

Business / Agriculture

Classy Lass opens on Washington in Baker City

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

August 16th, Maria Shambaugh held a soft opening for her business Classy Lass Boutique, now located at 1915 Washington Street. This is the first business Shambaugh has owned.

"I really love clothes," explained Shambaugh. "Ordering online is not very fun, but I love getting new clothes, and people enjoying shopping. We don't have crazy outrageous prices, so it's kind of fun to shop local."

Shambaugh explained that she tries to use USA made items as much as she can. They offer plus sizes and regular sizes in different styles, such as western, business casual, and floral. They also have children's clothing that is made in Texas and order clothing from Los Angeles.

"We get scarves and we're just trying to do a well-rounded amount of different fashions and styles," explained Shambaugh. "We're going to expand our plus sizes too, once we're open a little longer and get more of a clientele. For now, we have a small amount of plus size and the rest just depends



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Classy Lass owner, Maria Shambaugh.

on the brand and the style."

She plans on having seasonal clothing, and her current summer clothes are on the sale rack and are bringing in their fall inventory. They will also have winter inventory available. Shambaugh moved to Baker City to be with family, who live in Keating, and opened her store.

"I like clothes and I know shopping in Baker is really hard," said Shambaugh. "Because we only have a limited amount of

stores and stuff like that and it's really hard shopping online. I've talked to a lot of girls—it's really frustrating because a lot of models are a size zero and you might not be. It's kind of nice, we have a changing room. I always tell girls come try on clothes. If it doesn't fit, it's worth a try and the worst that happens is it doesn't fit. We want shopping to be fun. Just have fun and try on clothes and different styles, so you know, it kind of

gets you out of the comfort zone a little."

She explained that they have limited quantities of everything and they only get a certain amount of things.

"I try to tell girls, 'If you like it, I can't promise your size or even that will even be here the next time you come in,'" Shambaugh said.

She explained that they receive new shipments of clothing every week and will have different styles available.

Dolly Parton's 'Imagination Library'

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In the pamphlet, it emphasizes that "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is not a charity or social service—it is a gift to all preschoolers in the community."

Duke explained that "The books are free to the parents—that's the thing; not only are they free, but we are actually prohibited from asking the parents for money. There is no charge to the family at all. There is no catch in this program. The Dollywood Founda-

tion is not going to sell the list to Gerber or Pampers. That stuff simply doesn't happen."

The program starts with "The Little Engine that Could" by Watty Piper. Children will be sent age appropriate books, including two bilingual books a year.

Duke went on to explain that "it's required that this program, once you define a geography, it is open to every single child in that area."

He explained "The thing is; there is a cost to the program. Just because

we don't ask the parents, doesn't mean it's not there. Dollywood Foundation takes an enormous percentage of the cost off the table.

"But the cost to the program for a local community is twenty-five dollars per child, per year. That's twelve books mailed directly to a child over the span of a year.

"If you start a child at birth and goes to five years old, they will receive 60 books that are theirs to keep, it is their collection. That, for the local community that is hosting the

program, will have cost \$125 over the five years."

Duke also explained that a requirement for the local program is the affiliate, who hosts the program, is a 501 C3 non-profit.

"The Baker County Library Foundation committed to the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library a year ago," explained Aletha Bonebrake, board member of the Baker County Library Foundation. "And we are working on the process and fundraising for it. We want to have the first two or three years covered before it rolls out."

Ash Grove Cement announces sale

Ash Grove Cement Company announced last week that it has entered into a definitive merger agreement with CRH plc, under which CRH plc will acquire Ash Grove in a transaction valuing Ash Grove at \$3.5 billion on an enterprise value basis. The transaction has been unanimously approved by the board of directors of Ash Grove and is currently expected to close in late 2017 or early 2018, subject to stockholder approval, regulatory approval and other customary conditions.

In announcing the transaction, Charlie Sunderland, chairman of the board, said, "CRH, as our largest customer, has enjoyed a close and highly productive relationship with Ash Grove for many decades. The board of directors believes that CRH will be able to take Ash Grove to its next phase of development after 135 years in operation and over a century under the stewardship of the Sunderland family."

Under the terms of the

merger agreement, Ash Grove stockholders will be entitled to receive cash merger consideration comprised of a pro rata share (based on the number of shares of stock outstanding) of the \$3.5 billion enterprise value, minus adjustments for certain non-controlling interests and debt-like items and certain other liabilities, and further adjusted to the extent net working capital and cash on hand at closing vary from certain thresholds.

It is expected that approximately 98% of the merger consideration will be paid at the time of closing based on estimated information, and an additional amount, if any, will be paid following completion of a post-closing adjustment process intended to "true-up" the closing estimates to actual amounts as of the closing date. While the final amount of the merger consideration will not be determined until following closing of the transaction due to fluctuation of certain components thereof through closing,

the Company currently estimates that the final amount of merger consideration will be in the range of approximately \$449 - \$454 per share based on Ash Grove's balance sheet as of June 30, 2017.

In addition, prior to closing of the transaction, the Company intends to pay dividends of excess cash currently anticipated to be in the range of approximately \$617 - \$706 million in the aggregate, or approximately \$82 - \$94 per share of outstanding Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, and \$86 - \$99 per share of outstanding Class D Common Stock.

Following execution of the merger agreement, stockholders representing approximately 63.5% of the outstanding voting stock executed written consents approving the transaction, of which consents representing approximately 31.5% of the outstanding voting stock became effective immediately and consents representing approximately

31.9% of the outstanding voting stock will become effective on Oct. 5, 2017, thereby constituting stockholder approval of the transaction, unless prior to such time certain events occur as described in the merger agreement.

Copies of the merger agreement and voting agreements are available from the Company on request, or on the Company's website.

J.P. Morgan Securities LLC is serving as financial advisor to Ash Grove and Skadden, Arps, Meagher & Flom LLP is serving as legal advisor.

Ash Grove Cement Company is a leader and pioneer in the cement industry.

For 135 years, Ash Grove has provided portland and masonry cements to construct highways, bridges, commercial and industrial complexes, single- and multi-family homes, and other important structures fundamental to America's economic vitality and quality of life.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, September 22, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady. Sporadic rain showers and thunderstorms in hay growing areas have increased rain damaged hay availability. 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.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa / Large Square Premium	200 165.00-165.00	165.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix Large Square Good	30 140.00-140.00	140.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1024

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 154.00-173.00	Top 182.00
400-500#	Bulk 137.00-169.00	Top 171.50
500-600#	Bulk 131.00-160.00	Top 160.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 142.00-158.00	Top 163.00
400-500#	Bulk 137.00-151.00	Top 153.00
500-600#	Bulk 128.00-144.00	Top 144.75

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 142.00-155.00	Top 156.00
700-800#	Bulk 134.00-146.50	Top 147.50
800-900#	Bulk 128.00-137.00	Top 138.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 117.00-131.00	Top 132.50

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 123.00-142.00	Top 143.50
700-800#	Bulk 124.00-136.00	Top 141.50
800-900#	Bulk 119.00-133.00	Top 137.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 114.00-124.00	Top 126.00

Thin Shelly Cows 39.00 - 57.00

Butcher Cows 61.00 - 69.00

Butcher Bulls 67.00 - 79.00

Stock Cows N/A

Younger Heifers 69.00-94.00

Stock Cows Young - 1350.00 - 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: \$1,297.30

Silver: \$16.88

Platinum: \$927.28

Palladium: \$915.93

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$351.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$454.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$964.00/bu/USD

Oats: \$249.00/bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$11.97/cwt/USD

Canola: \$491.90 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$113.48/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$152.18/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$58.10/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com