

Business / Agriculture

Interior design business moves

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Molly Wilson, owner of M. Wilson Designs & Studio, has relocated to the downstairs of the Basche Sage Mall in suite 205.

Wilson has owned her Home Interiors and Design business since 2001, first opening it out of her home.

She had a small studio on Main Street and moved upstairs in the Basche Sage Mall three years ago after growing out of her studio. Her business grew again causing her to move.

Wilson believes her current location will be the last location she moves to.

"This is a great location for me," said Wilson. "I have a back door and that way my truckers can deliver my furniture and I also have more visibility."

Wilson started working in retail in 1980 in La Grande, Ore., where she owned two businesses for 10 years before relocating in 1994 to Baker.

She and a partner owned a business called "For All Seasons," which closed in 2001.

M. Wilson Designs & Studio offers design services, real estate staging, as well as in home redesign services. Her store offers pillows, rugs, area rugs, lamps, furniture, accent pieces, bedding and fabrics, throws, and other supplies.

Wilson has a line of down comforters and pillows that she offers, selling three different grades of down.

The store has floor samples but she special orders a lot of her products.

Wilson carries fabrics



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Molly Wilson, owner of M. Wilson Designs & Studio.

and is looking at two or three new fabric lines she is hoping to offer by the spring.

"It's taken me a long time to build up those lines," explained Wilson. "I go to the local markets,

I go to Seattle and I go to Las Vegas."

Wilson is from the Willamette Valley. She grew up in Portland and attended the University of Oregon, where she met her husband.

First Friday meeting held

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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Another installment of First Friday with the Commissioner, a monthly, informal, public discussion, covering a variety of topics, was held on Friday, February 3, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey hosted the discussion, and he was joined by John Creighton, Chuck Chase, Bobbie Danser, Tork and Wanda Ballard, Jo Marlette, and Keith Miles.

Harvey began the discussion by speaking about the topic of collapsing roofs in the Halfway area, which he said numbered around 20 to 25, but luckily, there were no reports of residential roofs failing yet at the time. He said that 200 commercial roofs have failed in Malheur County, due to winter weather, causing major losses in the onion crop industry, for example, and, making matters worse, Idaho Governor Clement "Butch" Otter is taking advantage of the opportunity to try to pull business operators away from Oregon, which has a higher minimum wage, \$9.75 per hour, than Idaho, at \$7.25 (the same as the federal minimum wage rate).

Tork commented that he would probably make the move to Idaho if he were a business operator that close to the border, and Harvey agreed, citing various business-related costs and taxes in Oregon.

He said, "Man, if I was that close, I'm with you, Tork...Hell, when we have a governor like we've got, my God, I'd bail in a heartbeat...She's driving the state into bankruptcy." Harvey said Oregon Governor Kate Brown's plan of using state funds to launch personal resistance efforts against President Donald Trump could get her, and should get her impeached. Harvey expressed some relief that Dennis Richardson was elected Oregon Secretary of State.

Among other topics discussed, Danser asked Harvey how he thought the City-County joint meeting went, on Wednesday, February 1, to primarily further discuss the 911

Consolidated Dispatch intergovernmental agreement, and he and Tork commented that, though there were issues initially, they were pleased with the end result, with the exception of resolving the issue of the percentage of monetary contribution from the City, at 71%, with the County providing 29%, which Harvey and others say should be amended to 75%, and 25%.

Tork and Wanda said they had the impression that City Council wasn't completely aware of the issues with the agreement, and of Harvey's recommendations. Harvey said that the 911 Board shouldn't comprise representation solely from government.

Tork said, "What is the bickering about, anyway? 75%? Because, from what I understand, they (the City) aren't paying their 71%, so, what difference does it make what number you put on the agreement? They're going to pay what they feel like they ought to."

Harvey said that he would publicly remind the City of its commitment, and when Tork asked how often the City had failed to pay its share for the services, he said several times.

Wanda said, "They're getting an 80% service, for 71%--a pretty good deal..." Harvey further emphasized that the County is continuing to provide the bulk of shared services, while struggling with staffing and budget issues. He expressed high praise for Dispatch Center Director Hope Lindsey, and other staff, who collectively provide 24/7 coverage.

