

Business / Agriculture

Sycamore Tree ribbon-cutting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She continued, “But then I also didn’t want to open up another shop in Baker because I didn’t want to oversaturate the market and there are some great gift shops and boutiques in town. And so I never got around to it. Then when I heard that Jacki (Adams) was going to be selling the store it just all fell into place for me to take over the ownership. It’s like a dream come true.”

Gaslin began working at The Sycamore Tree in October when she decided to purchase the store to

see the store running and working from the inside out. She has been a self-employed accountant for six years.

Gaslin does not plan to make any major changes to the store.

The fudge and a lot of their main sections will stay.

She has added in Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines and her first shipment that came in a few weeks ago is already almost sold out.

She has placed new orders of furniture, couches, tables, a coffee table, and a dining room table.

She plans to keep that line in stock for the store.

She has also added a bar

ware section to the store and is trying to have a larger presence of men’s gifts so people are able to shop for a gift for men.

Gaslin explained that she will begin a wish list for those who are on the customer list with The Sycamore Tree.

She explained that if someone wants something for Valentine’s Day, a birthday, wedding registries, and baby registries, they can make a note on their account so others can find those items.

She also explained that those who want to do a registry, The Sycamore Tree will set up a display with a picture of the

couple, and some of the things they picked out, and put notes up of more things they want.

“It’s a great place to work,” Gaslin stated. “We have a great staff. The ladies that work here really are the ones that keep the business running, they know it from the inside out and I’ve just been really blessed to have them stay on and help me with little questions when they come up that I don’t have the answers for, at least I can ask them and know that they know what is going on, so it has been great getting to work with all the ladies here.”

Interim Budget Board meets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dexter explained that what these types of meetings are used for is training and giving information that will be useful when future budget meetings are held.

She explained that even people that had been on the Budget Board before often needed a refresher as budgets are only looked at once a year.

During these types of meetings various departments are looked at and explained to board members also giving an opportunity to gain insight into the roles and structures of different departments giving budget board members valuable information when determining financial allotments during the final stages of budget approval.

Referring again to what could be discussed, Dexter stated, “We can talk in very broad vision goals, philosophies, spending priorities.”

She then reiterated things that they could not talk about in this meeting “specific estimates or appropriation amounts associated with any fund or any line item resource or requirement. The question of whether to fund a specific program or expenditure. Or the imposing of any tax.”

Jeff Petry then asked the question as to why have this interim meeting if there were so many issues that couldn’t be addressed.

Dexter explained that

they couldn’t have a formal meeting yet for a couple of reasons one being that in order to have a formal meeting and discuss specifics the public had to be duly noticed and the biggest reason being that the official budget was not yet prepared.

She advised that the official budget document would be ready May 5.

The public would be noticed of meetings, the proposed budget publicly released and then the Budget Board would officially meet to begin consideration of passing the proposed budget.

Petry also expressed concern over the manner in which certain entities approached the Board for consideration of funding.

He noted that last year in the public meetings groups came forward and gave presentations in a “pitch” for funding.

Petry expressed a dislike of that practice and asked if there was a way these groups could approach staff and if appropriate the funding already be noted in the official budget documents, cutting down on the presentations to the board during official meetings.

This idea was discussed among the board, Dexter and City Manager Fred Warner.

The conclusion was that they could request that those asking for funding approach staff prior to official budget meetings and that had been the case in some instances in the past, however the meetings

were required by law to allow the public to speak and there was no way of excluding presentations requesting funding.

Dexter then moved on to updating those present on the current 2016-2017 budget status.

She advised that due to the additional funds that were utilized in unexpected snow removal and the turnover of the City’s ambulance billing to a third party that had not yielded the expected revenue, projections for ending fund balances were less than expected.

“This is going to be a challenging budget year. We’re going to have to refine and staff is going to have to lay out where the money is and where it isn’t and where the priorities are,” said Warner.

A street overlay project that was scheduled for August is already on the chopping block and possibly will not be funded in the new budget.

“This has been a long time coming,” he added.

Although, this is his first year with the City, Warner who served as County Commissioner prior to the City knows a thing or two about budgets.

