

Business & Ag

Quail Crossing Studio opens in Haines

• **LOCAL ARTIST**
BECKY MANCINO
LITKE FULFILLS
LIFELONG DREAM

BY **KERRY McQUISTEN**
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Last Sunday, local artist Becky Mancino Litke held an afternoon open house for her newest endeavor, Quail Crossing Studio, at 645 3rd Street in Haines.

Filled with a steady stream of friends, family and interested patrons, the cozy studio is off to a popular start—even though the studio tour-slash-official opening isn't until October 4th.

Opening the studio is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for the artist.

"I've been painting and drawing since I was a little kid," began Litke.

She added, "When I was about seven or eight was when I first started. I went to school in Detroit. The Parks and Recreation had a painting class for twenty-five-cents. So I would go home after school and do chores for the money for that class. This was in the early '50s, and money wasn't easy to come by."

Litke paints on just about anything, she said, pointing out tiles, wood and elk antlers in addition to more traditional paper and canvas. Her studio boasts a well-appointed workspace, a display of her work and a retail area.

Items such as prints, cards, notebooks and her new 2016 calendar are available for purchase.

As Litke said, "I have lived here in spurts." Her children were raised in Baker County, where she lived from 1968-1979. After that, she spent time in Michigan and in Boise, Idaho, where she was a restaurant owner, before moving back home to Haines in 2000.

For a time, she and her husband Bruce considered, and even tried to sell their Haines home, before changing their minds and deciding to build Litke's dream studio right there instead.

In between transactions, Litke reminisced about some of her more interesting sales—some of which have placed her art into private collections around the world.

"There was a lady who came into my booth in Boise," she began. "She was



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Becky Mancino Litke stands near just a few of the paintings on display on one wall at her new Haines-based studio, Quail Crossing Studio.

on a trip from Holland and bought a painting of tulips to take back with her. So I know I have work on display in Holland—and also Germany."

In recent years, Litke has turned to local scenery and wildlife paintings for the most part. "Dogs and cats have paid a lot of bills," she said with a laugh.

She credits her husband of 13 years with some of that wildlife focus, and for introducing her to hunting. The antlers from her first hunting victory, a buck, are mounted above the door to her studio.

Her granddaughter, CyAnn, there with father George Turner, were quick to show off a lifelike portrait Litke had painted.

The Quail Crossing Studio itself boasts a rustic vibe inside, designed and built by "loving hands of family and friends," Litke said.

The studio, named for the birds that frequent the street in front of it, was built by Bruce with the help of Doug Schneider and Jeff Raymond. Three Old Crows, owned by Michele Johnson and Jayson Clarke from Toledo, Oregon, did the interior design.

The framing cabinet was built by Cabin Cowboy Designs of Baker City, owned by Be Tiedemann, and Rockin'R Electibles, owned by L. D. Ritter.

Jeff and Darcy Raymond donated the Redwood used inside Quail Crossing.

Among her other accomplishments, in 2014, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife chose

Litke's vibrant painting of a frog as runner-up during its annual conservation stamp contest. There was no prize for runner-up, she explained, simply the recognition of a job well done.

Much like icing on the cake, Litke has also been selected as one of the two Featured Artists to be spotlighted at the upcoming annual gala at Crossroads Art Center.

"It's just such an honor to be chosen and honored," she said. "Especially out of all the wonderful artists in the area. I'm excited."

Becky is also a teacher who has taught for the Nampa Art Guild, the Caldwell Art Association, Purple Sage Creative Arts, and Grant County Arts Association and currently teaches at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center.

Crossroads' director, Ginger Savage wrote in a press release that Litke, in addition to artist Sue Orlaske of Summerville, were chosen for the gala due to their "contributions to Crossroads and to the arts and culture ecology of Eastern Oregon."

Writes Savage, "Becky Litke's selection as Honored Artist was an easy decision for the Crossroads Board. Becky's 'Learn to Love Watercolor' class every Wednesday has introduced hundreds of locals to the joys of painting. Becky is always willing and available to teach or assist with a special tour groups, specialty classes and special events at Crossroads. Becky also has mentored dozens of artists in being

professional in the business of art and truly sets the bar of excellence in understanding her audience and what her buyers will purchase ... Becky consistently donates work for gala or offers gift certificates for her classes and is just a dear friend to the organization and beloved by the entire staff."

After the October 4th studio tour, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., those interested in viewing Litke's art inside the studio can call for an appointment. Litke creates a variety of commission work, and welcomes calls at 541.856.3554.

