

# Business & Ag

## Wisdom House opens its doors on First Friday

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After traveling to Eastern Oregon via the Oregon Trail, John Wisdom built one of the first houses in Baker—its special claim to fame at the time was that it was the first house in Baker to have an indoor toilet.

The Wisdom House, as it is known, was built in 1878.

On Friday, October 2, 2015, Veronica Johnson watched as her dreams came true.

After six months of working, planning, renovating and dreaming, Wisdom House was finally being shown to the public.

Dozens of visitors explored the home, commenting on the beauty of the architecture, the decor, and the history.

Upstairs are two beautifully appointed bedrooms, each of which has a door leading out to the second story wrap-around balcony.

There is also a cozy sitting room, where guest may watch TV or Netflix, play movies, or just sit and visit. The large upstairs bathroom is charming, with a lovely chandelier, claw foot tub, and an antique dresser repurposed to hold a quaint bathroom basin.

Downstairs is the large living room, with high ceilings and large windows. The windows' architrave, while not the original pieces, were specially made to duplicate the original.

Hanging in pride of place is the mirror John Wisdom originally had hung in the house, which Wisdom had brought with him on his journey along the Oregon Trail.

Veronica had searched for months, tracking its assorted owners, before it



Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Wisdom House on the corner of Broadway and Second held an open house last Friday in conjunction with First Friday.

was finally discovered in Nevada City.

The sitting room leads to another beautifully appointed room, the formal dining room. From there is the kitchen, which includes a breakfast area.

Helping Johnson realize her dreams were her family and friends. Stephanie Tweit, of I So Do Events, provided tours of the home, and M. Lynnne Johnson, children's author and illustrator, and family consultant, displayed her artwork and books in the dining room.

Patty Hartley (Veronica's sister) and Susan Strand were providing the catering and serving for the open house. Hartley said they had enjoyed a wonderful "sisters weekend" at the house, prior to

the open house.

Veronica Johnson explained some of her plans for the house and property. "I want to have it used for all kinds of events," she said. "Weddings in the garden, once the landscaping is complete, movie nights where we can set up a big screen and show old movies, corporate events and retreats, anniversary celebrations, parties—all with the help of Stephanie (Tweit) who is a very experienced event planner."

Johnson went on to say that she was considering hiring a local chef and selling tickets to occasional elegant meals.

"When we first moved here, we were disappointed to find nobody dressed up for special occasions, so I'm thinking elegant din-

ners might give people the chance to wear something special that they don't often get to wear," she explained.

Although there are many events that will be planned for the house, it will also be available as a rental for individuals.

An opportunity for local people to put guests up in a stately old home rather than overflow bedrooms, a getaway for couples wanting a relaxing retreat while they explore the surrounding areas, another option for businesses who have corporate guests.

The reopening of the Wisdom House marks another historic home that's been standing empty for years, now brought back into sound economic use.

## Chandler Herefords inducted in national Hereford Hall of Fame

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"From 1970 to 2005, we quit focusing on the show-ring but focused on generating quality cattle for serious cattlemen," said Duane. "We focused on genetics and feed-efficiency. Now that the industry has a good idea of feed efficiency we are back in the show-ring."

Duane, his father George, and brother-in-law Cliff Hall, have produced one of the most feed-efficient breeds in the history of the industry.

"Ultra-efficient," in the words of Duane.

The industry average in terms of feed-efficiency as measured by weight-gain shows an intake of seven to eight pounds of dry feed per pound of weight gain in cattle.

The Chandlers produce cattle that far eclipse that the industry average with an average feed-efficiency that sees a weight gain of four pounds for every (approximately) six pounds of dry feed, according to Duane.

Since entering back into

the show-ring, the Chandler Herefords has begun to rack up more honors. In 2015, Chandler Herefords were awarded Best of Show at the California and Washington state fairs, and in 2014 earned several division championships along with the Western Nationals at the Reno Nugget Show.

Chandler Herefords remains on the cutting edge of the cattle industry by constantly evolving and using modern technology to continue to improve the herd. While in college in the 1990s, Duane developed a statistical program they still use today. The program, called Expected Progeny Differences, records traits of offspring and suggests blending traits to produce the highest quality, most consistent herd.

Duane has also created a strong presence for Chandler Herefords on the internet, posting more than 70 videos boasting 5.5 million views on Youtube. The Chandler Herefords Youtube channel has more than 1,200 subscribers, ac-



Submitted Photo.

This prize-winning Hereford female is yet another example of Chandler Herefords quality.

cording to Duane.

"In 2007, there were some Oklahoma residents interested in buying our cows. From that we began an internet Hereford sale. We became one of the first to have Herefords on internet sales. The idea was to bring the ranch to the people," he said.

"I feel blessed because of my ancestors. The family has always had the same eye for cattle and that has created a uniform and consistent cowherd," Duane said.

Duane may share the

same sensibilities as his Grandfather Charles Chandler II, who turned 96 this year, when it comes to producing high-quality and consistent Hereford cattle herds but this sixth generation rancher has brought the 21st Century into his family's business. This ability to adapt and the constant grasp for improvement may be the main reason behind the success and longevity of, Chandler Herefords, the oldest business in Baker County.

### — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, October 2, 2015 — Eastern Oregon  
Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Export sales continue to be slow. Retail/Stable demand for all types of hay from Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wasco counties continues to be good. 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 — Large Square, Good	200	250.00-250.00	250.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square, Good	10	90.00-90.00	90.00
Meadow Grass — Small Square, Good	34	175.00-180.00	179.41

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

### — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, September 30, 2015  
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 954

#### Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	221.00 - 253.00	Top 259.00
400-500#	Bulk	186.00 - 226.00	Top 227.50
500-600#	Bulk	178.00 - 198.00	Top 201.00

#### Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	189.00 - 226.00	Top 229.00
400-500#	Bulk	167.00 - 188.00	Top 195.00
500-600#	Bulk	158.00 - 179.00	Top 183.00

#### Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	162.00 - 185.00	Top 186.00
700-800#	Bulk	146.00 - 169.00	Top 172.00
800-900#	Bulk	139.00 - 158.00	Top 159.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	141.00 - 154.00	Top 155.50

#### Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	151.00 - 165.00	Top 168.50
700-800#	Bulk	144.00 - 153.00	Top 156.00
800-900#	Bulk	139.00 - 157.00	Top 159.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	132.00 - 144.00	Top 151.00

Thin Shelly Cows	64.00 - 85.00
Butcher Cows	89.00 - 99.00
Butcher Bulls	84.00 - 104.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	106.00 - 126.00
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/mbf
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: \$1146.80

Silver: \$15.95

Platinum: \$934.00

Palladium: \$704.70

Bloomberg.com

### — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$397.75/bu/USD

Wheat: \$524.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$889.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$219.00/bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$13.37/cwt/USD

Canola: \$476.70 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$133.23/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$178.03/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$66.65/lb./USD

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