

TOP STORIES

Bohnhoff Lumber Is Winding Down a Los Angeles Hardwood Yard After 116 Years

Bohnhoff Lumber Company, a Los Angeles hardwood lumberyard founded in 1910, is winding down its operations, with a target closing date of October 30. C.W. Bohnhoff started the yard at Alameda and 15th Street after arriving in Los Angeles in 1899, having emigrated from Germany as a child and grown up in Saginaw, Michigan. The business passed through five generations and over the years took its niche in hardwoods and other specialty products. A fire destroyed the original yard in 1964, and competing dealers lent trucks, lumber, equipment and office space so the company could resume in under a week; it later moved to its present site in the Vernon area. Michael Bohnhoff and Christa Ellis own it now. The closure report did not give an employee count, a reason for the decision, or the plan for the business and its remaining inventory.

Stora Enso Will Close the Veitsiluoto Sawmill in Northern Finland

Stora Enso concluded change negotiations on September 16 and will permanently close the Veitsiluoto sawmill at Kemi, in northern Finland, ending about 60 jobs. Staff have been on layoff since early August, and production will not restart when the layoff period ends in early October. Pine sawing moves to the company's Oulu and Kalajoki mills, and the Oulu business unit will employ roughly 840 once the change is complete. Among the reasons the company gave were high sawlog costs and the scale of investment the site would need at a moment when the modern Oulu mill is still in start-up. Veitsiluoto began sawing in November 1922 as what the company calls Finland's first state-founded export sawmill, and Stora Enso put money into it as recently as 2022.

Ethan Allen Sets a Succession Timeline Amid a Contested Board Election

Ethan Allen Interiors said its board's formal chief executive succession process is ongoing and that it intends to announce a successor by June 30, 2027, the date Farooq Kathwari's employment contract ends. The committee running it is composed entirely of independent directors, has engaged a search firm and is weighing internal and external candidates; its chair called succession planning a standing agenda item. Kathwari will continue to lead the management team through the transition, will remain a non-executive director after that date until the 2027 annual meeting, and will then step down from the board. The release carries a participants-in-the-solicitation notice and says the company intends to file a proxy statement and a blue proxy card, because the announcement lands inside a contested board election. Douglas Bergeron nominated an alternative slate of directors on August 5 and announced a chief executive search of his own on September 10, soliciting on a white universal card. The release gives no contest-linked reason for its timing, citing the long-term needs of the company.

■ DEEP DIVE: THE SEPTEMBER AUCTION

Four Sales, and All Four Sold

Oregon's Department of Forestry opened bids on four timber sales in September and every one of them drew a buyer. Outback GNA and Coyote GNA, both in Douglas County under the Southwest Oregon District, opened September 14 at 5,518 MBF and 4,739 MBF. Middle Sager, in Clatsop County under the Astoria District, opened September 15 at 11,288 MBF and was the month's largest. Standard Bearer, in Washington County under the Forest Grove District, opened September 18 at 3,374 MBF. The department's own summary puts the month at 24,919 MBF. The four drew winning bids of \$12,869,795.28 against a combined appraised value of \$9,648,510.10, or 33.4 percent over. A high bid is not yet a contract. The state forester sends a notice of intent to award after the opening, and the bidder then has 30 days to return a signed contract with the initial payment, an insurance certificate and a performance bond.

Who Showed Up, and What They Paid

Coyote GNA drew a single bidder. Swanson Group took it at \$893,714.88 against \$892,258.48 appraised, sixteen hundredths of a percent over. Outback GNA opened the same day in the same district and drew four bidders, clearing 64.5 percent over: Boise Cascade Medford at \$2,108,652.73, then Murphy at \$1,695,131.29, Scott Timber at \$1,352,166.41 and Swanson at \$1,293,064.09. Middle Sager drew three and cleared 29.9 percent over, with Sierra Pacific bidding \$72,147.78 more than Stimson, or 0.93 percent above the runner-up, on a \$7.8 million sale: Sierra Pacific at \$7,809,173.81, Stimson at \$7,737,026.03 and Zip-O-Log at \$7,368,270.71. Standard Bearer drew four and cleared 40.6 percent over, with Boise Cascade Monmouth at \$2,058,253.86 ahead of Freres at \$1,848,401.10, Hampton at \$1,624,243.18 and Stimson at \$1,485,095.97. The department publishes a bid price alongside each result. Douglas-fir ran \$711.75 per MBF on Middle Sager, \$621.90 on Standard Bearer, \$508.50 on Outback and \$251.53 on Coyote. Those rates are per species group on the species that drew bids, not a blended price for the sale: Coyote carries three rates under one total, with Douglas-fir at \$251.53 and both Western hemlock and True Firs at \$46.01.

Federal Ground, Sold Through a State Agency

Two of the four carry GNA in the name, for Good Neighbor Authority, the mechanism written into the 2014 Farm Bill that lets the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management sign partnership agreements with state agencies to carry out restoration work on federal land. Oregon's department has been developing project-level agreements covering ten of the eleven national forests in the state since March 2016, under a master agreement. The receipts do not travel the same route as receipts from state ground. Money from a Good Neighbor sale covers the project's costs and funds further restoration both in the project area and across the national forest, including planning, environmental review and monitoring, while revenue from sales on state-owned forestland is divided between the counties and the department's State Forests Division. Both September sales sit on Forest Service ground. The schedule book and the results database do not say so, but the contracts do: section 1520 of each binds the state and the Forest Service to ensure that operations on National Forest System lands comply with federal law, and the Forest Service appears again on title to the materials and on the insurance. Coyote's haul route additionally requires a Forest Service bridge-use permit issued from the Umpqua Supervisor's Office. Outback's contract body names no particular forest.

