

Business / Agriculture

Visitors Bureau

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Nelson said, “In the past, we’ve always carried the contract with the Visitors Center—we’ve had a two-year contract with the County. It really helps with our strategic planning, and this year, we were kind of surprised that it was only a one-year contract, so, I asked why...It was stated at the meeting (the TLTC meeting held on June 22, 2017) that it was for a strategic planning session that we are all going to be doing...It would be a lot better for us if we could plan for a two-year program, like we have been...We do need that two-year contract.”

He said that, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the Visitors Bureau is open seven days a week, and during the off-season, six days a week, and that it’s the first stop off the freeway for visitors. Harvey asked Nelson what Nelson needs, in the area of staffing, and Nelson said that the projection is that the Visitors Bureau will temporarily need four times as many people, to handle the surge of visitors, including a major increase in the amount of information the Bureau will be circulating, before and around the time of the Total Solar Eclipse, August

21, 2017.

Cutler said, referring to hiring part-time and seasonal staff, “That’s going to be a challenge for me... My payroll’s going to be the hardest hit...The last two employees that I hired to work the weekend hours quit, because it wasn’t for them, so, we’ve been staffing the weekends on our own. There are challenges there...”

Harvey said, “You can’t shut the door ...” stressing the importance of keeping the Chamber and Visitors Bureau office alive and well.

McLagan explained that the TLTC decided to pursue a one-year strategic planning session this fall, which involves all associated groups, which affected the length of the PSA contract between the County and the Visitors Bureau, but she said, “We support the Chamber, and what you guys are doing...” explaining that the decision wasn’t meant to imply anything negative about the Chamber or Visitors Bureau.

Bishop said, “We’ve had several reiterations of a marketing plan, really based on a marketing strategy, but really, over the last year and a half, the Marketing Committee and the TLTC have begun to identify that there are some bigger industry issues, that are bigger than just marketing...”

A couple examples he gave is the change in the way that Travel Oregon is handling marketing, and changes in Eastern Oregon Visitors Association’s marketing efforts.

He said there are some local challenges, specifically with the Total Solar Eclipse event.

Harvey said, “Part of the problem is that most of us don’t see all these groups at one time,” referring to the difficulty with the sharing of information and with coordination between the different boards, committees, and commissions. Nelson, referring to the TLTC’s strategic planning process, said, “We’d love to be involved in all of that, but, I just don’t see why we can’t do that with that two-year contract...” a concern he repeated.

Gettle said that, if the lack of a two-year contract is a deal breaker, there’s an opt-out option, but, she doesn’t wish to see that happen.

Nichols said, “I like the idea of you guys wanting to do strategic planning. I wish we had a time frame of how long that was going to take ... I understand Jeff’s point of view, as well ... Maybe go ahead and let him have that two-year contract (Harvey also encouraged the TLTC to revisit this idea, too) ...”

He said that, in the future, the Board is going

to be asking for a strategic planning process and budget details to be completed earlier in the year (Harvey suggested around April 1st), but that he wasn’t “pointing fingers” at the TLTC, because the County overall has experienced issues with the budget, including responses to City decisions this year.

Bennett said he personally has an issue with overturning a decision made by any committee, but, “I would encourage both groups to go back, and have some further discussion, and understand the options...Work together in developing a time line for strategic planning...I really believe you can come back to us with some type of a better document that’s reflective of the various groups...”

Peacock said, “I appreciate what Chelsea’s saying about strategic planning and coordinating...But... we’re dealing with volunteer groups, with a myriad of schedules...It still boils down to momentum... We’re pretty darn excited about the momentum and the energy we have...With momentum, you want a vote of confidence... symbolic of a two-year agreement, not a one-year agreement ...We feel we’re moving forward ...”

Harvey said that the topic would be further discussed at the next TLTC meeting.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, July 14, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady. All prices reported today are new crop, unless otherwise noted. Most producers are done with first cutting and working on second cutting. (No report for 7/21.)

