



## The Blue Goose is Coming our Way!

WALLOWA COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
309 South River Street, Ste B  
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*Coming from the Yreka Western Railroad "The Blue Goose" is scheduled to arrive in Wallowa County late this spring. Court Hammond, CEO of Yreka Western Railroad and the Wallowa Union Scenic Railway, stated that his crew will be moving the 1915 Baldwin steam engine to northeast Oregon by summer.*

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Joining the recent locomotive history of train excursions, the Blue Goose, a Baldwin 2-8-2 built in 1915 is adding nostalgia and fame to Wallowa and Union Counties This steam engine has starred in many movies, the two most famous being "Emperor of the North" and "Stand By Me".

The Blue Goose also known as the #19 is 90 ton logging hauler. She was built in 1915 by Baldwin for the Caddow River Lumber Company in Arkansas. She served there until being sent to Mexico in 1920 where it picked up the name "Pancho" because of bullet holes found in the side of the train that some say were received during the Pancho Villa battles in Mexico. In 1924, she was purchased by the McCloud River Railroad. She served many years there hauling log trains until being sold to the Yreka Western Railroad in 1953.

The March 28th meeting held in Tomas was attended by 51 citizens, business owners, and local government. Court Hammond clarified some new terms: (1) the steam engine is the 1915 Baldwin 2-8-2, (2) Blue Goose is the legendary name of the train operation, and (3) Wallowa Union Scenic Railway is the 501(c)3 non profit that the excursion train will operate under. The common-carrier service, such as freight, will operate under the Sierra Nevada & Pacific Railroad.

Hammond said he is modeling his new business venture after the historic Durango & Silverton train out of Durango, Colorado. He said a dinner train is in the plans, along with open-air cars and a caboose. He found the fish train especially attractive and he plans to continue this operation. In addition, he will target speeder clubs and private-car owners as an additional revenue source. He will also pursue tour groups interested in renting the entire train or individual cars for events.

Hammond is open to creative themes for his excursion train, and shared examples: scenic fall foliage, under the stars, scenic excursion with an outdoor picnic stop, train robbers, etc. He reached out to the audience and encouraged community partnerships and "out of the box" creative thinking to develop themes within communities that could be used in future excursion programs. He foresees an excursion train that will include trips to Joseph, as well as the continuation of excursions from Elgin into the backcountry of the wild and scenic Grande Ronde River. He was very optimistic about future stops in Wallowa, Lostine, and Enterprise.

Hammond also discussed infrastructure needs. He expanded on ideas for depots, water towers for the steam engine, track and bridge maintenance, and buildings for train equipment. He is hopeful that partnerships will be formed to acquire some of these infrastructure needs.

Hammond stressed how important it is to carefully develop the 2012 riding schedules and services and not over commit what can be accomplished the first year. A schedule is forth coming for the 2012 excursion train season. Hammond asked that we remain optimistic and open minded about operations the 2012 season. He reminded us that this is a business and must operate as one.

The Wallowa County Chamber was honored to host this meeting for the Blue Goose. It will take many partnerships and a lot of teamwork to support the Blue Goose to success — but look at what it could mean for NE Oregon. Stay tuned for further information. ***Thank you to all who attended.***

### **CHAMBER STAFF**

Vicki Searles, Executive Director  
Diane Knox, Admin. Assist.

### **APRIL 2012**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Biggest Buy Local Shopper	2
Visitor Report	2
Wolves in Wallowa County	3
Debit Card Dangers	5
Drive Less Connect	5
April 11th Candidate Forum	6

Are You Wallowa County's  
**BIGGEST**  
**BUY LOCAL**  
 Shopper?



**Starting April 25th and ending May 10th**

Win **Big** and Win **Easy!** • 2 Grand Prizes!

- \$200 in Buckskin Bucks to a business verifying they spent the most \$\$\$ in this period. and—
- \$200 in Buckskin Bucks to a non-business shopper verifying they spent the most \$\$\$ in this period.

**How to win you ask?**  
**THAT'S EASY. Here are the rules**

Starting April 25th and ending May 10th save all of your receipts from participating businesses in the **Biggest Buy Local Shopper** program. These businesses can be found in the Chieftain the week of April 25th, May 2nd, and May 9th. Submit your receipts to the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce no later than **5:00 pm May 10th.**

**Double the winners!**

**You have a greater chance for winning than the LOTTO!**

*Watch for this opportunity!*

**This is so simple...again,**

- Shop at any/all of the participating business found in the April 25th Chieftain's page for the Biggest Buy Local Shopper. *(also found in the next 2 Chieftains, May 2 & May 9)*
- Keep all of your receipts from each business.
- Turn in your receipts to the Wallowa County Chamber, 309 S. River Street, Suite B, Enterprise no later than 5:00 pm May 10th.
- Fill out a simple form of receipt at the chamber office.
- The biggest shoppers of the 2 categories will be announced **May 16th.** There is a winner per category: (1) business owners, (1) non-business shoppers.

