

Local

City bans marijuana stores, receives OTEC checks

By Gina K. Swartz

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Tuesday's City Council meeting began and ended in executive session meeting with legal counsel to discuss litigation involving the City.

The regular session began with Councilor Richard Langrell leading the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation. Mayor Moiser, Councilors Langrell, Downing, Augenfeld, and Thomas were present while Councilors Merrill and Abell were absent.

After the agenda minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Mayor Mosier next called for citizen participation.

OTEC.

OTEC Public Relations and Government Affairs Manager, Lara Petitclerc-Stokes, accompanied by Board of Director members Aletha Bonebrake and Charlene Chase presented council with a quarterly Baker County franchise check in the amount of \$105,715.

A second check in the amount of \$1,000 was presented for the golf course conservation efforts.

"OTEC realizes the importance of the golf course to the economic stability and viability to the County," said Petitclerc-Stokes. Council was also informed that the OTEC board of directors had approved 10 scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each for Baker County students having parents or guardians that are members of OTEC. The winners will be notified by mail.

Crossroads.

The Council was next addressed by Ginger Savage, Executive Director of Crossroads Carnegie Art Center regarding their lease, a 99-year lease provided by the City. Savage noted that terms of the lease include Crossroads being responsible for costs inside the building while the City is responsible for

cost outside.

Savage acknowledged City crews as her champions, always available when needed and acknowledged what a great job they always do. Savage provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation that left no doubts about Savage's passion for the building and community enrichment it provides.

She began with historical facts about the building in a short summary, saying, "The building came to life in 1909 with \$25,000 from Andrew Carnegie. As March is Women's History month it is important for you to know, that it was five women back in 1907 who wanted a library 'to bring couth and culture' to Baker City. It served Baker County as the public library for most of the next century until the city built a new library. Crossroads moved into the building in 1971 until 1984 when they could no longer afford the high utility bills. The building remained vacant until 2008 after a six-year, \$1.6 million restoration, paid for by the board of directors was completed."

Paving and Street Repair.

Next up Michelle Owen, City Public Works Director, addressed council regarding the 2015 pavement and capital plans. In the pavement plan Owen outlined street ratings, objectives, maintenance tasks, estimated costs and selected streets for 2015 treatments.

Owen also explained a project where the City will be partnering with ODOT to begin immediately addressing manholes specifically along Cedar Street.

The Capital Plan addressed water, wastewater, and storm water. The plan included projects that had been on the plan previously but were taken out due to the need to complete the UV plant.

Some of the projects include further assessment

of the mountain line, a water facility plan including exploring alternative water sources, replacing and repairing manholes as well as some replacement of hydrants. Council voted unanimously to approve both plans.

Armory Property.

Council then was asked for a resolution of ordinance #3743 releasing all City interest in armory property.

The property in question was where the former Parole and Probation building stood.

The City once owned the property but sold it to the county who is now negotiating with the military on that property.

An old deed exists that stipulates the County to put money back into the property.

The current title company is requesting verification that the City no longer holds any interest in the property.

Council all agreed that there was none.

A quick claim with wording changes releasing all City interest in the property is the solution. Council voted in favor of the resolution.

Pot Sales.

The final order of business was the third reading of ordinance #3336 regulating marijuana sales. Recent Council meetings have seen Council chambers filled to capacity with both opponents and supporters of the marijuana issue but that was not the case at this meeting.

While there were a handful of community members present, it was a far cry from what has recently been the norm.

Before City Manager Mike Kee gave the third and final reading of the ordinance, Carol Free addressed the Council in a final attempt to sway them.

Her plea became very emotional as she told council she had been ready to give up on the issue

until she was approached by several woman who are patients at the Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic asking for her help.

"These woman range in age from 60 to 80, they are not druggies. This week, I will take them to La Grande but the people in our community need help, access. I now have a fire in me, I will help people until the day I die! I know you all are going to pass this but I do want to warn you, there are folks out there ready to sue the City over this—it's going to happen," she said.

Councilor Thomas spoke up saying, "I know I am beating a dead horse here."

He relayed a story about his father who was very ill and given the option of being prescribed medical marijuana. He opted for "legal" means using morphine to keep his pain manageable.

