

Boom, bubble or bust for Central Oregon?

Bend – Is Central Oregon in another boom?

At the Bend Chamber Real Estate Forecast Breakfast, panelists will compare then and now and discover if the recent growth in housing prices is based on sound economic ground, or speculative growth.

On April 20 at the Tower Theatre, state economist and moderator Damon Runberg and panelists Dan Hobin, CEO and co-founder of G5; Jay Lyons, principal broker at Compass Commercial Real Estate Services; Todd Taylor, CEO of Taylor Northwest; Steve Klingman, president of Hayden Homes; Jon Skidmore, assistant city manager for the City of Bend; and Wendy Adkisson, managing principal broker of Keller Williams Realty will educate the audience on what all of this may mean for our community and businesses.

“The Holy Grail for economists is to find a leading indicator that can be used to explain current economic conditions; the trigger that foreshadows expansion or recession,” said Runberg. “The rapid recovery has given many that sense of déjà vu, a sense that these economic conditions are similar to those years of rapid growth during the housing boom.”

Panelists will first travel back in time to 2005-2007

when Central Oregon’s economy was “booming” to learn from the past. Next, they will jump back to the present to discuss how the election and the erratic stock market will impact growth trends, property prices, construction and Bend’s urban growth boundary remand.

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– Robin Rogers

“At the Real Estate Forecast Breakfast, my goal is to really look at what impacts us: employers, employees, residents, homebuyers and homeowners,” said Bend Chamber Vice President of Programs and Events Robin Rogers. “It’s about getting stakeholders in the room who can give us knowledge we wouldn’t otherwise have access to and sharing that information with the community at large. The audience will get their questions answered and their concerns addressed.”

Lady Outlaws win Sky-Em opener

By Tom Mauldin
Correspondent

After getting its first win of the season over Cottage Grove, the Sisters High School varsity softball team discovered why Elmira and Sweet Home are ranked among the state’s top 4A teams.

The Outlaws started the week with a 19-9 win over Cottage Grove, but then fell in five-inning contests to unbeaten Elmira, 16-0, and Sweet Home, 18-0.

Dating back to the 2015 season, the win over Cottage Grove was the locals’ third-straight Sky-Em League win. But the ensuing losses dropped the Outlaws to 1-2 in league and 1-5 overall.

In beating Cottage Grove, junior lefty Amanda Smith struck out 17 in the six-inning contest. She recorded all of the Outlaw outs by strikeout with the exception of one.

Smith also hit a three-run home run and singled twice. In addition to her roundtripper, the Outlaws had a surplus of offense as senior Leah McIntosh tripled and singled three times and Zoe Nason doubled and added three singles. Also getting base hits for SHS were Sarah Hartford, Haley Magalic, Sophia Affatati, Marie Coffee and Kylie Steiner.

The 10-run victory was the Outlaws first run-rule victory (leading by 10 runs or more after five innings) in three seasons, dating back to 2013.

All total, Sisters collected

two-dozen base hits. They committed 16 errors, giving them 35 in the three Sky-Em League games.

The Outlaws, however, were on the other side of run-rule decisions against Sweet Home and Elmira, the Oregon Schools Athletic Association’s No. 2-ranked team with a 13-0 record.

Smith had 14 strikeouts in five innings against Sweet Home (7-5 on the season), but walked seven and the Outlaws committed a dozen errors.

“Sweet Home is a good ball team,” said Outlaws Coach Dave Smith. “They came to play and they did.”

Savana Ryan doubled to lead the Outlaws against Elmira.

Miranda Jensen pitched a two-hitter with eight strikeouts, had three hits and scored four times to lead Elmira’s (3-0 Sky-Em) win. Josie Dickson added two hits and three runs batted in.

Due to injuries, Smith has been forced to put players in positions they don’t normally play, but found many silver linings in the lineup changes.

“I am impressed with the way these girls are



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Shauna Ferrel makes the play in centerfield.

coming along,” said Smith, who praised the play of Steiner, who has caught, played shortstop and second base this season.

He also praised the play of outfielder Shauna Ferrel.

The Outlaws were scheduled to complete the first round of Sky-Em League play by hosting Junction City on Monday and travel to Sutherlin on April 13. They open the second round of Sky-Em action on April 15 at Cottage Grove.

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