He said his goal is to have a budget “we can live with and try to keep the City on an even keel without any personnel cuts. Council will have some tough decisions to make.”

The City’s budget should be adopted by July 1. It can be adopted later however, if no budget has

been adopted by July 1 and the City spends any money legal action can be taken according to City Auditor Kent Bailey.

It also opens the possibility of citizens suing the City for spending public money they were not entitled to spend.

Bailey is currently still in the process of concluding the City audit, due to personnel changes his firm is running behind but he advised it is expected to be done soon.

Dexter advised the board that the proposed budget document will be delivered by May 5, 2017. Formal public Budget meetings are expected to be held the week of May 15 -18 with approval that same week.

Once approved City Council will need to officially adopt the budget. Minor changes can still be made up until such time. Dexter expects the Council to vote on adoption at their final June Council meeting in place before July 1.

The Budget Board still has one vacancy, if you are interested in serving on this important board please contact Julie Smith at City Hall 541.524.2033 for information.

Budget information can be found on the City’s website www.bakercity.com.

Dexter has offered to meet with anyone wanting to know more information about the budget and budget process she can be reached at 541.542.2042.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, March 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. Many producers are sold out for the year.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Premium	30 140.00-140.00	140.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Good/Premium	22 165.00-165.00	165.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1345

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 157.00-187.00	Top 193.00
400-500#	Bulk 155.00-183.00	Top 183.50
500-600#	Bulk 140.00-161.00	Top 165.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 147.00-162.00	Top 162.50
400-500#	Bulk 132.00-158.00	Top 160.50
500-600#	Bulk 125.00-141.00	Top 143.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 128.00-140.00	Top 143.00
700-800#	Bulk 119.00-129.00	Top 129.50
800-900#	Bulk 116.00-125.00	Top 125.75
900-1,000#	Bulk 110.00-118.00	Top 119.25

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 116.00-128.00	Top 130.00
700-800#	Bulk 110.00-121.00	Top 122.50
800-900#	Bulk 104.00-111.00	Top 114.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	37.00-52.00
Butcher Cows	58.00-65.00
Butcher Bulls	58.00 -77.00
Stock Cows	N/A
Hfretts	69.00-91.00
Stock Cows Young	N/A
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: \$1,208.60

Silver: \$17.26

Platinum: \$947.65

Palladium: \$769.25

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$372.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$447.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1,021.75/bu/USD

Oats: \$243.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.64/cwt/USD

Canola: \$527.20 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$115.98/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$122.78/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$68.43/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

NEOEDD requests civics projects

Each year the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District updates the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Baker, Union and Walla counties. The CEDS provides an important overview of the region’s social and business conditions, analyzes the region’s economic and community development issues and opportunities, and presents a list of potential economic development and civic projects within the region. See NEOEDD’s website for the 2013-2018 Plan and 2016 Update: <http://www.neoedd.org/content/comprehensive-plan>

NEOEDD is collecting information for the 2017 CEDS project list using a form available here: <http://www.neoedd.org/content/2017-ceds-project-information-form>. Projects must have a public benefit and be sponsored by a government or non-profit organization. Projects that have a direct or indirect impact on job creation, and/or that address federal Economic Development Administration guidelines, will have greater priority for some funding sources. If your organization submits more than one project, please rank the projects in priority order. The deadline is Mar. 24, 2017. Return via email to kristyathens@neoedd.org.

neoedd.org.

Additionally, NEOEDD is offering to list CEDS projects on an online platform called Agora. NEOEDD is using Agora to connect projects with potential funders (public funders-such as state and federal agencies, community foundations and banks, and philanthropic organizations), to create greater visibility for projects, and to keep project descriptions up-to-date. Agora’s website has a quick video overview: <http://www.agora-platform.com/>. NEOEDD is available to register organizations and projects on Agora, and then transfer

registration information to project managers so they can make updates and correspond with potential funders as they wish.

Please return project forms no later than Mar. 24, 2017. Direct questions to Sara Miller, Kristy Athens, or Lisa Dawson at 541-426-3598.

The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District’s mission is to provide resources and facilitate quality decision-making for the benefit of entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties. Learn more about its programs and business support at www.neoedd.org.

Subscribe today! See page 9 for details.