

# Business / Agriculture

## Hot Lake Springs Resort to become veterans care center

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Friday, March 31, an informative meeting was held at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center to discuss the changes taking place with the Hot Lake Springs Resort & Spa.

The resort and spa is being purchased and will be repurposed to create the Veterans Restorative Care Center (VRCC). VRCC was established to help veterans and to fight against the increasing numbers of veterans who commit suicide.

The partners founding the VRCC are Warrior Bonfire Program, National University of Natural Medicine, Hot Lake Springs Resort & Spa and DyneAquaculture. The VRCC will be owned by the Warrior Bonfire Project.

"Less than one percent of our nation has served in uniform," explained Mike Foss, president of Warrior Bonfire Program. "Twenty percent of all suicides in the United States are veteran suicides.

"Approximately 22 veterans a day take their lives. 75 veterans each day make failed attempts on their lives. 8,030 veterans commit suicide each year. 125,000; that's how many veterans have taken their lives since 9/11.

"I'm going to tell you it's a national tragedy and this has been going on since World War II. We've got to figure out how to put a stop to it. And that's one of the things that my program and the program that I'm adding in there, the VRCC, are driven to do, is to reduce those numbers."

According to the VRCC website, "The Warrior Bonfire Program was founded by Dan Fordice III to provide opportuni-



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

John Bickel of DyneAquaculture addresses attendees.

ties that improve the lives of warriors wounded in combat.

"The focus is on creating activity based programs in a safe, secure and stress free environment with other warriors who have similar experiences, and to promote camaraderie and therapeutic treatment on their journey to recovery and healing."

John Bickel, President and CEO of DyneAquaculture explained, "What you find with many veterans, particularly those who have been wounded, medically discharged, or medically retired, they've just lost everything. They lost their identity, they lost their camaraderie, they lost their occupation, they lost their mobility, and they've just basically lost hope.

"And then that reaction, when they get home, tends to lead to divorce, all kinds of antisocial behavior, drugs, drinking, etc., as they're trying to self-medicate because they just lost it. So, the first

step, is you've got to get them around other folks who understand, because they've been there, they've gone through the same problems. It's that sense of you can talk to people who will understand because they've been there. And that's great."

Bickel explained that part of the money they are raising is to build a fish farm and hydroponics. Hydroponics are used to grow vegetables in water instead of dirt.

Bickel explained that all of the profits from the fish farm and the hydroponics will go to the health care side of VRCC and it will fund itself. These will also create jobs for the local community and it will also provide an opportunity to train veterans.

According to a hand-out given at the meeting by David J. Schleich, President of the National University of Natural Medicine, "Naturopathic students from NUNM and other CNME-accredited

programs will come to the Veterans Restorative Care Center at Hot Lake Springs as preceptors, as interns and as residents.

"Care for the Veterans will be part of the repertoire of clinical experiences available to ND students with such a focus."

David Manuel, an internationally famous bronze sculptor, is creating bronze eagle sculptures named "Providence" as a benefit to the VRCC.

The number of sculptures is limited to 500 and they will be signed and numbered by David Manuel.

A majority of the funds from the sculptures will go to the VRCC and a donation will be made to Crossroads.

In a press release given at the meeting, Dr. Schleich said, "We must do something different to restore health and hope to these men and women and their families. The Veterans Restorative Center is the answer."

## Rancher testifies

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He said, after acknowledging and thanking those who traveled significant distances in order to testify, "I have a couple of preliminary pieces of information for folks, to clarify a misunderstanding that's occurring both inside and outside the building. None of these bills apply to domestic water wells. Oregon water law is a little arcane, even for those of us like myself, that studied it in law school, so, sometimes it's hard to understand what the terms apply to...These bills are intended to apply only to permit holders, and water right holders...I just wanted to make that clear in this public hearing..."

"These three bills I brought as conversation starters this session, because there's already a public conversation going on, about water use and management in the state. Many of you may have seen The Oregonian expose this summer, which raised the issue of how the state--including the state agencies, the governor's office, and us, the Legis-

lature--are accounting for this public resource, and that expose does not paint a very pretty picture..."