Danser asked, "Are they still not going to pay that \$15,000?" referencing a debt Harvey said the City owes the County, which he said most likely will remain unpaid.

Harvey used the approval for the Sheriff's Department to purchase only one of the two vehicles it requested (during the last, regular County Commission session, on Wednesday, February 1), as an example of budget strains, though Sheriff Travis Ash voiced concerns about the high mileage, and the need to purchase both vehicles (As part of the request approval, Ash would be

replacing the Juvenile Department's Chevy Impala, which Director Staci Erickson said has logged 185,000 miles, and is in rough shape, with one of the current patrol cars).

Harvey said he'd met with Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya and other United States Forest Service (USFS) personnel, including Natural Resource Specialist Victoria Anne, for a staff-to-staff meeting recently (no decisions are made during these, and they are different from agency-to-agency coordination meetings, which are held periodically in the Commission Chambers). Harvey said that the two-to-three-hour meeting went well, and numerous issues were discussed, including the much-debated Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision (BMFPR).

He said that he made it clear to Montoya that the USFS can not move forward with the process, and that includes the Travel Management Plan (TMP), until all roads are inventoried and mapped. Harvey said that he plans to meet with Montoya twice a month, and that information would be relayed to the County's Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC), and then to the County Commission Board, to be passed on to the public, which he said is the proper coordination process.

Chase said, "If we would have had this (the coordination process) two years ago, they would have had the Blue Moun-

tains Revision done, and the Travel Management." Harvey said that his effort pales in comparison to the Eastern Oregon Mining Association's (EOMA), and Forest Access For All's (FAFA) efforts, to ensure that the USFS adhere to the proper process (Chase is EOMA Executive Director, and Tork is FAFA President).

Wanda said that the American Stewards of Liberty (ASL), an organization that was enlisted to assist the County with its comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in response to the release of its initiative, Planning 2.0, has been mis-characterized (funds were privately raised and donated to the County to pay for ASL's service, without solicitation from the Commission Board, but this nonetheless sparked public debate, including comments about ASL's political leaning, during more than one session).

Harvey said he'd heard some scuttlebutt about Safeway possibly ending its lease for its current location, 1205 Campbell Street, but he said that, as far as he knows, the rumors aren't true (the lack of products on shelves sometimes is weather-related, he said). "It's two locations, but, it's still one store," Danser said, referring to the previous merger between Safeway and Albertsons, at 1120 Campbell, and the reopening of the Albertsons store last year.

SEE FIRST FRIDAY
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— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, February 3, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. The recent snows slowed movement as trucks cant get to the farms to get loaded.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Good	145 120.00-120.00	120.00
Alfalfa — Large Square Fair	45 110.00-110.00	110.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Premium	15 170.00-170.00	170.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1415

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	138.00-174.00	Top	180.00
400-500#	Bulk	151.00-178.00	Top	179.00
500-600#	Bulk	126.00-157.00	Top	158.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	126.00-139.00	Top	140.00
400-500#	Bulk	114.00-141.00	Top	143.00
500-600#	Bulk	112.00-132.00	Top	134.50

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	116.00-131.00	Top	132.00
700-800#	Bulk	105.00-121.50	Top	122.00
800-900#	Bulk	106.00-117.50	Top	119.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	97.00-110.00	Top	111.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	107.00-122.00	Top	123.00
700-800#	Bulk	101.00-115.00	Top	116.00
800-900#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	43.00-51.00
Butcher Cows	52.00 - 57.00
Butcher Bulls	42.00 - 61.00
Pairs Young	N/A
Stock Cows	785.00-1025.00
Stock Cows Young	1025.00 - 1385.00

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir-\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,236.00

Silver: \$17.76

Platinum: \$1010.70

Palladium: \$763.68

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— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$365.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$425.75/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1,039.75/bu/USD

Oats: \$259.25 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.41/cwt/USD

Canola: \$520.50 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$116.40/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$124.15/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$72.18/lb./USD

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