

Economic developer touts Baker County at Idaho fair

By Casey Crowley
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Baker County is in Oregon, but this year members of the Baker County Economic Development Department are attending the Western Idaho State Fair in an effort to attract visitors, residents and businesses.

In past years, department employees have attended the Oregon State Fair, where they have had success, but chose to try something new. This year they will not

attend the Oregon State Fair because they can't afford to go to two events. Economic development director Greg Smith said it's possible he and his staff could attend both fairs in the future.

Members of the department will be on hand at the Western Idaho State Fair in Boise each day of its run from Aug. 17-26.

In addition to members of the Economic Development Department, other county representatives have visited

the Fair to help promote Baker County, including County Commissioners Bill Harvey and Bruce Nichols.

Smith said Baker County is the only Oregon county with a booth at the Boise event.

Smith said that they want people to know Baker County is "A great place to raise a family, recreate and own a small business."

For more information on the Department of Economic Development call 541-523-5460.

COUNTY

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The EOCA also included a list of principles with its objection. Some of the principles include that the Willowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur should be open forests, meaning motorized vehicles are allowed unless specifically prohibited; there should be no more management areas other than general forest; timber production should be at the minimum long-term

sustained yield level; net loss of grazing acreage is unacceptable; all fires should be aggressively fought; and all burned trees with commercial value should be removed within a year of a fire.

In addition to the formal objection, the EOCA plans to politically oppose the plan as a whole. Multiple members of the EOCA agreed that the plan is not one the counties can work with.

All three Baker Commissioners — chairman Bill Har-

vey, along with Bruce Nichols and Mark Bennett, attended Thursday's meeting.

On Monday, a smaller group of members from the EOCA will meet to finalize the objection before the objection deadline on Tuesday Aug. 28.

The EOCA includes Baker, Grant, Harney Malheur, Union, Deschutes, Umatilla and Wallowa counties. The organization was formed in 2006 to address the Blue Mountains forest plans.

HURRICANE

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Although the couple said they feel pretty safe in their hotel room, they ventured out a few times on Thursday to check out the rest of island.

"I'd rather be here than in some of the tiny houses we've seen boarding up windows," Winans said.

Bachman said the east side of Maui was getting much more rain than they were at the Kaanapali Beach Club on the west coast, and farther north they saw rocks falling off hills.

"We went on a walk when it all kind of started yesterday, and branches started coming down around us," Bachman said. "We decided we'd better turn around."

While the wind whipping outside wasn't too loud for the couple to sleep last night, they woke up around 3:30 a.m. Hawaiian time (three hours earlier than Pacific time) to check on conditions.

They said the weather service reported winds of 20 mph, but they agreed, "there's no way it's only 20 mph."

When they arrived in Maui on Sunday the weather was great and they got in some time in the ocean and enjoying the Hawaii sunshine before the clouds rolled in Thursday, Winans said.

Their return flight is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 27, but Bachman said when the hurricane watch turned into a warning they began searching for an earlier flight. He said within an hour flights were either sold out or outrageously expensive.

He recalled one flight priced at \$1,500 per person that included an overnight layover at Kona International Airport on the big island.



Submitted photo

Wind lashes palm trees on Maui, Hawaii, this morning.

As of this morning they still have power and cell reception, but that can't be said for the rest of the island. Winans said they saw a power transformer blow and have seen lights go out temporarily, along with the internet connection at their motel.

Wind has remained the primary weather factor from their vantage point, but two fires have started elsewhere on the island, another force driving evacuations and road closures.

The two stocked up from the grocery store and Winans said, "we've made the best of it."

— Becca Robbins

Sports

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ohio State suspends Urban Meyer for 3 games

By Mitch Stacy
AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State suspended coach Urban Meyer for three games on Wednesday night for mishandling repeated professional and behavioral problems of an assistant coach, with investigators finding Meyer protected his protegee for years through domestic violence allegations, a drug problem and poor job performance.

The superstar coach's treatment of his now-fired assistant was also clouded by his abiding devotion to the legacy of former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce, the grandfather of former wide receivers coach Zach Smith and an early coaching mentor for Meyer.

"I gave Zach Smith the benefit of the doubt," Meyer said.

The investigation turned up "a pattern of troubling behavior by Zach Smith: promiscuous and embarrassing sexual behavior, drug abuse, truancy, dishonesty, financial irresponsibility, a possible NCAA violation, and a lengthy police investigation into allegations of criminal domestic violence and cybercrimes," according to summary inves-

tigative findings released by the university on Wednesday night.

Meyer knew about at least some of the issues.

The report and punishment culminated a two-week investigation of how Meyer reacted to allegations that Smith abused his ex-wife, Courtney Smith. Zach Smith was fired last month after she asked a judge for a protective order.

Courtney Smith alleged her husband shoved her against a wall and put his hands around her neck in 2015. Zach Smith has never been criminally charged with domestic violence. The university put Meyer on paid leave and began investigating after Courtney Smith spoke out publicly, sharing text messages and photos she traded in 2015 with Meyer's wife, Shelley Meyer. Shelley Meyer is a registered nurse and instructor at Ohio State.

"I followed my heart and not my head," Meyer said, quickly reading a written statement during a news conference after his punishment was announced. "I should have demanded more from him and recognized red flags."

Browns shut out Eagles, 5-0

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — The Super Bowl MVP has lost his magic touch. Nick Foles isn't playing like himself.

Foles threw two interceptions in the first half and Philadelphia's starting offense — missing some key players — struggled again while waiting for quarter-

back Carson Wentz to return and the Eagles were beaten 5-0 on Thursday night by the Cleveland Browns.

Foles, who replaced an injured Wentz last season and led the Eagles to their first Super Bowl title while becoming a cult hero, continued his ugly preseason. He did complete 13 of 17 passes for 127 yards, but he threw

the picks and was sacked three times, stripped for a fumble and downed for a safety.

His overall statistics were better than a week ago against New England when he hurt his shoulder, but he made two poor decisions and hasn't led the Eagles' first-team offense to a point on 14 drives over three games.

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