

# Laminated beam company considers Heppner for new manufacturing plant location

A laminated beam company considering opening a manufacturing plant in Heppner received a visit from several Morrow County officials last Tuesday, when the group visited a newly-opened plant in Molalla.

Savannah Pacific is the owner and operator of the plant, which makes large laminated beams out of 2x4s for the construction industry.

At Molalla, the smaller boards are first cut on the end with finger joints and then glued together into long 60-foot 2x4s. The long boards are then glued together to form large laminated beams. These laminated beams can be formed into any size beam and also can be rough for inside construction, or sanded and stained for a nicer looking finish.

The process would be employed at Heppner, however the company is looking at using different tree species.

The Molalla plant has been set up in a former sawmill. Thirteen people were working to produce the beams. Savannah officials said they may put in a larger plant at Heppner and employ as many as 40 workers. It plans to open in the old green end building at the South Morrow Industrial Park (the former Kinzua saw mill) sometime in 2005 and be operational by the end of the year.

Savannah officials Bill Munk and Jeff Garver said that the company may use 1x4s at the Heppner plant because they are less expensive and more abundant than 2x4s. The company also indicated demand for the beams may be strong enough to purchase a laminating press that would allow the Heppner plant to produce six truckloads of beams per day on two shifts, instead of the two truckloads produced per day at Molalla.



Worker pulls 60-ft 2x4 after lamination



60-ft 2x4s are stacked together in preparation of making larger laminated beam

The company also indicated that it plans to submit beams made from Ponderosa pine to the APA (American Plywood Association-Engineered Wood Systems) for certification. The Heppner plant would use 1x4s of Ponderosa pine from the

Kinzua Corporation Pilot Rock mill to make beams, however the beams must be certified by APA first.

Munk said he hoped to have a start up employee training and supervision crew available to start up the laminating process close to the end of the 2005.

## Loans available for storefront improvements

The City of Heppner, in conjunction with the Bank of Eastern Oregon, received grant funds to provide for low interest loans for storefront improvements on downtown properties. There are still some unused funds under this program.

The loans may be used for paint, siding or other improvements that would enhance the

appearance of downtown property.

Interested property owners should contact George Koffler at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, 676-9125, for more details.

## Heppner Legion and Auxiliary to meet

The Heppner Post of the American Legion and Auxiliary will be meeting on Monday, April 25 at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner.

On the agenda for the evening is discussion of plans for the June convention in Pendleton.

All members welcome to attend.



Port of Morrow commissioner Jerry Healy examines finished 60-ft glued boards



Savannah Pacific employee handles boards as they come out of glueing machine

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**Real Estate**

By DAVID SYKES REALTOR

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The best thing to do when your Realtor arrives to show your home is become the "invisible" person. I've had sellers meet me at the door and lead us (me and my prospects) through the house. The buyers' immediate response is to tense up. The subtle signs which I watch and listen for disappear. These people cease to be buyers and become "uninvited guests" peering into private corners of the home. They are reacting to the host rather than the house.

The key word here is YOUR. Our objective is to make him feel that it is HIS home. The owner's presence makes that difficult.

He can't comment about things he doesn't like. That would be rude. Yet, a sure sign of interest is petty fault-finding - even with a perfect property. The Realtor will then help weigh the faults with the pluses. This can't come about with the owner as part of the group.

You see, where you live is an intimate part of your life. If the owner is around when the prospect arrives, he becomes a guest in your home.

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**Griffiths to celebrate 50 years**

Please come and help Don and Joann Griffith celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, April 23. The celebration will be held in the Spray gym from 1-3 p.m. Come and share stories, well wishes or just a congratulations. No gifts please.

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