

UCEDC Today!

Issue #18

Summer 2016

www.ucedc.org

Union County Economic Development Corporation

Baum Industrial Park Ready for Action



Union County will soon have fully developed “shovel ready” Heavy Industrial land for sale again because of their purchase of 60 acres of land in the park from a previous biomass energy plant project. The lots in the park, which was first purchased by the Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC) from a division of the Union Pacific Railroad back in the 1980’s, had all been sold, and UCEDC found the need for suitable sites for large manufacturers to locate in Union County. The further development of this 60-acre parcel by the County within the original park will change that picture considerably.

The County recently secured \$1,066,000 through the Oregon Regional Solutions Program to help fund a portion of the construction of new infrastructure in this 60-acre parcel. The County Road Department will be constructing a portion of the work, and the remainder will be bid out to interested contractors. The documents for the construction of the utilities and the roads have recently been completed by Anderson-Perry and Associates, Inc. Brett Moore, P.E., who is in charge of that design effort stated that the improvements will include the construction of a major service road connecting Industrial Lane with Landmark Lane, 2,250 feet of new water line, and over 2,000 feet of new gravity and pressure sewer line. The proposed layout also includes provisions for rail access to some of the westerly parcels. In addition to these roads and water and sewer services, underground power, telephone, and natural gas will also be installed. The improvements will include paving of the new roadway.

Union County and UCEDC have been partnering with Boise Cascade to try

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New company joins the La Grande Business Park

The La Grande Business & Technology Park welcomes our newest business, Dainty Jewell’s. Dainty Jewell’s is an e-commerce business that focuses on providing “modest fashion for modern ladies.”

“Dainty Jewell’s is about more than just selling beautiful clothing,” says owner Charity Walter. “We are on a mission to provide every woman and girl the opportunity to choose timeless fashions that stay true to her sense of modesty. We believe that having access to affordable, modest, and beautiful pieces allows all women’s true beauty to shine through. We also pay special attention to our youngest customers by designing age-appropriate, beautiful outfits for girls of all ages.”

Charity and Jess Walter have purchased Lot 5 in the La Grande Business Park and



La Grande Business Park

will be constructing a warehouse facility with office space to accommodate the growth in sales. Visit Dainty Jewell’s website at daintyjewells.com to learn more about the company’s history, plans for the future, and to see their product line.

The La Grande Business Park is situated within the city limits of La Grande and has just over 62 acres of flat, buildable land with 25 acres certified as shovel ready, configured in lots ranging in size from one acre to over eight acres. For additional information on the Park, contact UCEDC at 541-963-0926 or visit ucedc.org.

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C&M Country Store	Legacy Auto Group-Dodge
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Oak Street Shell	Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roberts
Subway	Loveland Funeral Chapel
Waldrop Oil	MJ Goss Motor Co.
Allied Mortgage Services	Mountain Valley Therapy
Anderson Perry & Associates	Mountain West Moving & Storage
Avista Utilities	Oregon Trail Seeds, Inc.
B&K Auto Salvage & Recycling	OTEC
Baggett, Griffith & Blackman	Ranch & Home Realty
Banner Bank	Red Cross Drug Store
Barreto Manufacturing	Reed & Associates
Baum Smith LLC	Robert Brooks Painting
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Blue Mt Auto Parts	Sandridge Agriprises
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Grande Ronde Hospital	
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New Member

Reed and Associates

Kevin Reed's business became a member of UCEDC in order to, as he says, "help promote a little more growth here in Union County." Kevin moved this insurance business here from Grants Pass in 1992. Reed & Associates is an independent insurance agency, primarily offering a variety of Medicare supplement products, which they specialize in. Five years ago, they also began offering both home and auto insurance, listing a variety of products through several insurance companies, as an independent agency.

