

Business & Ag

Opera comes to the Geiser Grand



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press



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Jordan Bowman sings to the crowd below.

BY KERRY MCQUISTEN
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“I was just so taken with them,” said Barbara Sidway, owner of the Geiser Grand Hotel in Baker City. Sidway refers to Jordan Bowman and Zachary Buker, two friends who met at college and formed Opera Elect.

Opera Elect is a relatively new production company formed in 2014, which, according to Bowman, strives to focus on up-and-coming young artists in the Boise area and beyond.

The pair are traveling far and wide to promote their company—and their talents.

Buker said, “We’ve been in bars, on big stages, little stages—no stages!”

After calling around

Baker City, Bowman said several potential venues guided them toward the Geiser Grand, where Sidway jumped at the opportunity.

Dinner guests at the Geiser Grand will be treated to a free two-hour performance by the duo every Tuesday evening, 6-8 p.m. until the end of September.

“They just have to make dinner reservations,” Sidway said.

According to Buker, he and Bowman used to serve as wait staff in Boise, singing to patrons for additional tips. When that technique didn’t go over too well with the restaurant’s owners, the idea of forming Opera Elect quickly became a reality.

“We want to make opera

fun for people,” Bowman said.

“We’re a small dose,” Buker said. “We’re not going to take up your entire evening.”

At the Geiser Grand, Bowman and Buker typically begin their performances upstairs beneath the hotel’s famous stained glass ceiling. Their strong voices carry down to the dining area below, the evening’s songs ranging from classical opera to more contemporary pieces.

“Danny Boy” was a popular number the previous week, said Sidway.

One does not have to be an opera aficionado to enjoy the show, and diners are encouraged to continue laughing and talking throughout the performances as Bowman

and Buker gradually work their way downstairs to the main floor.

They say it’s not unheard of to find cash tucked into their clothing on the way out of the dining area thanks to a certain table filled with spry elderly ladies, they confided.

The pair hope to one day found a large opera house in the “middle of nowhere” they said in unison. This is their “big dream,” they said.

Bowman has been singing since she was 17, with some producing under her belt. Buker has conducting and piano experience, and has been singing seriously since his freshman year of college.

For more information on this talented group, visit operaelect.org.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, June 17, 2016 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices in a very limited test. Some hay producers are starting to cut, market and sell new crop hay. Some areas of Oregon are experiencing some rain, delaying cutting and harvest. No new sales reported. Two weeks ago:

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa/Ochard Mix — Small Square Premium		
20	165.00-165.00	165.00
Three weeks ago:		
Alfalfa — Mid Square Good		
150	190.00-190.00	190.00
Alfalfa — Small Square Premium		
23	170.00-170.00	170.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,246

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 157.00 - 186.00	Top 193.00
400-500#	Bulk 173.00 - 186.00	Top 195.00
500-600#	Bulk 139.00 - 166.00	Top 173.25

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 137.00 - 158.00	Top 164.00
400-500#	Bulk 153.00 - 169.00	Top 175.00
500-600#	Bulk 137.00 - 159.00	Top 163.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 136.00 - 151.00	Top 155.50
700-800#	Bulk 131.00 - 137.00	Top 138.25
800-900#	Bulk 121.00 - 128.00	Top 130.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 109.00 - 117.00	Top 118.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 126.00 - 137.00	Top 141.00
700-800#	Bulk 113.00 - 119.00	Top 123.00
800-900#	Bulk 108.00 - 116.00	Top 118.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	63.00 - 71.00
Butcher Cows	74.00 - 81.00
Butcher Bulls	81.00 - 94.00
Pairs Yng.	1235.00 - 1710.00
Hfretts.	83.00 - 101.00
Stock Cows Young	- N/A

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 \$420.00/mbf for Doug Fir & Western Larch. For White Fir they are offering \$325.00/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: \$1,264.20

Silver: \$17.25

Platinum: \$977.50

Palladium: \$560.27

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$398.25/bu/USD

Wheat: \$427.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1116.75/bu/USD

Oats: \$216.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$11.23/cwt/USD

Canola: \$490.90 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$111.63/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$140.18/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$85.85/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Travel Management Plan Committee discusses recreation

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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Members of the Baker County Travel Management Plan (TMP) Committee, a sub-group of the County’s Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC), met on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 3 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, in order to discuss proposed additions to the Recreation & Tourism, and Access & Travel Management sections of the County’s Natural Resource Plan (NRP).

Present were NRAC Chair Doni Bruland, TMP Chair Marty Stroy, and TMP members Wanda Ballard, Chuck Chase, Denise Kinzer, and Bob Harris.

Stroy called the meeting to order, and introductions were made, followed by the segment Public Participation. Chase said, “Mining’s on the way out; our public lands are on the way out; I don’t know what else you’re going to do...” He said even attempts at agency-to-agency coordination is currently an uphill battle.

Ballard said, “...the (County) Commissioners have added a section, specifically for the bicyclists, and the economic impact that they bring...I feel really strongly that they should not be given any special recognition, more than any other activity...” Ballard was referring to one of the proposed additions, regarding mountain biking, as part of the Recreation & Tourism section. In its draft form, copies of which were given to the committee, it read as follows:

“Mountain biking is a popular and growing sport,



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

The TMP Committee is a sub-group of the County’s Natural Resource Committee. L-R: Wanda Ballard, Doni Bruland, Mary Stroy, Bob Harris, Denise Kinzer, and Chuck Chase.

and recreational pursuit. It is also an emerging force in developing tourism for rural communities through economic diversification. It is Baker County’s policy to maintain and improve access to public lands through the existing roads and trails systems to benefit recreational, health, social and economic opportunities that mountain biking and other trail activities provide.”

Bruland explained that this proposed addition was in response to lobbying efforts in connection with the Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort (ALMR), with an emphasis on trail-associated mountain biking, as opposed to more urban-type bicycling.

Chase said there are issues with bicyclists in general, and Ballard stated she’s opposed to favoritism regarding one form of recreation over another, and that the tour dollars brought in by bicyclists is minimal. Harris said there are safety issues on the highways, bicyclists don’t purchase fuel, which means there is no gas tax

contribution, and he also echoed Ballard’s statement about the lack of tourism dollars.

Stroy read the proposed addition to the Access & Travel Management section, or the Recreation & Tourism section (to be decided) as follows, again, in draft form, at the start of the meeting:

“Because there is significant economic loss to communities and the county due to the extreme fluctuations of Brownlee Reservoir, Baker County encourages federal agencies and other stakeholders in the Brownlee Reservoir to value the healthy, warm water fishery by maintaining stable water levels to meet the needs of recreationists. This includes allowing accessibility to launch boats at a minimum elevation of 2,044 feet.”

Bruland said that guidance regarding the statement about elevation was provided by Baker County Parks and Recreation Director Karen Spencer, and that the Army Corps of Engineers is also involved with the operation and con-

trol of the reservoir. Harris asked what the full elevation of Brownlee is, and Bruland responded that it’s at about 2,078 feet.

Stroy relayed a story about some friends who used to visit Brownlee every year to fish, but who now frequent other spots, because of the issues there with access, etc., which is an example of the economic impacts, he said. Bruland said that, in recent years, Brownlee had been Oregon’s #1 warm water fishery, and she emphasized the economic loss, with people not recreating there.

Bruland asked whether the Brownlee addition should be in Access & Travel Management, Recreation & Tourism, or both, and the response was that it should be added to Recreation & Tourism. Wanda moved that the Brownlee edit be added to the Recreation & Tourism section, and Stroy seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

SEE TPM
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