

Business / Agriculture

‘Path of Totality’ art show held at Crossroads

BY SAMANTHA O’CONNOR

Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Friday, April 7th, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center held an art show called “The Path of Totality.”

This art show was inspired by the upcoming solar eclipse that will pass over Baker City on August 21, 2017.

Tymmera Whitnah’s artwork entitled “Eclipsed” was the winner of the “People’s Choice” award of \$100.

Local artist Andrew Gettle explained his artwork “Pause” was inspired by the little moments people hold onto when they pause to experience something, such as the full alignment of the Earth, sun, and moon.

Providing live music for the evening was Tater Field Funk. Guest speakers at the event were Nancy Coffelt, an author and artist who published a book titled “The Big Eclipse,” and Timothy Bishop of Baker County marketing / Base Camp Baker.

Coffelt began speaking by explaining that there are different types of solar eclipses. She explained that solar eclipses happen if there is syzygy, which means three celestial bodies lined up. This year, that includes the sun, the Earth, and the moon.

“The last time that we had a total solar eclipse in the United States was 1918,” explained Coffelt. “The only time before then in modern history was 1776 and the next solar eclipse that will be in the United States will be in 2024.”

Coffelt explained that the first contact of the moon over the sun will happen a little after 9:00 a.m. Coffelt explained that people need to wear certified solar filters and they will be available at the Baker County Library for a dollar.

“Once you get right before totality, when the sun is completely covered, you have these optical occurrences called ‘Shadow Bands,’” said Coffelt. “So, try to make sure there is a flat surface that’s lighter color because there will be snakey dark and light lines that will go along the



Samantha O’Connor / The Baker County Press

Nancy Coffelt describes eclipses and how to view them to the audience.

ground. Scientists really don’t know exactly what causes this. It could be like what causes stars to look like they’re twinkling, which is atmospheric disturbances. So, look for those. So as soon as that starts to happen, then, it’s like a giant looming shadow that will just overcome and you’ll be plunged into twilight in 30 seconds.

“And the first thing you’ll see is the Diamond Ring Effect, which is the sun disappearing and it’ll look like a giant diamond ring and you’re still wearing your protective eyewear. Once that goes, and it covers over, you’ll get something that’s called ‘Baily’s Beads.’

“And Baily’s Beads is the sunlight shining through the canyons on the moon and it looks like a ring of beads all around. And then you have totality and totality—now, what was once the sun is a black hole in the sky and you’ll be able to see the corona of the sun, which is the gas out there. You see pictures of the corona of the sun; a camera can only pick up a 200% difference between the inner chromosphere and the outer corona, our eyes can pick up 5000%.

“At this point, the eyewear is off, you can look at it safely. Totality here is about a minute and thirty seconds. As soon as you

see the diamond ring you will no longer be able to safely look at the sun.”

Bishop spoke next and explained the impacts the event will have on Baker County. Bishop explained the last total solar eclipse to cross the entire United States was June 3rd, 1257. Bishop explained that Baker County is in the Path of Totality and the edge of the path crosses right between Richland and Halfway.

“What this means for Baker County is that August 21, 2017 started popping up on our calendar about two years ago when a number of our hotels started getting full,” explained Bishop. “They were already booking full for this weekend. This is a really big deal. We are expecting over one million visitors in Oregon. We expect that number in Baker County to be upwards of 50,000 people. Particularly since that dead center line of totality goes through places like Hereford, Unity, and Lime, we’re expecting a lot of those folks are actually going to be right here in Baker City and then going out in the morning to watch the eclipse.”

Bishop explained that they are working with people who want to lease out land or rooms to visitors. He suggests that people mark their calendars for

April 21st to find a good place to watch the eclipse as the sun will be in the same place on August 21st as it will be on August 21st.

“We are extremely worried at this point just about capacity issues,” explained Bishop. “We think that we’re all pretty friendly here in Baker County but we’re going to have a lot of guests. And we’re really worried about making sure there will be gas and groceries and all of those things they will need.”

Bishop explained they are working with restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations to be prepared. He also encourages locals to buy groceries and gas early on Wednesday or Thursday before the weekend and be prepared for the visitors. He also asks locals to be understanding with visitors looking for places to view the eclipse and to help by giving specific instructions on where to go.