"Maybe marijuana could have helped, made his quality of life better, I don't know. I just hope none of you ever have a terrible disease where you might need this." Thomas specifically said to his other Council members.

Councilor Augenfeld also stated, "I'm not happy to adopt this ordinance today but right now I am looking at it as a compromise. I hope in the future the issue will have less attitude surrounding it."

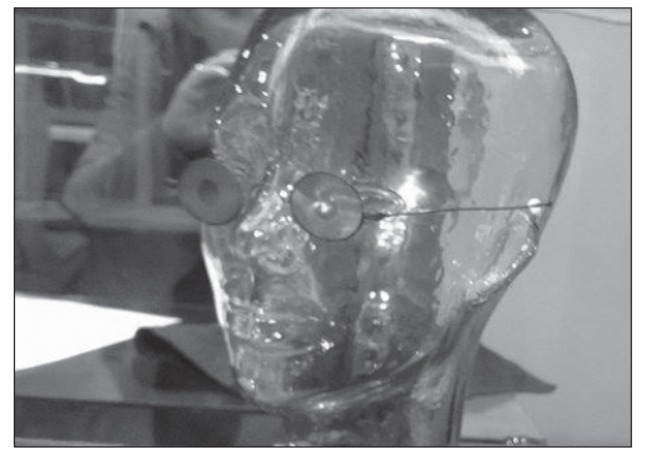
Mike Kee then gave the third reading of the ordinance, by title only.

The Council then moved to a vote with a motion by Downing that was seconded by Mayor Mosier.

Mayor Mosier, and Councilmen Langrell, Downing and Augenfeld voted in favor and Thomas opposed.

With a vote of 4:1 the motion passed and due to the declaration of an emergency the ordinance goes into immediate effect.

Museum exhibit honors veterans



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Civil War sharpshooter glasses on display.

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The exhibit, still in progress at the Baker Heritage Museum pays tribute to many local veterans that have served either directly in one of the following wars or in any capacity in our military. Some of those important dates mentioned previously are:

April 9 signifies the end of the civil war in 1865, however, General Robert E. Lee surrendered his confederate forces to General U.S. Grant that day but the official end to the war was not until June 2, 1865. June 28, 1919 World War 1 ended. World War 2 began in 1939 and ended in 1945 when The United States of America dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945 and Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945. The Korean War ended July 27, 1953 and The Vietnam War ended April 30 1975. August 7, 1990 Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm began with a cease fire taking effect April 11, 1991 but March 20, 2003, upon belief that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that posed a significant threat to the stability if the region the second Gulf War began with aerial attacks dubbed "shock and awe". On June 29, 2009 U.S. troops turned over control to Iraqi forces, but there is still much unrest throughout that area of the world.

Sherrieb is meticulously putting together relevant items to create meaningful displays. Items on display include items on loan from the County, as well as personal items from veterans themselves or veteran's families.

One display highlights John Holcomb, the only Baker County resident to be a recipient of The Medal of Honor. Holcomb was awarded the medal for his actions during the Vietnam War. Holcomb was killed and awarded the medal after his death. The exhibit boasts both graciously donated and loaned items including uniforms from the Civil War era to uniforms used today and represent the different branches of service as well.

Among loaned uniforms are some provided by the McCray family.

Sherrieb said, "We had the niece of Frank Burke Brown who passed away at 19, the only Baker County casualty of Pearl Harbor; he was on the Arizona. She brought in some artifacts her family was not interested in."

The exhibit also has a very unique pair of glasses that are sharpshooter glasses from the Civil War, various dog tags showing how they have evolved over the years and support items like K-rations and C-rations. Hanging on the wall is a wooden plaque donated to the museum that lists several names that are far reaching into our community names like Rohner, Widman, Cantrell and Wirth. The plaque commemorates WWI veterans.

"We have a volunteer that served in Iraq and he received a quilt of valor. Quilts of valor can go to a past or present veteran that served. They are very, very, very particular in how their quilts are made and they are really specific on quality," explained Sherrieb. There is medical display featuring Dr. Pollock who started off as a military flight surgeon. After the war he returned to Baker City and started a regular practice.

