

Business & Ag

YMCA makes fee request of City for Sam-O Swim

• AIRPORT APRON CONSTRUCTION, 911 CALL CENTER UPDATES ALSO ON AGENDA

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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Tuesday evening's City Council business started with citizen participation as Brian Vegter of the Public Arts Commission (PAC) stepped forward to address concerns regarding the Art on Loan project that had been raised by the Parks and Recreation Board at their last meeting.

The current project involves an interactive sculpture by Don Herman that the committee plans to place in Central Park.

Vegter addressed those questions to the Council in effort to reassure Council of the project so that it could move forward.

Among questions the Parks and Recreation board had were: "Was Central Park the preferred location for the sculpture?"

Vegter said it was the perfect location to help draw interest to Central Park. They were also curious about whether or not the sculptor had taken into consideration the changes water from the sprinkler may make. According to Vegter the sculptor indicated he was excited

to see how naturally occurring substances would affect the piece. Vegter also addressed installation explaining that removable rebar would be used to secure the sculpture in place. That would not leave any type of structure behind once removed.

"The cost of installing and removal of the piece will come from the Arts Commission budget," he said. Vegter also addressed concerns the Parks Board had about and the sturdiness of the structure, potential damage and the City's responsibility if someone were to get hurt on the piece. "The Piece looks like it would tempt people to climb on it. It is a sealed structure so one would have to be extremely strong and heavy to climb on and damage it. Just like other structures in a City park this would be covered by the City's liability insurance."

City Manager Fred Warner, Jr. agreed that it would be added as a rider on the policy. Vegter stated that there would be a plaque installed also identifying the sculptor, giving information about the piece and indicating that it was part of an Art on Loan project. He also indicated that Art on Loan projects would be on loan for one year, answering that one last question the Parks Board has asked.

Mayor Moiser indicated she had been at the Parks meeting where these questions had been raised and suggested the Public Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board occasionally hold joint meeting to talk about these topics and iron out details so that things can happen in a smoother fashion.

Airport Apron Project

A. Task Order T.O. Engineers

In 2015 the City entered into a five-year construction agreement with T.O. Engineers for work to be completed at the Baker City Airport. The design bidding has been completed and they are ready to move into the construction phase.

The tasks being completed include removal of asphalt and concrete and new construction of the apron, including redesigning the drainage which has caused significant problems. "In addition to the apron and drainage we will also be adding 6,000 gallons to our jet fuel storage. Last year with all of the forest fires the number of aircraft that were staged at the airport, it was difficult to keep up with fuel. This addition will certainly help and the City gets ten cents on every gallon sold," said Michelle Owen, Public Works Director.

The City has been awarded grant dollars from Con-

nect Oregon in the amount of \$415,000, which the City was just notified of last Friday that they were recipient of and the FAA to fund this project. No City money is being used to complete this project. The plan was originally going to take place September and October will likely be pushed to spring time "due to the FAA's timing to get us that funding," said Owen.

Councilor Lowe moved to approved the task order with a second by councilor Downing. A unanimous vote followed.

B. FAA Grant Acceptance Approval

Owen stated that the next piece was to authorize the City manager to accept a grant offer from the FAA. "Our project requires some additional funding that was not readily available before but they have it available now," said Owen.

The paperwork would need to be in by September showing that Council accepted their grant offer however, Owen indicated she did not yet have that paperwork and this was the last Council meeting before that would be due where they could vote to accept so she had prepared a staff report that would allow Council to accept a grant offer from the FAA in whatever amount they are willing to offer.

SEE CITY COUNCIL
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— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, August 19, 2016 — Eastern Oregon
Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. Many hay producers are selling or have already sold most of their first and second cutting hay, and are working on later cutting(s) resulting in higher volumes of hay moving.

Tons Price Range Wtd Avg

Alfalfa — Large Square Premium
600 120.00-120.00 120.00
Alfalfa — Large Square Good
600 100.00-100.00 100.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

**Wednesday, August 17, 2016
Vale, Oregon**

Cattle sold through the auction: 751

Steer Calves

300-400# Bulk 143.00 - 172.00 Top 174.00
400-500# Bulk 152.00 - 165.00 Top 166.75
500-600# Bulk 140.00 - 150.00 Top 151.00

Heifer Calves

300-400# Bulk N/A Top N/A
400-500# Bulk 129.00 - 141.00 Top 142.00
500-600# Bulk 129.00 - 140.00 Top 140.75

