



The Baker County Press

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All local. All relevant. Every Friday.

Travel Oregon stops by

• TRAVEL OREGON MEETS AT HISTORIC GEISER GRAND

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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The Palm Court at the historic Geiser Grand provided the backdrop for a Travel Oregon meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting, hosted by Barbara Sidway of the Geiser Grand, was facilitated by Scott West and Linea Gagliano of Travel Oregon. The meeting was also attended by Timothy

Bishop of Baker County Tourism and a board member of the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association (EOVA) and Oregon Tour Travel Association, Alice Trindle, Executive Director of EOVA, Kristen Dollarhide, Executive Director of Union County Chamber of Commerce Director and Union County Tourism whom also sits on the EOVA board.

Carrie Folkman, Chairman of the Lodging Tax Committee for Baker County said, "I'm very well aware of the economic impact of tourism because we've owned a

campground for 56 years, I'm third generation in a family business."

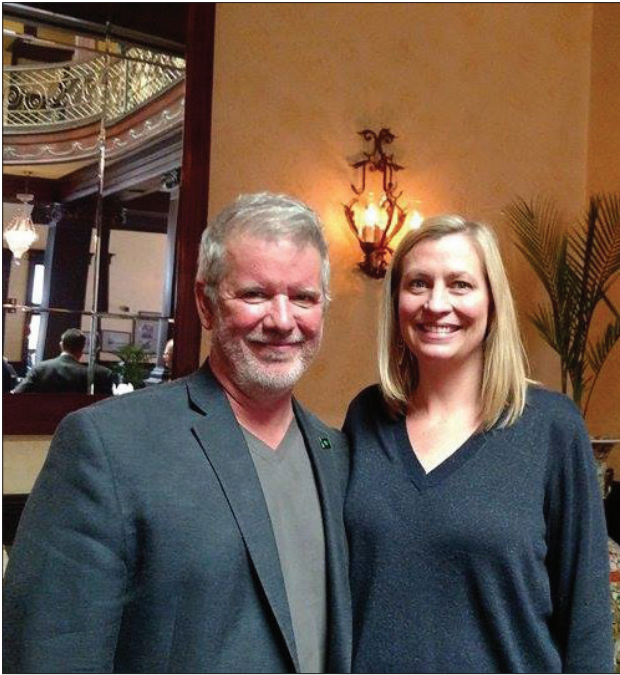
Also present for the meeting was Mark Bennett, Baker County Commissioner, who said, "As Barbara pointed out for all of us that have visitors come stay in our homes, we really aren't giving the community a boost. As Carrie would say 'they're not paying the transient room tax.'"

Sidway, owner of the Geiser Grand Hotel added, "I know the community doesn't understand how important tourism is to our overall economy."

EOVA represents 11 counties and accounts for one-third of the state—the largest region in Oregon as designated by Travel Oregon.

Bishop opened the meeting introducing West and Gagliano. He said, "They are making their way around the state talking about the economic impact of tourism throughout the state. We've got some really exciting numbers in terms of what the tourism industry means for the state of Oregon."

SEE TRAVEL OREGON PAGE 8



Scott West and Linea Gagliano from Travel Oregon visited Baker City and the Geiser Grand this week.



Paul Joiner, Oregon Department of Transportation Regional Field Coordinator, meets with students Brandon Howard from Irrigon, Hector Gomez from Umatilla, and Lou Allman, and Wyatt Johnson from Pendleton during the Eastern Oregon Construction and Utility Career Day hosted by ODOT in Baker City April 23.

ODOT's huge career day

• CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITY CAREER DAY DRAWS 456 PARTICIPANTS

BY BRIAN ADDISON
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Blue skies and warm temperatures prevailed as 348 students from 20 schools including Baker High's Technical Institute and Burnt River, had a day out of the classroom Thursday April 23, for the Eastern Oregon Construction and Utility Career Day hosted by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Students representing a geographical range from Ontario to Heppner attended classes and demonstrations at the ODOT Region 5 shop buildings to learn more about career, training, and educational opportunities from community partners and professionals. The ODOT shops are located east of Baker City with access improved by the recent upgrade of Best Frontage Road.

"ODOT hosts the event in partnership with Bureau of Labor and Industries, local industries, and the Education Service Districts within Region Five," said Feather Huesties, Office of Civil Rights Region Five Field Coordinator. "Construction and Utility Career Day gives kids an opportunity to try out different careers in the highway construction trade and apprenticeship."

The students were accompanied by 33 chaperones, 46 ODOT volunteers helped plan and demonstrate how to use equipment, and 29 business and exhibitor volunteers providing equipment and hands-on activities and infor-



Students from the eastern Oregon region attended equipment demonstrations and career classes.

mation. Official participation was pegged at 456, according to Huesties.

ODOT crews led students through equipment demonstrations and together with several of the region's educational and industry professionals distributed career information on highway construction and related fields. Those participating included Portland engineering firm Akana, Treasure Valley Community College, Blue Mountain Community College, Idaho Work Opportunity Network, and Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. Eagle Cap Innovative High School Culinary Program provided lunch.

OGEC can't address Kerns ethics complaint

• OREGON GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION SAYS CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMPLAINT FALLS OUTSIDE ITS JURISDICTION

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Early Monday morning, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) confirmed receipt of a formal request for review of Baker County Commissioner Tim Kerns' involvement during the appointment of his wife, Jan Kerns, to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) during their March 18, 2015 meeting.

Wednesday afternoon, OGEC said the complaint fell outside its jurisdiction and no investigation would ensue.

SEE ETHICS PAGE 8



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press Tim Kerns.

County bans pot

• PROTESTERS GATHER OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE ON WEDNESDAY AS COUNTY ORDINANCE IS PUT IN PLACE

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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On Wednesday, April 29, 2015, the Baker County Board of Commissioners held a special session at 1 p.m. at the Baker County Courthouse, to hold a public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 2015-02, with the title "An Ordinance Regulating Marijuana Within Baker County; And Declaring An Emergency."

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioner Mark Bennett, Commissioner Tim Kerns, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Attendees included Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Baker County Planner Holly Kerns, Baker County Juvenile Court Supervisor Staci Erickson, Al and Carol Free, James Millwood, and Rod Shaw.

SEE COUNTY BANS POT PAGE 7

Friday Sunny and very pleasant conditions, highs in the mid-70s. Partly cloudy at night with a low around 40.

Saturday Sunny with the occasional passing cloud, highs in the mid to lower 70s. Passing clouds at night with a low in the mid-30s.

Sunday Sunny and pleasant, highs near 70. Another cool night with the possibility of a passing cloud. Lows in the mid-30s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

LGDWS Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC CO-OP 2015 Annual Meeting Saturday, May 2 | John Day

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

WWNF, County: Map confusion	Page 3
The Outdoor Column: Wolf OR-22	Page 7
Herbicides hot City Council topic	Page 9
Sumpter Council has full agenda	Page 10
Richland WWII vet turns 90	Page 10
Wellness Watch Column	Page 11

7 01748 74383 8