

Business & Ag

Sherman retires from Blue Mountain Design



David Conn / The Baker County Press

L-R: Blue Mountain Design staff Elaine Morin, Leslie Jones, Jim McElroy, Joan Sherman, Erin Torres.

BY DAVID CONN

David@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Travel and spending more time with her husband and family are goals of retiring Joan Sherman who is currently office manager at McElroy Printing and Blue Mountain Design in Baker City.

Joan will retire June 30 after working nearly 30 years for Jim McElroy who owns a printing and embroidery business on Court Avenue.

Born in Baker City, Joan attended Baker High School but was graduated from another high school in California.

Her husband, Jim, left the military in 1969 after serving in Vietnam.

The couple have resided in Baker City since 1976

and have three children — James, Eric and Tanya.

Joan started working for Jim McElroy in 1985 when he operated a print shop on First Street.

Typesetter, office manager and bookkeeper were some of her duties while learning to use computers as the business required.

McElroy purchased Blue Mountain Design in 2004, then located at 1937 Washington Avenue in Baker City.

In 2005 he combined the two businesses, Blue Mountain Design and McElroy Printing, and moved them to their present location at 1920 Court Avenue.

Joan remained office manager but took on additional tasks such as advanced computer work involv-

ing design and setup for embroidery and creating business forms.

She also continued the billing and bookkeeping operations.

"It's a blast creating designs and watching them come to life," she said, referring to embroidery for a large variety of school items, clothing, hats and jackets.

Joan uses her imagination to create the basic design which is then digitized for the embroidery machines.

Retired life for Joan will include spending more time with her husband who is suffering from several health issues.

He was circulation manager at *The Baker City Herald* 30 years, and is skilled at tying fishing

flies. Joan will also work in some camping, travel, and seeing more of her children and five grandchildren.

Joan comes from a family of 10 siblings, nine of whom are still living. There is plenty of travel in store because her family resides in various parts of the country.

Over the years Joan helped McElroy maintain several rentals in Baker City, including collecting rent for him.

Joan will be greatly missed McElroy said, noting how they have been good friends over the last 30 years.

McElroy will lose two employees July 1 because Leslie Jones is also retiring.

Two Safeways in one town?

• THE SAFEWAY / ALBERTSONS SAGA CONTINUES

BY TODD ARRIOLA

Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Last month, Albertsons announced plans to remodel and reopen its leased building at 1120 Campbell Street in Baker City in the fall, as an Albertsons (Albertsons merged with Safeway), with "...plans to begin hiring 50-80 people this summer to work at the remodeled location," according to a press release issued by the company.

In a new announcement just last week, the company revealed plans to operate the to-be-remodeled store under the same name as the already existing store, directly across the street, at 1205 Campbell—Safeway—rather than as an Albertsons, with current Baker City Safeway Store Director Amber Krantz tasked with managing both locations.

On January 30, 2015, AB Acquisitions, LLC (Albertsons) merged with Safeway, Inc., and as a condition of that merger, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) ordered Albertsons and Safeway to sell 168 stores, 146 of which were acquired by the grocery store chain Haggen, in order to avoid violating antitrust regulations, by creating monopolies in 130 different markets, including Baker City (Baker City had only Albertsons and Safeway as the sole, local major grocers). Haggen then leased the former

home of Albertsons, at 1120 Campbell Street, in the spring of last year.

In May 2015, after acquiring and converting the building, Haggen opened its doors to customers, and the company was sued in July 2015 by Albertsons for more than \$41 million in damages, for the claim of unpaid inventory. As a result, Haggen then sued Albertsons for more than \$1 billion in damages in September 2015, claiming that Albertsons had engaged in efforts to eliminate competition, and made false representations to Haggen, and the FTC.

A week later, Haggen declared bankruptcy, filing for Chapter 11 protection, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, in Delaware. In mid-November 2015, Albertsons submitted a winning bid of \$300,000, at the Global Auction held in Los Angeles, reacquiring the property, a 46,000 square-foot building, constructed in 2001.

In January 2016, Albertsons/Safeway Portland Division Communications Manager Jill McGinnis announced that Safeway would be moving from its current location, a 36,000 square-foot building, which was constructed in 1977, to the larger building across the street. The current Safeway location, 1205 Campbell, is managed by KIN Properties, of Boca Raton, Florida, and the property at 1120 Campbell is managed by Greg Sackos, of Baker City, through BTS II, LLC.

In January 2016, McGinnis stated that the new location would

be a Safeway store, "...to better serve our customers in a significantly larger building, which is the biggest benefit. In the meanwhile, we will begin housing some back stock there to allow our current store much needed storage (hence, improved in-stock conditions)," she said.

At the time, Krantz said the move would probably be in August, and the new store would be operated under the name Safeway, but that the current Safeway location would be closed, with its products dispersed to various other Safeways (this is the information she was provided at the time).

Krantz said recently that she wasn't certain of the details of how the current plan would work, including how her days managing two stores would look, and she couldn't provide further comment.

In March 2016, during a Baker County Economic Development Council (EDC) meeting, Baker County Economic Development Director Greg Smith expressed his opinion that a letter should be written, from the EDC, to the FTC, requesting information regarding the FTC's plans, relating to a local grocer monopoly

(Safeway was then, and currently is, the sole, local major grocer), and to make the FTC aware of the situation at the time, i.e., one company having control of two prime grocer locations, resulting in issues with prices, and stock, among other items. The letter was approved by the EDC.

Earlier this week, Smith said, "We met with the legal counsel for the City at the time (attorney Drew Martin), whom Mike (Kee, Baker City Manager at the time) offered. We went so far as getting the draft letter completed, and then, no sooner than we had the draft letter completed, we received notification, and I received a personal phone call, that Albertsons was going to open up an Albertsons, and a Safeway. As soon as I heard that, I pulled back on sending the letter."

Smith said the EDC didn't send the letter, because, while there was talk in the community regarding the issues of a monopoly, the reality was, there would be two stores, with at least 50 jobs created in the process.

SEE SAFEWAY PAGE 5

PIANO For Sale
Fischer Low-Boy (Black)
Keys in Excellent Condition
\$250
541-523-5524

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, June 24, 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 have experienced some recent rains, delaying cutting and harvest. Still no new sales reported. Three weeks ago:

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa/Ochard Mix — Small Square Premium		
20	165.00-165.00	165.00
Four 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 22, 2016

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 318

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
500-600#	Bulk 144.00 - 153.00	Top 160.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 148.00 - 163.00	Top 165.00
400-500#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
500-600#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 134.00 - 143.00	Top 145.25
700-800#	Bulk 127.00 - 134.00	Top 137.00
800-900#	Bulk 116.00 - 127.00	Top 128.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 108.00 - 117.00	Top 120.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 123.00 - 128.00	Top 129.00
700-800#	Bulk 117.00 - 124.00	Top 125.00
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	54.00 - 66.00
Butcher Cows	68.00 - 77.00
Butcher Bulls	78.00 - 91.00
Pairs Yng.	1235.00 - 1710.00
Hfretts.	92.00
Stock Cows Young	1225.00 - 1500.00

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 \$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: \$1,327.60

Silver: \$18.37

Platinum: \$1008.40

Palladium: \$590.17

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn:	\$379.00/bu/USD
Wheat:	\$445.50/bu/USD
Soybeans:	\$1113.00/bu/USD
Oats:	\$200.50 bu/USD
Rough Rice:	\$10.94/cwt/USD
Canola:	\$487.20 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle:	\$113.75/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle:	\$143.30/lb./USD
Lean Hogs:	\$83.50/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com