Yearling Steers

600-700# Bulk 139.00 - 152.50 Top 154.25
700-800# Bulk 128.00 - 146.00 Top 146.50
800-900# Bulk 127.00 - 140.00 Top 140.25
900-1,000# Bulk 114.00 - 132.00 Top 137.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700# Bulk 128.00 - 143.00 Top 143.50
700-800# Bulk 131.00 - 137.00 Top 138.00
800-900# Bulk 119.00 - 131.00 Top 132.50
900-1,000# Bulk 114.00 - 124.00 Top 126.00

Thin Shelly Cows 48.00 - 59.00

Butcher Cows 64.00 - 73.00

Butcher Bulls 72.00 - 86.00

Pairs Young N/A

Hfrets. N/A

Stock Cows Young - 1260.00 - 1530.00

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: \$1,327.40

Silver: \$18.52

Platinum: \$1078.53

Palladium: \$683.78

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$336.25/bu/USD

Wheat: \$426.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1005.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$184.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$10.09/cwt/USD

Canola: \$468.80 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$108.90/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$139.08/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$60.33/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Rail fire raises frustrations

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The 33,000-plus acre Rail Fire, located five miles west of Unity, began on the afternoon of Sunday, July 31, and highlighted the frustrations of locals, with nationwide U.S. Forest Service policies and regulations and other roadblocks, in the effort to manage National Forest lands, and to provide Baker County with economic opportunities.

The fire, the cause of which is unknown, according to InciWeb (Incident Information System), includes fuel loads of "bug-killed lodge pole pine stands, with a large, standing, dead and down component throughout the area," that was slated by the Forest Service to receive treatment in 2017, including timber sale and removal.

Unity area rancher and Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett cited issues on a national Forest Service level, rather than necessarily with local personnel. He said, "I think that they are correct (people who have criticized the Forest Service's timing with treatment) in saying that it's the Forest Service, but, it needs to be clear that it's the larger Forest Service; it's not the Wallowa-Whitman. It happens with forests nationwide, in the same context..."

Bennett, a permittee, who's spent the last week moving his cattle away from the fire danger, said a positive effect from the fire—one of only a few he could think of—is if

it, through some form, inspires the U.S. Congress to give the Forest Service the tools to take a more proactive approach, with management, including a quicker treatment response, to beetle-killed timber, or other issues.

"They've got these cumbersome rules, that need to be changed, to allow the forest managers the flexibility to manage their forests. They need to be able to manage their watersheds, and not spend a great deal of their budget on appeals, litigation, studies, or firefighting ...When they have tied the hands of their local forest managers, they can't be innovative, they can't be responsive to situations; that's the challenge I see from this," he said.

"We need to treat our forests, but, we also need to, when there's an identified problem, we have to be careful about giving any special group too much power, that can block sensible forest management..." he said, speaking about issues with environmental groups, for example, and others, who are not necessarily forest management professionals, but who can still delay or block management efforts, for example, with lawsuits.

Bennett spoke about getting the message out to the public on a national level about the need to protect the forests with active healthy management without locking up the lands. He said, "Anything that you have, you have to be a good steward with it; not just, 'Okay, well, we're just going to lock it up,' and be shocked and

amazed when the whole thing burns to a crisp."

On Tuesday, Bennett, County Commission Chair Bill Harvey, County Commissioner Tim Kerns, City Manager Fred Warner, Jr., and County Economic Development Director Greg Smith met with representatives of Portland General Electric (PGE), at its Boardman electricity generating plant. This included David Rogers, Plant Manager, and Wayne Lei, Head of Research and Development. He said the meeting, a discussion about the possibility of PGE using biomass from Baker County, went well, but the idea is still in its infancy, and it may be years before any potential plan could be implemented.

In an email sent on Tuesday, August 16, Bennett said, "As you are well aware, timber prices are extremely depressed, and there is virtually no market for hog fuel or pulp. With the recent fires and the upcoming 'Face of the Elkhorns Project,' Baker County is well situated to provide a significant source for green power require-

ments of PGE. If successful, this partnership would not only provide a market, but Baker County jobs in the removal, transportation, and processing of the material."

Bennett said that the County is one of the first entities to discuss the possibility with PGE, and if it is a successful partnership, types of wood that would be used in the process includes juniper, white fir, and bull pine, among others.

He said that the County would not actually be any type of processor for the product, but would instead act as facilitator, for interested parties. "Even if this (the potential project) doesn't go anywhere, we need to always explore every opportunity, to provide employment, and to provide something, to protect our forests's health ... We need growth ..." he said.

Bennett said that one of his first priorities associated with the Rail Fire, when possible, is the stabilization of the watershed, specifically, the reduction of soil erosion.

SEE RAIL FIRE PAGE 8

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