**Buy Local Sponsors**



**CHAMBER**  
**Visitor Report**



**Where did visitors get their information:**

Other/Friend	6
Sunset	0
Triple A Via Magazine	3
Oregon Travel Guide	3
Oregonian	0
NW Travel	0
Brochures	1
EOVA	4
Travel Articles	1
Telephone Directory	13
Internet/ Letters	17
Conference/Reunion/wed	0
Other Chambers	6
Oregon Business	0
Other	

**CENTRALIZED COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Do you want a calendar where you can check on local dates for meetings & events? The Chamber has started such a calendar. The more local information we receive; the more user friendly and helpful the calendar becomes. Put all of your community events on the calendar.

Info. Requests	March 2012	February 2012	YTD	March 2011
Walk-In's Visitors/Business	159	232	622	244
Visitor Packets (includes EOVA)	317	15	332	227
Incoming phone/email contacts	259	353	1084	316
Relocation packets	1	1	6	2
<b>Total Contacts</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>2067</b>	<b>789</b>
<b>Website Visits (not hits)</b>	<b>18,009</b>	<b>35,095</b>	<b>91,605</b>	<b>10,263</b>
<b>Member Referrals Made</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>2153</b>	<b>2603</b>
<b>JOSEPH BOOTH</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# **PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND**

## **WOLVES IN WALLOWA COUNTY II**

### **KNOW THE FACTS**

- Recent research on wolf behavior and cattle interaction.
- Insight into the Wolf Saga • Wolves & You!

#### **John Williams, Associate Professor Oregon State University Extension Service**

John Williams is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rangeland Resources at Oregon State University working as a natural resources Extension agent in Wallowa County. He holds a B.S. degree in animal science and a Master of Agriculture in Animal Science, Rangeland Resources and Agricultural Resource Economics. John ranched for 15 years and has been an Extension agent for 25 years. During the past 19 years living in Wallowa County, John has helped the county with several public policy issues such as the ESA listing of the Snake River Chinook Salmon and the wolf. He also serves on the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee which leads the effort in the county to make the best decisions possible about the natural resource issues.

#### **Rod Childers, Wallowa County Rancher, Wallowa County Wolf Coordinator**

Rod Childers grew up helping care for cattle on his family's farm/ranch. He ran a cow/calf and yearling operation with a background feedlot for twenty years. He currently operates a black angus cross commercial cow/calf operation. Rod served as the local Stockgrower's president and served as second vice president for the state cattlemen association, in addition to serving on the SWCD board and stock chairman for the county fair. He has received the Riley Freeman award from the State Cattlemen and ODFW and the county cattlemen award. Most recently Rod is serving as the state cattlemen's Wolf Committee Chairperson. He helped write the landowner preference tag bill the state of Oregon. He believes in the ranching industry and that you have to be involved in all issues that affect the stability and the future of ranching.

#### **Fred Steen, Wallowa County Sheriff**

Fred Steen has been the Wallowa County Sheriff for over 13 years. He has been instrumental in developing the protocol in Wallowa County to respond to potential livestock depredations and has cooperated in many of the investigations. Fred has worked to train other law enforcement across the state on what to expect when wolves become a problem in their counties. He also works with communities to be aware of the risks and dangers of a wolf presence.

**Thursday, April 26th**

**6:30—8:00 P.M.**

**Tomas Business Center—Enterprise  
Space is limited—Please come early!**

#### **Contacts:**

*John Williams, OSU Extension (541) 426-3143*  
*Vicki Searles, Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce*  
*(541) 426-4622*

WALLOWA COUNTY CAREGIVERS INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

# SHARING THE CARING

## Who are we?

We are the Caregivers of Wallowa County  
with THE POWER of

- Sharing **IDEAS**
- Sharing **SUPPORT**
- Sharing **THE CARING**

*Where:* Community Connection  
702 N.W. First St., Enterprise

*When:* Tuesday, April 17th · 1:30-3:30

*Other:* MODERATED PANEL QUESTION/ANSWER

- Mental/Physical
- Emotional/Spiritual
- Educational



*Sharing Ideas • Sharing Support • Sharing the Caring*

*Refreshments Served*



*Sharing Ideas • Sharing Support • Sharing the Caring*

**Judy McDonald, coordinator**  
**541-426-3713**

## DEBIT CARD DANGERS

### *Better Business Bureau Offers Safe Swiping Tips*

Credit or debit? Choosing the right option at the right time can help protect from unwanted charges and skimming scams.

When charged, debit cards automatically withdraw money directly from checking accounts; whereas credit cards extract funds from credit accounts. Most credit issuers carry zero liability policies so card users can dispute unauthorized charges from fraud and undelivered products or services. Debit cards typically carry limited liability policies that require cardholders to cover a percentage of the lost funds.

"Debit cards can come in handy for many purchases," stated Robert W.G. Andrew, CEO of Better Business Bureau serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington. "But frankly, it's more difficult to recoup stolen funds from debit cards."