“August 21st is a Monday, so we are expecting that this will be a very busy weekend,” explained Bishop. “Folks will be traveling, arriving Thursday, Friday, over the weekend, and then it is over at about 10:30 in the morning and, so, we expect there to be a lot of traffic Monday morning as folks are trying to figure out what they’re doing after the eclipse.”

City Council

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He noted that Baker County had very high quality dispatchers and acknowledged their ability to handle life and death situations professionally. On hand to accept the Proclamation were 911 dispatchers Jessica Lynch and Lindsay Hodgson, employees of the 911 center were present to accept the signed copy of the proclamation on behalf of the 911 center.

Watershed Discussion
Councilor Arvid Andersen began the conversation about the watershed. He is gravely concerned about the condition of the watershed. He stated that he felt it was on the verge

of a catastrophic event.

Ed Hardt of Baker City also addressed Council on the matter stressing, “Something needs to be done.”

He wondered if the City could take back full control of the watershed management.

Owen did address those concerns, reminding everyone that the City must work in partnership with the Forest Service. The Baker City watershed is unique because it is on Federal land.

Owen stated that the City and the Forest Service had previously done some work on a plan but acknowledged far more needed to be done.

A lengthy discussion ensued with a final suggestion that some specific questions would be presented to the Forest Service with a date scheduled for them to appear before Council. City Manager

Warner, Council and concerned citizens felt that the City needed to take a more active role in accountability of getting projects completed in the watershed to secure the City’s water supply.

Monthly or quarterly addresses to Council were suggested.

Owen also reminded everyone that some of the projects she is working on with securing additional wells with the City are partly due to concerns over watershed safety.

2017/2018 Proposed Fee Resolution Discussion

Jeanie Dexter, City Finance Manager spoke to Council about impending fee increases within the City. Last year at this time, it was suggested that City Water rates increase by 25%.

Feeling that was too sharp of an increase all at once it was suggested that a 10% increase over three

years would be more appropriate.

Now in year two, it is time to put into place the second of three increases.

Dexter is also changing the fee structure for late and/or overdue accounts. If a customer is late they are given 10 days to bring their account current. If by day 11 they have not paid a \$35 late fee is added. She is purposing to lower that fee to \$5.

If the next billing cycle carries a past due balance and City employees have to physically go hang a tag on the door warning of a pending shut off then a \$30 fee would be assessed. If still not paid and the water is shut off another \$30 fee would then be added.

Dexter stated, “At that point we still have to monitor to make sure no illegal activity is happening.”

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 4

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, April 7, 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 / Supreme	60 140.00-140.00	140.00
Timothy Grass — Large Square Premium	500 120.00-120.00	120.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 923

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 157.00-172.00	Top 174.50
400-500#	Bulk 151.00-177.00	Top 192.00
500-600#	Bulk 146.00-167.00	Top 167.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 141.00-159.00	Top 163.50
400-500#	Bulk 134.00-148.00	Top 149.00
500-600#	Bulk 121.00-139.00	Top 139.50

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 127.00-142.00	Top 144.00
700-800#	Bulk 125.00-134.00	Top 138.50
800-900#	Bulk 108.00-120.00	Top 121.50
900-1,000#	Bulk 94.00-102.00	Top 104.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 114.00-131.00	Top 135.00
700-800#	Bulk 110.00-124.00	Top 126.50
800-900#	Bulk 103.00-114.00	Top 117.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 104.00-112.00	Top 115.00

Thin Shelly Cows	43.00 - 62.00
Butcher Cows	64.00 - 72.00
Butcher Bulls	77.00 - 94.00
Pairs Young	1150.00-1375.00
Hfretts	77.00 - 101.00
Pairs Older	90.00-1275.00
Producers Livestock.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: \$1,274.80

Silver: \$18.30

Platinum: \$967.75

Palladium: \$804.13

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$366.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$433.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$939.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$219.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$10.71/cwt/USD

Canola: \$494.80 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$113.70/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$137.33/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$74.00/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com