



The Baker County Press

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Grants available for property owner sidewalks

• BAKER CITY COUNCIL PASSES CAPITAL AND PAVEMENT PLANS

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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Tuesday evening's City Council meeting began with Mayor Downing calling the meeting to order and Councilor Thomas

leading the Pledge of Allegiance and giving the invocation.

Human Resources/City Recorder Julie Smith called role noting that Councilors Loran Joseph and Adam Nilsson were absent. Also absent from the meeting was City Manager Fred Warner.

The first matter Mayor Downing addressed was the approval of the consent agenda which included

minutes from regular Council meetings held February 14, 2017, February 28, 2017 and March 14, 2017.

The Consent agenda also included a liquor license application from Quail Ridge Golf Course. Councilor Thomas made a motion to accept the consent agenda that was seconded by Councilor Abell. Council passed the motion unanimously.

Mayor Downing then called for citizen participation, seeing none he moved forward with the evening's agenda.

2017 Capital Plan and 2017 Pavement Management Plan.

Public Works Director Michelle Owen presented to Council detailed Capital Plan and Pavement Management Plan for the City of Baker City.

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Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Baker City Council met, as usual, on Tuesday this week. Meetings are held twice monthly.

Beta Sigma Phi ladies keep a tradition going



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Left to Right top: Judy Schroeder, Alice Ward, Wilma Edwards, Carol Guthrie. Left to Right bottom: Eleanor Dopp, Charlene Moffit, and Shirley Adamson.

• LOCAL GROUP MEETS TWICE A MONTH

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER
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Beta Sigma Phi is a sorority that has been active for 86 years and was founded by Walter Ross in 1931. According to local member Charlene Moffit, Beta Sigma Phi is an international sorority based in Kansas.

The current members of the Baker City group are Moffit, Shirley Adamson, Eleanor Dopp, Wilma Edwards, Carol Guthrie, Alice Ward, and Judy Schroeder. Dopp, Moffit, and Ward have all been in the sorority longest, each near or over 60 years. They still meet twice a month to discuss their programs and upcoming events.

"The purpose of our group was to embellish a group of women so they would know one another, and they could have conversations back and forth and this was founded during the depression years," explained Moffit. "And we have tried to maintain the principles of our sorority, and we have programs where we interact with one another about all kinds of various topics. We are also philanthropic in that we sponsor a meal every year at the senior center, which we just finished doing in the middle of March."

Beta Sigma Phi began with five groups in Baker City—they are the last remaining group. According to Moffit, they represent over 500 years of membership.

They have programs and have never shirked from them.

The dinner they hold at the Senior Center is their main annual event.

"We used to, years ago, buy mittens and scarves and caps to give to school children," explained Dopp. "We did that for a long time."

They also did a food drive at Christmas and donated the goods they received, and they sponsored the art show at the Community Center.

Each member has an achievement badge that has a pin for programs they had been involved in, pins for how long they had been a part of the sorority, the offices they had held, special recognitions, and a yellow rose is on the badge as the yellow rose is the symbol for Beta Sigma Phi.

"In the Portland area, there are still many groups and they're still active," explained Adamson. "Unfortunately we have gone from five down to our small group because, like everything else, as times change, people change and a lot more younger women are working. We all worked, but we enjoyed sororities so we could have the time to ourselves. We were very active socially. We did art shows. We had dances. We had our Valentine's ball. We had queen, and we had princesses. It gave the mother with children a night out and that, I think, was basically what started the group from the very beginning and gave the young mothers the time to leave the children with father and get out one night a week and enjoy each other and the culture and plan and do things that they would not do otherwise."

Another meth arrest made

On March 27 at about 2 p.m., Baker City Police Officers and Baker County Parole and Probation Officers contacted Donald Earl Counts and several other people at Counts' residence, located at 2433 1st Street, Apartment #1 in Baker City.

According to Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, this contact was subsequent to observations of high activity level at that residence.

Counts was found to be in possession of approximately 17 1/2 grams of methamphetamine and subsequently taken to the Baker County Jail where he was lodged for Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine).

Drug Canine Capa was deployed in the residence and at about 6:15 p.m. BCPD Officers conducted a search warrant at that location. During the search officers seized small amounts of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and other drug related items.



Photo Courtesy of the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Donald Counts.

Sumpter mining issue grows contentious

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Planning Commission held a public hearing on Thursday, March 23, 2017, 6 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, a process that highlighted issues and delays in the approval of Plan Amendment PA-16-002, a request for a zone change from Rural Residential (RR-5) to Mineral Extraction (ME), from Janesville, Wisconsin-based Helge Brothers, LLC, for a roughly nine-acre parcel located in the Cracker Creek Road area, north of Sumpter.

The Commission voted, four-to-two, to deny the request, based on lack of evidence to determine significance (whether it is a significant resource), as required by the Baker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, during the Commission's five-hour public hearing, on Thursday, January 26, 2017.

SEE SUMPTER MINING PAGE 4

Friday Sunny and mild, highs in the mid 50s. Friday Night: Mostly clear and cool. Lows near 30.

Saturday Partly sunny with continued mild conditions. High near 60. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers possible. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Lows near 40.

Sunday Partly sunny and not as mild with scattered rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Highs in the mid 50s. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy with a few rain/snow showers. Lows in the mid 30s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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