

# Business & Ag

## Economic development discusses grocery options

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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The Baker County Economic Development Committee (EDC) met on Thursday, October 22, at 4 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the County Courthouse, to discuss a variety of topics, among them timber salvage, development and employment issues, and the future of grocery shopping in Baker City.

Attending the meeting were County Commission Chair Bill Harvey, EDC Chair Craig Ward, BTI Director Jerry Peacock, Baker County Economic Development Director Greg Smith, Smith's assistant Julie Hicks, Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center (BMCC SBDC) Vice President Jeff Nelson, City Manager Mike Kee, BMCC SBDC Advisor Glenas Orcutt, Baker County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debi Bainter, and former BMCC SBDC Advisor Bob Savage.

Ward called the meeting to order, followed by introductions, including new SBDC Advisor Orcutt, former Regional Advertising Director for the Baker City Herald and the La Grande Observer.

Harvey, giving those present a Commission Chair update, spoke about the second coordination meeting between Tom Montoya and Jeff Tomac, of the U.S. Forest Service



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

The economic development committee met last week to discuss the Haggen situation among other topics.

(USFS), and the County Commissioners, held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. "It went pretty well. Intense sometimes. I'm getting used to that... Mr. Tomac and I've had a good day... We're getting the (salvage timber) assessments put together. I'm meeting with them again in two weeks, with Mr. Tomac, and finalizing some plans, and kind of knowing the direction and the volume of what we're cutting," Harvey said.

He also mentioned a similar type of coordination meeting, with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), held on Thursday, October 29, also in the Commission Chambers. Harvey said there will be ongoing

meetings to discuss the coordination process not only with the aforementioned agencies, but also the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and both the State and U.S. Fish and Wildlife services.

Ward asked Harvey about the timber market, to which Harvey replied that private sales are showing an average gross of \$100 per 1,000 board feet, "... which is better than I thought," Harvey said. He said the USFS's volume will possibly be higher than private volume, and private timber owners are being encouraged to get their product out of the woods as soon as possible, and to the market.

As part of a BMCC SBDC update, Nelson in-

troduced Orcutt, and then said, "We had a wonderful Public Talk, out at the prison," speaking about the recent business event held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Powder River Correctional Facility on 13th Street.

Savage, at the request of Nelson, spoke more about the event, stating that over 40 people were present. "It was well attended. Really, everyone there, I think, had a great time," Savage said. The event showcased the partnership between BMCC SBDC and inmates at the facility, in order to broaden employment and business opportunities upon the inmates' release.

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### — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, October 23, 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, Fair	1,600 100.00-100.00	100.00
Meadow Grass — Small Square, Premium	8 260.00-260.00	260.00
<b>Last week:</b>		
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Large Square, Good	700 150.00-150.00	150.00
Wheat / Barley Straw — Small Square, Utility	400 45.00-45.00	45.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

### — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,113

#### Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 250.00 - 290.00	Top 300.00
400-500#	Bulk 220.00 - 260.00	Top 270.00
500-600#	Bulk 185.00 - 215.00	Top 219.00

#### Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 210.00 - 228.00	Top 231.00
400-500#	Bulk 180.00 - 205.00	Top 212.00
500-600#	Bulk 170.00 - 184.00	Top 188.00

#### Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 175.00 - 195.00	Top 204.00
700-800#	Bulk 173.00 - 180.00	Top 189.50
800-900#	Bulk 161.00 - 172.00	Top 175.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 150.00 - 162.00	Top 167.50

#### Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 150.00 - 172.00	Top 181.00
700-800#	Bulk 149.00 - 175.00	Top 180.00
800-900#	Bulk 135.00 - 168.00	Top 170.50
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	50.00 - 65.00
Butcher Cows	70.00 - 78.00
Butcher Bulls	72.00 - 86.00
Stock Cows Yng.	1350.00 -1500.00
Younger Hfrts.	N/A
Stock Cows Yng.	- 1350.00 -1500.00

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: \$1166.90

Silver: \$15.93

Platinum: \$991.05

Palladium: \$681.28

Bloomberg.com

### — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn:	\$381.75/bu/USD
Wheat:	\$512.50/bu/USD
Soybeans:	\$892.50/bu/USD
Oats:	\$228.00/bu/USD
Rough Rice:	\$11.82/cwt/USD
Canola:	\$477.70 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle:	\$140.50/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle:	\$180.18/lb./USD
Lean Hogs:	\$62.08/lb./USD

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## ATTENTION!

Monday, November 2, 6-9 p.m.  
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
at the La Grande Armory  
404 12th Ave. in **La Grande**

Monday, November 9, 6-9 p.m.  
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
at the National Guard Armory  
1640 Campbell Street in **Baker City**

The U.S. Forest Service will hold meetings Monday, Nov. 2nd at the armory in La Grande to discuss access (motorized and non-motorized) and increased wilderness designation in Eastern Oregon, and Monday, Nov. 9 at the armory in Baker City.

Forest Access For All is asking all interested residents in Eastern Oregon and around the region to attend these meetings and speak out against further motorized use restrictions in our area.

Again, the meetings will be at the La Grande Armory, November 2 and the National Guard Armory in Baker City on November 9. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

For the sake of your children's and grandchildren's future access, we ask that you attend the meetings and tell the Forest Service that any plan that restricts open motorized in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon is unacceptable and is not a plan any of us can live with.

**DON'T MISS THESE MEETINGS.**