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa Large Square Premium/Supreme	90 160.00-160.00	160.00
Alfalfa Large Square Good	60 120.00-120.00	120.00
Timothy Grass Large Square Premium	1000 265.00-265.00	265.00
Meadow Grass Large Square Good	120 160.00-160.00	160.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 538

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk 159.00-170.00	Top 173.00
500-600#	Bulk 157.00-165.00	Top 167.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
500-600#	Bulk 137.00-155.00	Top 157.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 152.00-165.00	Top 166.50
700-800#	Bulk 143.00-148.00	Top 151.50
800-900#	Bulk 127.00-132.00	Top 135.50
900-1,000#	Bulk 119.00-131.00	Top 131.75

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 131.00-147.00	Top 148.00
700-800#	Bulk 132.00-138.00	Top 139.00
800-900#	Bulk 122.00-128.00	Top 128.75
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	51.00-68.00
Butcher Cows	72.00-83.50
Butcher Bulls	84.00-101.00
Stock Cows Young	N/A
Hfretts	83.00-93.00
Pairs Young	1300.00-1600.00

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: \$1,256.10

Silver: \$16.48

Platinum: \$927.82

Palladium: \$859.25

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$368.75/bu/USD

Wheat: \$474.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$992.75/bu/USD

Oats: \$280.50 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$12.30/cwt/USD

Canola: \$489.60 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$112.78/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$146.53/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$66.85/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

5J welcomes Chinese teachers



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

The Chinese exchange teachers presented a wall scroll to the board. From left to right are Melissa Irvine, Gang Hou, Mark Witty, Kevin Cassidy, and Zengxiang Yin.

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Thursday, July 20th, the Baker School District 5J Board held their meeting at the City Council Chambers.

At the meeting, Superintendent Mark Witty swore in Katie Lamb and Kevin Cassidy took the Oath of Office for another term. The board unanimously voted to have Cassidy continue as Board Chair and Chris Hawkins as the new vice-chair.

Witty introduced two Chinese exchange teachers to the board; Gan Hou and Zengxiang Yin. This is the third year Chinese exchange students have come to Baker. Hou and Yin presented the School Board members with a wall scroll and the School Board presented them with gift baskets.

In their discussions, Witty explained that they are still working on the OSEA

Contract and will discuss it further in August’s board meeting.

Witty discussed that Measure 98 is up to \$170 million that will be split between the entirety of the state. He explained that Baker has Baker Early College and Baker Charter Schools, so that “our punch on that is a little bit higher than you would anticipate.”

Witty discussed the rails at the stadium. He said, “We’re looking at the stadium and if you, on the South end of the stadium, if you look at those rails, they’re just not acceptable at this point in time. And we strongly believe, our maintenance director strongly believes, and I believe that we need to go ahead and take some measures there to make sure that we can those things secured and safe, which is going to require some more cement and some work to try and get that done at least on the South end. So, we’re going to be

working from the South end up to the 50 yard line on those rails.”

Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer was not in attendance at the meeting.

In her written report, Palmer explained the Summer Academy finished their fourth week.

They have approximately 180 students registered and an average of 125-135 daily attendance.

Palmer also explained in her report, “Pre-Algebra summer session is being offered at BHS three hours a day, three days a week under the leadership of Zack Grammon (certified) and Jill Nelson (para professional). Jill is also facilitating credit recovery for high school students.”

For the science curriculum, she explained, “Teachers worked several days in June on their curriculum mapping in preparation for instruction aligned to NGSS in 2017-18.”

Palmer also recognized Laura Morley and Kate

Johnson “for the extra hours worked to prepare Life Science units aligned to NGSS for BMS for next year.”

For the board reports, Cassidy discussed the OSBA Summer Conference and how it was the largest attendance of by school board members since the conference started with over 400 people.

“I think the thing that is great for school board members that are newly elected is the jump start classes with Renee Sessler,” explained Cassidy. “And just kind of go over the basic policy and procedure and those kinds of things.”

In public comment, Elkhorn Adolescent Treatment Center Paraprofessional Shannon Keck addressed the Board, thanking Witty, Hawkins, and Melissa Irvine for their positive and productive contract bargaining process.

She explained that they are scheduled to have a ratification on August 23rd.