Reed & Associates has three additional staff besides Kevin, including Kara Thiesen, office and customer service manager, Nicole Cathey, Medicare and health insurance specialist, and Ramona Galjoir, specializing in home and auto insurance. Their office is located just behind the C&M Country Store in the center of Island City.

One of the primary services of the company is keeping an almost daily eye on the ever-changing costs of both Medicare supplement insurance and supplemental drug insurance for their numerous retired customers. The Medicare program requires the coverage provided by each of the various insurers to be the same within each of their plans, but rates can vary widely, and fluctuate each year. Keeping their customers "plugged into" the least expensive, from a Medicare standpoint, and "best fit" from a drug standpoint, of the various plans on the market during the mandated fall changeover window, as these changes occur, is what Reed & Associates does best.

A few of the reasons the Reed family decided to move to the Grande Ronde Valley 24 years ago, besides the good hunting and fishing, were of the lack of traffic, that the area is very scenic, and they thought it would be a good place to raise a family. They have been very happy ever since they made that decision.



Baum Industrial Park, continued from page 1

to attract both consumers and customers of Boise Cascade to this newly developing site. The ideas that are being put forward involve the establishment of an on-site supply chain (called vertical integration) involving another manufacturer that could use material already produced by the Particleboard Plant directly in the manufacture of more finished products, eliminating most shipping and handling costs for both businesses. A laminator of particleboard, a furniture manufacturer, or a related industry would be an ideal fit at this site. The lots will also be available to local businesses that wish to expand their operations.

UCEDC Regional Medical Plaza Tour



On June 2 the Membership Committee of UCEDC conducted a tour of the Grande Ronde Hospital's new Regional Medical Plaza, an expansion to 27,000 sq. ft. of a smaller medical building. About 15 people attended the event, including local business members and public officials from both La Grande and Union County.

Paul Shorb, senior director of provider services and support services, gave a short presentation and answered questions in the facility's new conference room on the past, present, and future development plans for the entire hospital, including the clinics in La Grande, Elgin, and Union. Guests were split into two groups to tour the new facility, with Ronyann Gerst, director of clinic services, leading one group, and Lindsey Ackerman, clinic administrative assistant, leading the other.

The first-floor front entrance to the facility features a covered patient drop-off area. In addition to spectacular views of the northeast section of the Grande Ronde Valley, the main entry opens into separate lobbies and waiting areas for both the Women's Clinic and the Children's Clinic, which each occupying half of the buildings first floor. The Women's Clinic offers both gynecology and obstetrics, and has four professional providers, along with support staff. The Children's Pediatrics Clinic has five professional providers, along with their support staff. The on-site lab draw station is a new convenience for both women's health and pediatric patients, as well as for all specialty clinic patients.

The second-floor houses the Specialty Services Clinic, offering services for otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat), along with head and neck surgery, as well as the orthopedic clinic. General surgery and neurology are planned for the future. The waiting and reception area for this clinic features a soaring, light-filled space above the first floor entry, with elevator access to the first floor. The Specialty Services Clinic has nine professional providers along with their support staff.

In the past, with only two exam rooms for a given provider, both the patients and the providers often had to wait while a room was cleaned between visits. The new facility offers a third exam room for each provider, resulting in better service and efficiency, including reduced wait times and increased appointments available for patients. Some of the other more important features of the new facility are the procedure rooms, with advanced in-ceiling procedure lights, designated non-stress testing room for expecting mothers, specialty room for autism testing, behavioral health counseling, private and confidential surgery scheduling offices, additional space for processing surgical instruments and endoscopes, and the upcoming addition of mammography and ultrasound on the first floor of the Woman's Clinic.



Tour participants and guide Ronyann Gerst.

New Board Members Join UCEDC

The Union County Commissioners and the La Grande City Council each appoint four members each to the UCEDC Board; UCEDC's Business Membership nominates and votes on another four for a total of 12 board members. The board terms are staggered and set at four years.