August: Five Winning Bids and One Canceled Opening

The department scheduled seven sales for August, 33,772 MBF by its own printed total, and one of them never went to auction. A change notice dated August 10 cancelled the bid opening on Pint GNA, 2,588 MBF in Crook County, until further notice, giving fire activity in the sale area as the reason, and the sale came off the list of upcoming sales. Five of the six that remained drew winning bids, clearing \$10,874,686.43 against \$8,321,150.18 appraised, 30.7 percent over. The sixth, Cronin Too, 6,092 MBF in the Astoria District appraised at \$1,068,882.89, is now listed as available at minimum price. September's 33.4 percent is a step up from August's, though a modest one, and two months of figures will not support a claim about where either sits in a longer series.

WHAT YOU MISSED YESTERDAY

Friday, September 18 - business, markets, and the broader economy, with the latest scheduled releases where they are older.

- US equities finished mixed on quarterly triple witching. The S&P 500 closed at 7,650.50, up 12.74 points or 0.17 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite at 26,522.55, up 104.25 or 0.39 percent. The Dow closed at 51,682.64, down 95.40 or 0.18 percent.
- Treasury par yields rose at the front end and the curve flattened over the week to Friday. The two-year was 4.76 percent, up 13 basis points from September 11. The ten-year was 5.01 percent, up 5 basis points and back above 5 percent. The thirty-year was 5.34 percent, down 1 basis point.
- The Bank of Japan raised its policy rate target to around 1.25 percent from 1.00 percent on a 7-2 vote, effective September 24, and said it will continue to raise the rate as the economy and prices develop in line with its outlook. Two members opposed the increase; two others objected to the price-outlook wording, holding that underlying inflation had already reached a level consistent with the target. The yen weakened against the dollar. The US dollar crossed 1.40 against the Canadian dollar, at a 1.4002 daily average from 1.3909 four sessions earlier, and the euro reference rate was 1.1460.
- On-highway diesel averaged \$6.285 a gallon in the September 14 survey, up 31.8 cents on the week and 68.1 percent on the year. West Coast diesel was \$7.250 and California \$8.039. Regular gasoline is up 36.3 percent on the year, so diesel is running at roughly twice gasoline's annual rate. The next survey publishes Tuesday.
- August producer prices for lumber, both preliminary and not seasonally adjusted on a 1982 base of 100, had the softwood lumber commodity index at 294.899, down 1.9 percent on the month and up 11.8 percent on the year, and the hardwood lumber index at 286.483, down 0.9 percent on the month and up 1.7 percent on the year.
- On deck this week: new home sales Thursday and durable goods orders Friday, both August figures. Governor Michael Barr speaks on housing affordability at a Chicago Federal Reserve event Wednesday.

INDUSTRY & COMPANY NEWS

- **ECMD** opened a 135,000-square-foot distribution center at Ocala, Florida, its sixteenth, taking the employee-owned moulding and stair-parts distributor past 2.2 million square feet of distribution space nationwide. Executive vice president Mac Mayberry put initial hiring at about 20. The company is based at North Wilkesboro, North Carolina and was founded in 1982.
- **Fibre Excellence** won three more months of continued operation for its Saint-Gaudens pulp mill in southwestern France, where the Toulouse commercial court set October 22 as the deadline for takeover offers and a further hearing for November 3. About 270 jobs are at stake. One global offer is on the table, filed by Aris Occitanie for a consortium headed by a Portuguese investor that has not been named and including the Alsatian waterproofing group Soprema; the court found it inadmissible in its current form.
- **British Columbia's forests ministry** invited the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest to expand by roughly 25,700 acres carrying 20,000 cubic metres a year, and the North Island Community Forest to add more than 8,100 cubic metres a year. Forests Minister Ravi Parmar announced the invitations. BC now has 62 community forests.
- **Industrial Timber** will put more than \$2.6 million into bed-slat production at Ripley, Mississippi, adding a 36,000-square-foot building alongside rehabilitation work and equipment, and expects to create 11 jobs. The work is slated for completion this fall and carries a state incentive.

■ MARKETS & TIMBER SALES SNAPSHOT

INDICATOR	VALUE	TREND
Oregon September timber sale volume	24,919 MBF	All four sales drew winning bids, 33.4% over appraised value
Douglas-fir bid price, Middle Sager	\$711.75/MBF	Highest of the four September sales; winner bid 0.93% above the runner-up
Softwood lumber producer price index	294.899	August preliminary, 1982=100; down 1.9% on the month, up 11.8% on the year
Hardwood lumber producer price index	286.483	August preliminary, 1982=100; down 0.9% on the month, up 1.7% on the year
10-year Treasury par yield	5.01%	Back above 5% on September 18, up 5 bp from September 11
US dollar against Canadian dollar	1.4002	Daily average crossed 1.40 on September 18, from 1.3909 four sessions earlier
Bank of Japan policy rate target	around 1.25%	Announced September 18 on a 7-2 vote, up from 1.00%, effective September 24

■ THE BOTTOM LINE

Oregon's four September timber sales all drew winning bids, and together they came in 33.4 percent above appraised value. Inside that number, a lone-bidder sale went sixteen hundredths of a percent over while a four-bidder sale in the same district on the same day went 64.5 percent over. Two of the four sit on Forest Service ground sold through the state under Good Neighbor Authority, so those receipts recycle into federal restoration instead of splitting between the counties and the state forests division. August ran at 30.7 percent, with one opening cancelled for fire and one sale now offered at minimum price. Elsewhere, a Los Angeles hardwood yard that opened in 1910 is winding down, a Finnish sawmill that started in 1922 is closing, and a furniture maker set a succession deadline in the middle of a proxy contest. August producer prices had softwood lumber down 1.9 percent on the month and hardwood lumber down 0.9 percent.