There is a display for the WACs and the Waves; they were part of WWII and needed representation according to Sherrieb, even though they were rocked by allegations that they were immoral. There were a lot of women who were veterans who didn't want to be recognized as such because of a stigma that affected them so badly.

"We are really wanting the stories. One story that I really love is 'WWII meeting of kindred spirits' It is the story of the Clarke's. Tabor, Nelson and Mike's parents. They met when he was flying the nurses from one island hospital to another island hospital and they got married overseas," Sherrieb said. Their wedding picture is on display.

Sherrieb also shared a story she called "The legacy of a Bible." A grandmother got a grandfather a steel plated Bible. He wore it in a vest pocket during the Korean War, the bible was given to their son whose wife in turn gave it to their son. He also kept the Bible in a vest pocket during Vietnam. Then the Bible was given to his sister who in turn sent it to Iraq with her son.

A very notable item on display is the recognition of Chuck Mawhinney. His rifle is in the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Mawhinney, who worked for the Forest Service after he was out of the military, still lives in town.

Sherrieb says that the exhibit is ever-changing as more items are obtained and she does have a few artifacts from the American Revolution as well.

The Baker Heritage Museum is under the new direction of Lea Hoover. Chris Cantrell, previous director recently retired. Just a reminder the museum is always looking for volunteers. Plans are in the works to commemorate Memorial Day and honor our veterans with a free day for all being offered.

Rep. Bentz to hold multiple town halls

Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario), taking advantage of a Legislatively designated "In District" day, will hold a series of town hall meetings across District 60 on Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th.

At each meeting, Rep. Bentz will present a brief summary of the proposed \$7.2 billion school budget, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, automatic voter registration, funding for sage grouse habitat recovery, minimum wage increase proposals, paid sick leave, and other issues from the 2015 Legislative Session.

He will share observations about Oregon's new Governor, Kate Brown's administration, and the ongoing challenge of being in the minority.

"It is important to share what is happening in Salem, and this also provides an opportunity for people to share their concerns with me," said Rep. Bentz.

Rep. Bentz encourages those interested to attend any of the following meetings:

Halfway.

Friday, March 27th at 6:30-8:00 a.m. (PDT) Wild Bills & Co Restaurant (105

S. Main St.)

Richland.

Friday, March 27th at 9:00-10:30 a.m. (PDT) Richland City Hall (89 Main St.)

Haines.

Friday, March 27th at 12:00, 1:30 p.m. (PDT) Frontier Restaurant (920 Front St.)

Durkee.

Friday, March 27th at 2:30-4:00 p.m. (PDT) Durkee Community Hall (28716 Old Hwy 30)

Huntington.

Friday, March 27th at 5:00-6:30 p.m. (PDT) Howells Café & Streamliner Lounge (40

E. Washington St.)

Ontario.

Saturday, March 28th at 7:00-8:30 a.m. (MDT) Plaza Inn Restaurant (812 SW 4th Ave.)

Vale.

Saturday, March 28th at 9:30-11:00 a.m. (MDT) Starlite Café (152 Clark St. S.)

Burns/Hines.

Saturday, March 28th at 12:30-2:00 p.m. (PDT) Apple Peddler (540 US-20, Hines)

John Day.

Saturday, March 28th at 4:30-6:00 p.m. (PDT) The Outpost Restaurant.

BHS student joins School Board race

It looks like unusual competition for at least one of the three open School Board positions at 5J.

According to County Clerk Cindy Carpenter, Baker High School student Austin C. Mitchell has filed for candidacy for position 2, the same position for which current 5J Chair

Andrew Bryan is currently seeking re-election.

Position 1 has been filed for by Chris M. Hawkins who is also currently on the Board.

Melissa A. Irvine is seeking Position 5.

All three positions are four-year terms.

MayDay needs more crisis line volunteers

MayDay's 24-hour crisis line is a vital connection for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and elder abuse. To fill rotations in that position, MayDay needs a compassionate person, who is a good listener and can carefully follow training protocols.

This volunteer position requires a criminal background check and strict adherence to the confidentiality policy. The job can be done from home or other locations and may be on call one week each month.

Contact Milli at 541-523-9472 for information.