This past February, there were some major changes to the UCEDC Board, as three long-term members left the board. Robert Strope, La Grande city manager, stepped down and was replaced by Christine Jarski, La Grande's economic development director. Andy Perry, business relations director of Anderson-Perry & Associates, replaced Russ Lester, representing the Business Membership. Dale Case, representing Union County, also left the board after many years of service. Sam Kimball, who had served for several years on the board, also representing Union County, resigned from the board and was replaced by Seth Hassinger, owner of Hassinger Farms.



Christine Jarski



Andy Perry



Seth Hassinger

Member Profile

Mountain West Moving & Storage

Mountain West Moving and Storage is celebrating 60 years in Union County. The Braseth family, along with Uncle Carl Kellenburger and his family, moved to the Grande Ronde Valley in May 1956 when they established the business and bought out both Epling Distributing and La Grande Transfer and Storage. In 1961, the business diversified into two companies, Connie's Moving,

Distributing and Storage, and B&K Distributing. B&K was eventually sold to George Bruce at Eastern Oregon Bottling Company. In 1985, the Braseth family purchased Smith Brothers Moving Services, Inc. in Baker City, a Mayflower agent that had been in

business since 1945. Mountain West Moving and Storage is the oldest Mayflower Vanlines agent in Oregon.

Today, the Braseth family (Craig and Kay) continues to personally own the business, and son Kaiger serves as the general manager. As his father did, Craig is also helping his son grow into a leadership position in the same business. Mountain West has 12 full-time employees, and during heavy summer moving times employs another five to ten part-time employees, some of them EOU students.

Mountain West serves the 11 western states, with their primary service areas in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. About half of their business is centered on moving and storage of household and business goods, with a number of these moves for doctors, university faculty and staff, and governmental employees moving into and out of the region. One of their warehouses is loaded to the rafters with container storage units or "vaults," many of them from military personnel storing their items for several years while in service overseas.

As movers, they offer four types of service levels for those who are planning a move into or out of the area:

- Weekly rental of a 31' POD storage trailer
- You load it, they will move it: all moving equipment, ramps, and pads furnished
- Just pick up the heavy items (help in Union/Baker/Wallowa & Umatilla counties)

- Full service move (help in Oregon, another State, or around the world).

One of the services that the other half of the business provides is the storage, distribution, and warehousing for local institutions and businesses when they are moving or undergoing major remodeling. Typical recent examples of this include the Union County Courthouse move, numerous

projects at EOU, the Grande Ronde Hospital expansion, and assisting school districts in the region, including Imbler, Pendleton, and Hermiston. A sideline of this part of the business is Mountain West's



ownership and management of approximately 400 Self Storage Units located on Cove Avenue, Jefferson Street, and East Q Avenue.

Mountain West also serves as a warehousing facility for recreational vehicle manufacturers in both La Grande and Pendleton. Mountain West has picked up and stored pre-manufactured floors used by the Keystone plant in Pendleton from as far away as Saskatchewan, Canada.

Making sure customers get the products they ordered online delivered safely to their home or place of business is another of the services Mountain West provides. Businesses such as Restoration Hardware, Home Depot, JC Penny's, Pier One, and Pottery Barn all rely on Mountain West. When products arrive at the their warehouse, they are inspected, unwrapped, delivered to the customer, and set up in their home or place of business for them.

Craig notes the reason Mountain West belongs to the UCEDC is that every bit of job growth created brings in more business to their company. Mountain West prides itself in being a major sponsor for United Way, the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, the Imbler School District (Little League Field), Eastern Oregon University Foundation and the EOU Mountaineer Athletic Association, the Grande Ronde Hospital Amateur Golf Tournament, and both Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

UCEDC is a public-private partnership. Our primary goal is job retention and creation.

UCEDC manages and markets its own and other "shovel ready" industrial sites.



Union County
Economic Development
Corporation

UCEDC Today! is being sent to you as a supporting member of the Union County Economic Development Corporation.

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