

August 18, 2017

Updates from Malheur County & Snake River EDA

Fry Foods, a company that expanded their operations into Oregon from their Idaho location, now has over 230 employees and 4 lines installed. However, they are only running 3 lines as they are about 30 employees short of what is needed. Their facility in Weiser, Idaho, continues to be productive and has approximately 200 employees. Fry Foods is known for their outstanding hors d'oeuvres found in many restaurants and fast food chains and includes such items as onion rings, cheese sticks, stuffed peppers and more. They have become one of the larger employers in Malheur County, alongside Heinz, EP Minerals, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, and numerous onion fresh pack companies.



Local city and county officials are working on several new developments, including a new mushroom facility in Vale, Oregon, and an agricultural transload facility, truck to rail, between Ontario and Nyssa with the site to be determined soon. Additionally small entrepreneurial and retail activity continue to be strong in the region.

Following the devastating snowmageddon, and Governor Brown's visit to Malheur County, we have seen a tremendous amount of new building and construction.



Local buildings collapsed around town



Governor Brown visits Ontario

Malheur County unemployment numbers are at the lowest they have been since the 1990's, around 4%. This is both a good problem and a concern. With local companies looking at expanding and new companies coming into the region, we will need to focus on building up our workforce. Many people who live in the area work out of town or in Idaho; some of the past workforce has retired; and some folks have moved away during the last recession.

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