

Business & Ag

Columbia Basin Helicopters

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The total, according to the document, includes \$238,738.70 in attorney fees, for the period of October 24, 2011, through June 8, 2015; \$5,248.98 in costs, for the period of October 24, 2011, through June 8, 2015; \$55,195.50 in attorney fees, for the period of June 9, 2015, through January 31, 2016; and \$181.49 in costs, for the period of June 9, 2015, through January 31, 2016.

In his opinion, Pahl stated, "McCarty had previously hired Branden Eyre of the Mautz firm in La Grande, OR and also Pam Hardy but both lawyers withdrew as this case was going to involve a great amount of effort and they would not have the time to handle it properly."

Pahl stated that Lane Powell's a very qualified firm, and that the Court "... was convinced from its own observations and the credible expert testimony that this case was dif-

ficult and required a very experienced and high level of legal representation in areas of land use and aviation law."

Pahl also stated that Larsen, whose current fee is \$500 per hour, had kept her rate at \$465 per hour in this matter, since 2014. "Baker County's objection to the award of attorney fees without specificity regarding the basis of its objections has unreasonably prolonged this matter," Pahl stated, and, "There was no credible evidence presented that McCarty's lack of diligence or experience caused any of the expense of this dispute."

Pahl stated that evidence was presented that the County failed to respond to McCarty's settlement proposal, extending the length of the case.

In response to hearing of the opinion, Van Thiel said, "Certainly, I'm disappointed, on behalf of the County...I don't know how else we could have tried the case, in any other way..."

Van Thiel said that, at this point (as of this writing), a judgment, different from an opinion, is yet to be issued, which means that the case has not yet come to a conclusion. Once a judgment has been issued (which the defendant, the prevailing party in this case, prepares, as a type of pleading for the Court, based on the opinion), the County has the right to object to that judgment, he said.

McCarty said, "It's good to see the judge serve justice. The County spent my own taxpayer money, too, fighting against me. I didn't make a dime off of this, and I'm still in the hole...I'm glad to get it over with, and behind us... Union County (La Grande, where his company is currently headquartered) was glad to have us there..." He said that, according to Larsen, she expected to have filed the judgment by the end of this week.

Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey, who received notice of

the opinion from Van Thiel, said, "The law says 'reasonable,' but, what is 'reasonable?' Lawyers around here, range, as an average, somewhere around \$240 to \$250 an hour ... This was not that specialized of a trial—it's just land-use issues. We, in eastern Oregon, deal with land-use issues daily. They don't in Portland ..." He said that McCarty had a wide range of competent attorneys available for his representation in eastern Oregon.

The amount of the judgment, which could ultimately be over \$300,000 (not confirmed as of this writing), would be dispersed from the County general fund, Harvey said. "The necessities that we've been trying to accomplish around here, some of them are going to be put on hold..."

With less than three months left in the fiscal year, Harvey said, he's not sure what the timing of the dispersal would be.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, February 26, 2016 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices in a very limited test. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices or to feed to their own animals. Many hay producers are sold out for the year. No new sales were reported. Last week's were:

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa—Large Square Premium	300 125.00-125.00	125.00
Alfalfa—Large Square Good	40 120.00-120.00	120.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix—Small Square Premium	25 190.00-195.00	192.00
Timothy Grass—Small Square Premium	3 195.00-195.00	195.00
Meadow Grass—Small Square Good	2 150.00-150.00	150.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1592

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 212.00 - 231.00	Top 232.50
400-500#	Bulk 185.00 - 230.00	Top 236.50
500-600#	Bulk 170.00 - 194.00	Top 195.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 187.00 - 209.00	Top 213.50
400-500#	Bulk 171.00 - 207.00	Top 207.50
500-600#	Bulk 151.00 - 178.00	Top 185.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 154.00 - 171.00	Top 174.00
700-800#	Bulk 141.00 - 158.00	Top 159.50
800-900#	Bulk 129.00 - 141.00	Top 142.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 137.00 - 158.50	Top 159.00
700-800#	Bulk 126.00 - 144.00	Top 145.00
800-900#	Bulk 117.00 - 126.00	Top 128.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	44.00 - 59.00
Butcher Cows	63.00 - 73.00
Butcher Bulls	73.00 - 84.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	79.00 - 102.00
Stock Cows Older.	985.00 - 1250.00