Litke's art is also displayed and for sale in other retail locations around the area, such as Cowboy Cabin Designs and the Short Term Gallery in Baker City.

The 2016 Gala Fundraising Dinner on October 17, 2015, "GI Jive: A 1940's USO Show," will be held at the Baker Event Center.

Tickets are \$40 a person at Crossroads and include dinner with beef donated by John and Molly Wilson, as well as a vegetarian option prepared by volunteers Kristen Bell Anderson and Jessica Wickert.

Music will be performed by swing band, the Blue Yesterdays, and the Andrew Sisters will join in a special performance.

This year's gala honors the "Greatest Generation" and celebrates the arts, culture, music and spirit of the 1940s.

For more information contact Crossroads at 541.523.5369 or 2020 Auburn Avenue in Baker City.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, September 4, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week-ago prices. Mid quality alfalfa (fair/good/premium) in Lake County trended higher compared to week ago prices. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices. Some producers are having their water rights cut off due to the drought.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Small Square, Premium	150 200.00-200.00	200.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square, Premium	45 190.00-190.00	190.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square, Fair/Good	250 125.00-125.00	125.00
Orchard Grass — Small Square, Premium	30 195.00-195.00	195.00
Timothy Grass — Small Square, Premium	10 195.00-195.00	195.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 798

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 281.00 - 304.00	Top 314.00
400-500#	Bulk 234.00 - 278.00	Top 285.00
500-600#	Bulk 218.00 - 255.00	Top 257.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 257.00 - 278.00	Top 281.00
400-500#	Bulk 222.00 - 249.00	Top 255.00
500-600#	Bulk 196.00 - 222.00	Top 226.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 198.00 - 219.00	Top 223.00
700-800#	Bulk 194.00 - 209.00	Top 210.00
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 186.00 - 206.00	Top 209.00
700-800#	Bulk 184.00 - 201.00	Top 203.00
800-900#	Bulk 159.00 - 172.00	Top 176.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows 81.00 - 91.00

Butcher Cows 93.00 - 102.00

Butcher Bulls 98.00 - 127.00

Stock Cows Yng. 1400.00 - 1800.00

Younger Hfrts. N/A

Stock Cows - N/A

ProducersLivestock.com

541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir is \$415.00/mbf

White fir is \$365.00/mb

Ponderosa Pine is brought sold on diameter splits

6 to 11 inch dib \$300 to \$310/MBF

12 to 17 inch dib \$350 to \$375/MBF

18 to 23 inch dib \$400 to \$430/MBF

24 inch plus dib \$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at

small end of log.

MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.

People interested in selling logs

should call and get specific

quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1103.80

Silver: \$14.59

Platinum: \$981.60

Palladium: \$579.35

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$369.00/bu/USD

Wheat: \$473.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$874.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$236.00/bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$12.51/cwt/USD

Canola: \$464.70 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$143.00/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$198.60/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$69.03/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Eagle Complex closures reduced

The Eagle Complex Fire Area Closure was reduced in size Wednesday. Specified roads will remain closed. On Thursday, the Type 3 incident management team, led by Willy Crippen, Incident Commander, turned command over to a smaller organization managed by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, under the command of Tyson Baxter, Type 4 Incident Commander.

Good progress continues to be made on the Eagle Complex, located 20 miles northwest of Richland, Oregon. The 12,763 acre lightning caused wildfire is 75% contained, and has

burned 463 acres of privately owned land protected by Oregon Department of Forestry and 12,300 acres of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. There are 91 personnel assigned to the fire, including 2 crews, 4 engines, 3 water tenders, 1 dozer, and 2 helicopters. The incident command post will remain at the Lily White Forest Service work center until Sunday.

A helicopter and an infrared camera will be used to find heat remaining along the perimeter of the fire and near structures today. And firefighters on the ground are using hand held

infrared cameras again to detect heat around the cabins and structures along East Eagle Creek.

Hose will be left in place awhile longer around the cabins and structures along East Eagle Creek. Engines are continuing to mop up and patrol around the cabins along East Eagle Creek, by FS Road 7745. Two fallers are felling hazardous trees. Existing roads in the vicinity of the fire that have been impacted by fire suppression traffic are being graded.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessment of the Eagle Complex is beginning, to

identify imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property and critical natural or cultural resources.

The public use restrictions on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest were reduced to Phase A on September 9th. This change allows campfires in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock or a commercial fire ring, that is cleared of all flammable material within a 3 foot radius. A shovel and one gallon of water is required to have a campfire. Operating a chain saw is allowed from 8 p.m. to 1 p.m.