"That is the case, for a lot of reasons...The audit (of the OWRD, around the time of the expose) brought up many issues that caused challenges for the...department, including reduced budgets, and reduced staff sizes, and...the absence of a long-term strategy for the department, and its work.

"I think the department has acknowledged that those are all fair, constructive criticisms, and they've been working on those things. Nevertheless, there are inherent challenges for how we manage water, and for how we obtain the revenue necessary to support...department staff..."

Among numerous testimonies given in favor of and in opposition to the bills, Martin provided the first of his group. He said, "Thank you, Chair Helm, and House Energy and Environment Committee members, for this chance to testify, not only to my concern, but also for the constituents that I represent, about House Bills 2705, and 2706.

"I am Curtis Martin, the current chair of the Oregon Cattlemen's Water Resources Committee, a board member of Water for Life, and a lifelong rancher in eastern Oregon. I have also been involved in many water resource issues, most recently, as one of the policy advisors to Oregon Water Resources Department, on updating the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, administered by OWRD.

"I mention this just to assure you that I have the knowledge, understanding, and some experience, to speak to these issues. Also, I have driven over 330 miles, one-way, to be here today, because these ill-founded policy efforts are truly punitive in nature. I will make my remarks direct and succinct, to just a few of our concerns, with the two bills, 2705, and 2706.

"HB 2705, to me, is a prime example of a solution, looking for a problem to solve. If this bill is directed toward the misuse or overuse of water, I would simply point out that the Oregon Water Resources' own data, that documents, in 2015, stat-

ing, that on a statewide basis, water use compliance with water rights and regulations were at 98%, also a percentage consistent with the 2014 compliance rate.

"The current system in place has historically worked extremely well, because in reality, it is self-policing. By that, I am meaning that the next junior water rights holder will make sure that there is not an overuse of, or volume of water, that is taking place. Also, as testament to the existing jurisdiction of water in Oregon, is that in the year 2015, out of an estimated 89,000 water rights, only 66 individual cases were validated for unauthorized use. Again, this is according data collected by OWRD.

"Instead of this punitive measure, it would be much more advantageous to implement the Oregon Water Resources Commission strategic measurement plan, that was adopted in 2000."

SEE RANCHER TESTIFIES PAGE 8

### — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, March 31, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. Many producers are sold out for the year.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Mixed Grass — Large Square Utility	45 50.00-50.00	50.00
Last Week:		
Alfalfa — Large Square Good	100 115.00-115.00	115.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Premium	4 150.00-150.00	150.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

### — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1280

#### Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 144.00-176.00	Top 181.00
400-500#	Bulk 143.00-174.00	Top 181.00
500-600#	Bulk 133.00-162.00	Top 166.00

#### Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 131.00-157.00	Top 158.00
400-500#	Bulk 132.00-159.50	Top 161.00
500-600#	Bulk 124.00-147.00	Top 148.50

#### Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 131.00-147.00	Top 151.00
700-800#	Bulk 123.00-134.00	Top 136.00
800-900#	Bulk 115.00-124.00	Top 125.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 109.00-117.00	Top 120.50

#### Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 112.00-137.00	Top 141.00
700-800#	Bulk 114.00-124.00	Top 125.00
800-900#	Bulk 111.00-121.00	Top 122.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 94.00-98.00	Top 101.00

Thin Shelly Cows	39.00 - 56.00
Butcher Cows	58.00 - 69.00
Butcher Bulls	69 - 83
Pairs	N/A
Hfretts	83.00 - 98.00
Stock Cows Young	N/A

ProducersLivestock.com  
541-473-3136

### — LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir-\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

### — PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,256.30

Silver: \$18.27

Platinum: \$960.25

Palladium: \$803.17

Bloomberg.com

### — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$364.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$428.55/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$969.00/bu/USD

Oats: \$224.25 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$10.09/cwt/USD

Canola: \$485.50 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$109.30/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$130.30/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$71.98/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com