Due to built-in protections, BBB urges cardholders to choose credit over debit for certain purchases. BBB points out five dangerous transactions for debit cards:

**Online Shopping:** Websites, e-retailers and other online service providers may be trustworthy and well-intentioned, but there are other potential risks, such as: shared wireless networks, unsecure Internet connections, data breaches, company impostors, hackers and other online schemers. There is significant anonymity on the Web so shop safely; review companies carefully, read privacy policies and make sure sites are secure before releasing payment information.

**ATM Cash:** Skimmers tamper with automatic teller machines and card terminals by inserting skimming devices on card readers and installing miniature spy cameras. Only use monitored ATMs in well-lit areas near trusted banks and busy shopping centers. Avoid using machines with askew card slots and keypads.

**Gas:** Card skimmers also meddle with unattended pay-at-the-pump gas station terminals; low-traffic highway rest stops can be particularly vulnerable.

**Dining and Drinking:** Restaurants, food delivery services and bars sometimes keep customer payment information on file, hold cards for tabs or process payments behind closed doors. Once cards are out of sight, they are at risk of falling into the wrong hands; cards can get overcharged or copied and used without permission.

**Down Payments and Deposits:** Companies that sell expensive merchandise may offer layaway programs or allow consumers to reserve goods with deposits. It is best to charge pre-payments and pricey purchases on credit cards, in case businesses close unexpectedly or orders are not fulfilled.

## Drive Less Connect *Community Connections*

Drive Less Connect is Oregon's secure, easy-to-use online ride-matching tool that matches people going to similar directions for work and play. With over 230 users registered in the system already, Community Connection Drive Less Connect will launch this March 2012.

The program was developed from the 2006 Drive Less Save More Campaign. The campaign goals are to raise public awareness about the benefits of driving less through trip chaining and other smart driving strategies, such as riding transit, carpooling, van-pooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, biking and/or walking. The Oregon State Drive Less Connect website began in 2011 with local administrators providing support.

Community Connection's Public Transit Network provides transit options for riders in Union, Baker and Wallowa counties. Not only can riders view the established fixed routes in and between communities served by Community Connection but, you can find biking, walking and carpooling partners.

The key to a successful Northeast Oregon program does involve a large number of people who register and actively log trips. The more people who get involved the easier it will be to find rides. The tool will also be helpful for those people who travel long distances for work or services such as medical care.

You can register for Drive Less Connect at: <http://drivelessconnect.com> For local support in registering contact Cherie Kausler at [Cherie@ccno.org](mailto:Cherie@ccno.org) or call 541-963-2877.



PO Box 427  
Enterprise, OR 97828

[www.wallowacountychamber.com](http://www.wallowacountychamber.com)

**Be an informed voter—**

**April 11th Candidate Forum**

**7:00—8:00 pm, Wednesday, City of Wallowa  
Wallowa Senior Community Center**

Sponsored by: AAUW, Rotary,  
Wallowa County Chamber

**Senator Wyden, Town Hall Meeting**

**2:30 pm, Friday, April 13th, City of Wallowa  
Wallowa Senior Community Center**



*Wallowa County*  
—Business Facilitation—

**Free and Confidential  
Business Coaching!**

**Every new business idea, no matter how good, faces serious challenges.**

The mission of Business Facilitation is to support Wallowa County citizens in bringing their business dreams to reality.

- ◆ If you have a good idea for a new business, but don't know where to begin or
- ◆ If you have an existing business that you would like to expand or fine tune, but don't know how to find the right resources or
- ◆ If your existing business struggling?

Wallowa County Business Facilitation may be your answer. The service is free. Business Facilitator Catherine Matthias helps businesses thrive through sound principles, creativity, and innovation.

**Contact WCBF for free and confidential business assistance:**  
Catherine Matthias, Business Facilitator, PO Box 995, Joseph, OR 97846

**[www.wallowacountybusiness.org](http://www.wallowacountybusiness.org)**

**Phone: 541 398-0636 or**

**Email: [facilitator@wallowacountybusiness.org](mailto:facilitator@wallowacountybusiness.org)**

**Area Directors**

**Enterprise**

Kathy Casper,  
Wheatland Insurance

**Joseph/Wallowa Lake**

Ruby Lathrop,  
Sterling Savings Bank

**Wallowa/Lostine**

Jim Soares,  
Wallowa Mountain Prop.

**Education**

John Williams,  
WC Extension Office

**Rural/Outlying**

Cynthia Warnock,  
WC Soil & Water CD

**Farm/Ranchg**

Kurt & Heather Melville  
Cornerstone Farms

**Health Care**

(At-Large)  
David Harman,  
WC Health Care Dist

**Public Relations**

(At-Large)  
Shannon Novakovich,  
Esprit Inc.

**Small Business**

(At-Large)  
Jolene Cox,  
Bank of Eastern OR

**Tourism**

Nancy Rudger,  
Wallowa Mountain  
Visitor Center