps out."

The family includes husband, Jason, and their four children, ranging in age

from 15-25.

The Snyders have been living in the canyon for 21 years come June.

"We both moved back after being gone from home for years," she said. "We both were really in love with the Imnaha area, the people, the river, the lifestyle."

Special ingredients

"What makes my products special are a few different things," Snyder said. "Every bar of soap has hand-rendered lard in it."

She said she gets the lard from pigs raised at Square Mile Ranch in Lostine. Soap also can contain beef tallow, which she may use in the future, but for now, she sticks with lard.

"I can do vegan soap and will make it if asked," she said.

The family also keeps bees, which go into the mix.

"We raise bees and put our own honey and hand-rendered beeswax in our soaps," she said. "It's really special stuff. It's really good quality."

Then there's the plants and herbal ingredients.

"We love to wild-harvest. I predominately will wild-harvest invasive species," she said, emphasizing that she avoids native species. "I do not wild-harvest any indigenous food sources for profit."

These may include biscuitroot, camas-root or huckleberries.

"I may harvest them for my own use, but I will not profit from it," she said. "It's a way of showing respect for the Nez Perce people of this land."

Snyder also infuses her products with botanicals.

"I wild-harvest and grow flowers

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Regulators approve \$7.5M for Oregon water projects

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon regulators have authorized about \$7.5 million for water projects, though much of the grant funding was awarded provisionally until more state money becomes available.

The Oregon Water Resources Commission has unanimously voted to immediately grant \$1.8 million for a Deschutes County irrigation modernization project and a Jackson County water supply protection project.

The commission has also approved \$5.7 million in grant funding for four other projects, though the funding can't be disbursed until the state government raises money by selling lottery revenue bonds in May.

Two of the approved projects are in Eastern Oregon.

The commission approved \$530,000 for an irrigation ditch piping project in Wallowa County proposed by the Trout Unlimited nonprofit and a local cattle company. The total cost is expected to top \$700,000, which would allow the ranch to convert 144 acres from flood irrigation and dryland farming

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Following is the grant funding approved for this year's slate of six projects:

- \$1.4 million for an irrigation ditch piping project proposed by Tumalo Irrigation District, which has a total cost of more than \$6 million. Piping would prevent water loss through seepage and evaporation, with the conserved amount going to in-stream flows that would reduce temperatures to benefit fish. The funding was authorized to become immediately available.
- \$460,000 for a "water supply security and in-stream transfer" project proposed by the Trout Unlimited nonprofit with a total cost of \$615,000. The money would buy a senior water right that would allow for the operation of the historic Butte Creek Mill near Eagle Point. Part of the secured water would be dedicated to in-stream flows that would benefit fish. The funding was authorized to become immediately available.
- \$2 million for an irrigation ditch piping project in Deschutes and Crook counties proposed by a conservation group and local irrigation districts. The total project is estimated to cost \$4.4 million and would allow the Central Oregon Irrigation District to transfer saved water to the North Unit Irrigation District. That transfer

would allow NUID to increase in-stream flows to help the threatened Oregon spotted frog. The funding was approved provisionally, pending lottery bond sales.

- \$530,000 for an irrigation ditch piping project in Wallowa County proposed by the Trout Unlimited nonprofit and a local cattle company. The total cost is expected to top \$700,000, which would allow the ranch to convert 144 acres from flood irrigation and dryland farming to center pivot irrigation. The conserved water would be dedicated to in-stream flows for fish. The funding was approved provisionally, pending lottery bond sales.
- Nearly \$3 million to replace an outdated water treatment facility in John Day with a new plant that allows wastewater to be reused. The total cost is estimated to be \$13.6 million. The project would make about 80 million gallons of recycled water available for users who currently divert water from the John Day River basin. The funding was approved provisionally, pending lottery bond sales.
- \$93,500 to create a fish passage, allowing for stream channel habitat restoration in Lake County. The total cost is more than \$776,000. The project will allow the landowner to comply with state regulations and continue irrigating. The funding was approved provisionally, pending lottery bond sales.

to center pivot irrigation. The conserved water would be dedicated to in-stream flows for fish.

Nearly \$3 million was approved to replace an outdated water treatment facility in John Day, with a new plant that allows wastewater to be reused. The total cost is estimated to be \$13.6 million. The project would make about 80

million gallons of recycled water available for users who currently divert water from the John Day River basin.

Both projects are pending lottery bond sales.

The state only has about \$3.2 million remaining in its water supply development fund after a lottery bond sale was canceled earlier this year due to a shortfall in lottery reve-

nues caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

However, lawmakers have authorized another \$30 million for water project grants, with funding becoming available when \$15 million in lottery bonds are sold next spring and another \$15 million are sold in the spring of 2023.

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