ProducersLivestock.com

541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Currently the local log market is flooded with fire salvage logs. The log buyer for Malheur Lumber Co. stated they have all the logs they need under contract and are not accepting any new purchases. BCC/LLC of La Grande has receive so many burned fire salvage logs they are no longer accepting logs at the La Grande log yard. Any additional pine logs have to be delivered to the Elgin Log yard cut in plywood lengths and to a 8 inch top. For these pine logs cut in plywood lengths, BCC is offering \$280.00/mbf. They are also paying \$410.00/mbf for Doug Fir & Western Larch. For White Fir they are offering \$310.00/mbf. At the Pilot Rock Saw Mill BCC is offering \$360.00/mbf for a 12 to 15 inch top, for 16 to 19 inch top \$400.00/mbf & offering \$425.00/mbf for 20 inch plus top

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,231.50

Silver: \$14.83

Platinum: \$934.85

Palladium: \$512.10

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$355.75/bu/USD

Wheat: \$446.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$858.00/bu/USD

Oats: \$178.00 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$10.65/cwt/USD

Canola: \$446.80 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$137.10/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$157.95/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$70.40/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Sumpter Valley holds community potluck and game night

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Last Saturday evening, the Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) hosted a potluck and game night designed to give folks a reason to get together and learn more about the goals of SVCV.

A gathering of nearly thirty took advantage of the opportunity.

President Mark Luker opened the evening with a brief prayer.

Ham, table service, and coffee were provided with attendees bringing a delicious variety of accompanying main dishes, salads, and desserts.

After everyone had had a chance to make it to dessert, Vice President John Young stood and shared a few remarks.

He joked, "Now that we've got you here, we've locked the doors, and there will be a program."

He touched briefly on the origins of SVCV, saying that they got tired of all that was going on in town and all the politics. He said they have done a pretty good job of leaving politics out and just getting together to do good things for the town.

He talked about tasks the group has undertaken, including repairing and restaining Breakfast Club benches last year.

He also shared various ideas the group may tackle in the future, including improvements to Volunteer Park, work in the cemetery, or construction of bus shelters for children to wait for the school bus during inclement weather.

Secretary LeAnn Woolf had printed flyers with pictures and information regarding past and future projects, which were posted on the walls.

Applications for membership were made available at the event.

Young explained that

dues had originally been set at \$40 per family, but the group had decided to lower the cost to make sure it is not prohibitive to those wishing to become members.

The cost is now \$10 per adult.

Young explained that these dues are necessary for insurance purposes. Luker quipped, "And as soon as we get your ten dollars, we'll unlock the door!"

Young added membership is not required to take part in any events. Meetings and activities are open to the public.

After the potluck, most people departed, though several stayed to visit and take part in a few energetic rounds of Ping Pong.

More information on SVCV is available online at <https://sumptervolunteers.wordpress.com>.

Meetings are generally held the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sumpter Community Center.



Meghan Andersch / The Baker County Press

About 30 volunteers and citizens participated in the potluck over the weekend.

Bruce Nichols for County Commissioner
Meet & Greet the Candidate

You are Invited

Tuesday March 8th - 5:30PM to 8:00PM
Baker City Golf Course Lounge
2801 Indiana Ave.

Finger Foods Will Be Provided

Campaign Donations Graciously Accepted
But Not Required

"Minding the County's Business"

MAAG & OFT & Vallad

18th Annual Performance Sale


Thursday, March 17, 2016

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New this year! www.dvauction.com This sale will be broadcast live on the Internet
DVAuction — real time bidding & proxy bidding