

Business / Agriculture

Flashflood hits South Fork of the Burnt River



Submitted Photo by Ray Rau.

Nyssa Police Chief Ray Rau said the above photo doesn't do the extent of the flood justice.



Submitted Photo by Baker County Search and Rescue.

Debris inside the Rail Fire burn area easily flowed.

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Writes Yencopal, "A second storm passed through the area producing an inch to two inches of rain per hour causing additional flash flooding/debris flows."

The Forest Service provided the following information:

"Forest Service engineers responded to the area this morning and inspected the transportation system. They found damage to roads, bridges and culverts, but details of the extent of the damage have not been determined at this time.

Several passenger vehicles, recreational vehicles and tent camps were damaged, but no human injuries have been reported."

Baker County Search and Rescue also surveyed the area Friday and noted debris blocking many roads in the area.

At this time the damage seems to have been contained mostly to land managed by the US Forest Service.

The Burnt River Irrigation District is also assessing the situation. Currently it appears that Whited Reservoir has prevented any debris from continu-

ing through the rest of the irrigation system.

This reservoir was also able to handle most of the storm surge. It had been drawn down to about a quarter full prior to the storm fronts and is now about three-quarters full.

Nyssa Police Chief Ray Rau happened to be camping in the area at the time and posted to this newspaper's Facebook page, "Four of us were camped in the S. Fork Campground when this hit setting up for our fall Men's Retreat.

"Fire Crew in E611 was amazing in helping ensure we got out safely with all of our trailers and gear.

"The photos don't do justice to actually loading up trailers and driving through this to get out and I know we wouldn't have been able to do it without that crew clearing the road!"

Lori Adkins Schultz also took to Facebook, posting a video she captured of fast-flowing water cutting through the area.

In the end, while minor damages were reported, no injuries were.

This area is susceptible to flooding and erosion more so than ever in the past due to the Rail Fire, which swept through it last year at 42,000 acres.

Two bear incidents in Sumpter

Two separate bear-related incidents were reported in Sumpter last week.

On the evening of September 7, 2017, a black bear was shot and wounded near the area of Sumpter Stage Highway and Cemetery Road.

The Baker County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police searched the area but were unable to locate the bear.

There was a separate

report on the morning of September 8th of a bear creating a disturbance on Spaulding Ridge near Sumpter.

On September 7, Doug Forell was in his residence at 39484 Sumpter Stage Highway when he heard a commotion outside.

As he opened the door to his residence he came face to face with a bear.

Forell shut his door, and the bear pushed on the

door.

Forell retrieved a handgun and shot the bear from inside the house while the bear was still on his porch. The bear ran off but was wounded.

OSP Troopers and Sheriff Travis Ash tracked the bear as far as they could but were unsuccessful in locating it, said Ash.

This incident occurred between 9 p.m. and midnight.

There was an additional report of another bear causing an incident in the Spaulding Ridge area. This was not believed to be the same wounded bear.

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind residents not to leave out trash cans or other food materials.

If residents see an injured bear, please contact the Sheriff's Office.

Sumpter looking at leaving County Transient Lodging Tax pool

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Sumpter City Council met in regular session on September 12th. August meeting minutes and bills to be paid were unanimously approved. The Council then turned to hearing reports.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Kurt Clarke reported two fires in the last month. They responded with other agencies to the Highway Fire located at about milepost 18 on Highway 7. Lightning also struck a tree in town during the last lightning storm. There were three EMS calls, including one very remote one at Summit Lake.

The brush truck was hired through ODF last Thursday through Sunday for patrol throughout the valley. Last week, it had 20 hours on patrol and 12 on standby at a rate of \$85 per hour on patrol. Clarke explained the City of Sumpter pays for insurance and upkeep, but



Meghan Andersch / The Baker County Press

If Sumpter pulls out of the County's TLT pool, the City would use that \$8,000 itself. Above, County Commission Chair Bill Harvey (standing) would like the County to continue managing those funds.

does not own the truck. It is a FEPS vehicle and in exchange for having the vehicle, "if they call, we respond." This in turn facilitates cooperation and response when Sumpter needs help. The truck was on patrol when lightning struck in town.

Clarke thanked John Young for talking them into equipping the truck

with a big nozzle and said it put out the fire in the tree pretty much instantly. The water reached the top of the tree and all worked as it was supposed to.

The Department picked up a water tender from Powder River Rural Fire Department and did a training on it, which went well.

When asked the intent

for the vehicle, Clarke responded that it would be the water supply high on the hill where there are no hydrants. In addition, the Department is part of Baker County Emergency Services so assists beyond the City limits in wildfire situations.

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— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, September 8, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady. All prices reported today are 2017 crop, unless otherwise noted. Most producers are done with first and second cutting and out in the field working on third cutting. Fires and smoke throughout the state have slowed movement of hay due to highway closures and fire mitigation. Retail/Stable type hay remains the largest demanded hay. The export market demand has increased as compared to prior reports.

No new sales this week. Last week:

Tons Price Range Wtd Avg

Alfalfa Large Square Premium

30 160.00-160.00 160.00

Alfalfa Large Square Fair

150 112.00-112.00 112.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 468

Steer Calves

300-400# Bulk 167.00-192.00 Top 211.00

400-500# Bulk 146.00-169.00 Top 170.00

500-600# Bulk 137.00-151.00 Top 153.00

Heifer Calves

300-400# Bulk 144.00-163.00 Top 172.00

400-500# Bulk 139.00-161.00 Top 164.00

500-600# Bulk 123.00-139.00 Top 140.00

Yearling Steers

600-700# Bulk 131.00-145.00 Top 146.00

700-800# Bulk 122.00-133.00 Top 133.00

800-900# Bulk 119.00-127.00 Top 128.50

900-1,000# Bulk N/A Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700# Bulk 119.00-129.00 Top 130.00

700-800# Bulk 111.00-117.00 Top 119.00

800-900# Bulk 111.00-117.00 Top 119.00

900-1,000# Bulk N/A Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows 57.00-65.00

Butcher Cows 66.00-74.00

Butcher Bulls 71.00-87.00

Stock Cows 975.00-1185.00

Younger Heifers 77.00-93.00

Stock Cows Young - 1270.00-1410.00

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: \$1,333.30

Silver: \$17.90

Platinum: \$985.32

Palladium: \$949.51

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$347.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$434.75/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$945.75/bu/USD

Oats: \$233.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$12.77/cwt/USD

Canola: \$482.80 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$106.15/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$148.93/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$59.33/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com