

Business & Ag

BHS grad opens metal art business

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Talon Colton of Baker City recently launched Talon Colton Metal Art, designing and creating various types of metal artwork. He creates and offers work of his own designs and also accepts custom orders.

Colton, a graduate of Baker High School, said he got interested in metalwork while a junior and senior working on the machine at the high school. He discovered a talent for the work and also got into welding and ag mechanics through FFA.

After high school, Colton tried to sign up with the Marine Corps but was disqualified due to hearing loss. He graduated lineman school and then tried for enrollment in the Army with a waiver. He said despite the waiver, he was disqualified again for hearing loss and returned to Baker City and working full-time on the Colton Ranch.

Colton purchased his own cutting machine in April of this year and started playing with designs.

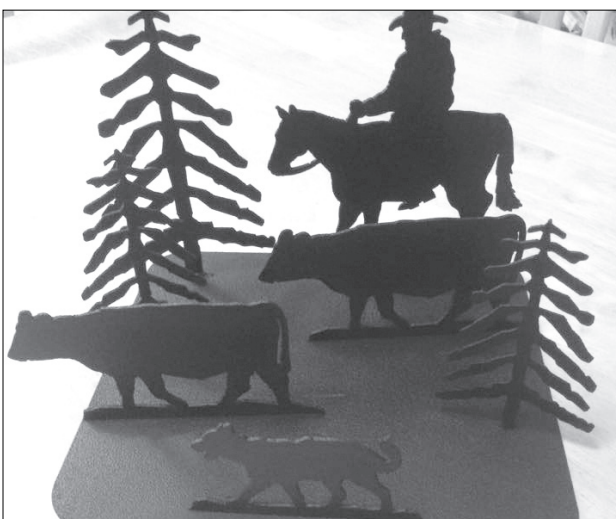
His main advertising has been word of mouth and he also has a Facebook site.

Colton said he thought he'd just get a few jobs here and there, but there has been more interest than he had anticipated.

He has done mostly signs, tabletop art, and garden stakes, but also did a ranch archway. His cutting machine has a capacity of 4x4 feet and cut-outs of words and such can be done in sizes up to those dimensions. The ranch archway was 12 feet, so Colton cut it in sections and utilized his welding skills to complete the project.

Though he did two or three aluminum pieces in high school, Colton usually works with regular steel. He prefers to work with cold-rolled steel versus hot-rolled due to its workability and durability. Colton said the cold-rolled steel is also easier to apply some finishes to. He said painted signs don't matter as much, but if he is applying color with a torch or a finish beside paint, the cold-rolled steel comes out looking better.

Colton's design process



Submitted Photo.

Talon Colton Metal Art creates, among other things, designs for the home.

begins when he has a picture in mind. For outside projects, he tries to get folks to send a picture of what they are wanting. He can then utilize computer software to change and adjust the image until it's right for cutting. He applies color to the project with paint, torch, or chemicals and puts a clear coat over the top to seal.

Turn-around time depends on the complexity of the project, and also on how busy things are on the ranch. Colton said they are getting to their busier time of year, so it may take longer to complete the metal

jobs. If it's something he's already designed, he can sometimes complete and get a project out the next day.

Other items may take a week or longer.

Colton's designs can be seen at facebook.com/Taloncoltonmetalart.

He also has some pieces on consignment at locations around Baker City, including Cabin Cowboy Designs, Mad Habit, and one piece at Elkhorn Embroidery.

Colton can be contacted through Facebook or via phone at 519-0463.

NRAC discusses Rieber advice

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) held a monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at 3 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey was present, along with NRAC Chair Doni Bruland, and the following committee members: Arvid Andersen, Jake Bingham, Kody Justus, Eileen Gyllenberg, Lyle Defrees, Craig Ward, Dick Fleming, Jan Alexander, Cynthia Long, Jan Kerns, George Keister, Laurene Chapman, Page Frederickson, Alice Knapp, Chuck Chase and Ken Anderson. Lane Parry and Emily Braswell were absent.

Attendees included Ed Hardt, John and Ramona Creighton, Gary Dielman and Wanda Ballard.

Hardt commented during the initial Public Participation segment of the meeting that he's been heavily emphasizing the coordination process at NRAC and other meetings, and that he also did the same during his time as an NRAC member.

The first topic for discussion on the agenda was the (in draft form) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sage-Grouse Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Protest letter, a copy of which Bruland gave to each committee member.

She explained that the format of the letter would remain the same, but it was not finalized at the time of the meeting, so suggestions about revisions from the NRAC were being sought.

Harvey commented that the letter, addressed to the BLM headquarters in Washington, D.C., would need to be finalized, approved, and sent by Friday, June 26, in order to be received by the deadline, Monday, June 30. An



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press.

The recently expanded NRAC met this week at the Courthouse.

electronic version would also be sent via email on Friday, June 26.

Kerns had copies of highlights from House Resolution (HR) 2647, The Resilient National Forest Act of 2015, and discussed that topic with the committee. These and other points were made in the Baker County Board of Commissioners' letter of support for HR 2647, addressed to Congressman Walden, who introduced the bill. The Commissioners approved the letter during the Wednesday, June 24, 2015 session at the County Courthouse.

Defrees moved that the NRAC give full support for HR 2647, with a second from Long. Justus responded immediately that he thinks there is a conflict with spending the time to draft and send the letter, because the County already has the authority to handle its own natural resource issues.

He said a recommendation from the NRAC isn't needed, because the legislation wouldn't be implemented any more than regulations, ordinances, etc. that are already available locally to the County.

He said that too much NRAC time has been spent on the subject, and he isn't interested in supporting the letter and legislation.

He emphasized focus on the County handling its

own issues, and the Baker County Natural Resource Plan (BCNRP), copies of which each member had.

Harvey discussed the issue with Justus, and Chase commented that the NRAC should support the legislation. The committee voted to support the letter and legislation, with Justus as the one member opposed.

The committee discussed consultant Andy Rieber's letter to the County Commissioners, in which she explained her recommended revisions to the BCNRP. Copies of this were available to the NRAC members.

She said she thought that the BCNRP, as she received it, was a "...well-written, well thought out plan, and its authors should be proud of their work..."

She went on to point out two primary weaknesses, however.

Rieber said that the plan combined County requirements on Federal and State lands with very broad, cross-jurisdictional natural resource philosophies, contrasted with most County plans, which are designed solely with the purpose of addressing needs on Federal and State lands, for the purpose of engaging in coordination and as cooperating agencies. This makes it easy for Federal agencies to overlook parts that pertain to them, she said, and directness and

clarity are needed as much as possible.

The second weakness, she said, is that it substantially lacked the primary tool necessary for coordination with Federal agencies—policies.

She said that the BCNRP stated policies in terms of "goals" and "objectives." In order for a goal or objective not to be potentially ignored by an agency, Rieber said, it's important to clarify exactly what the County's approach will be to the agencies, and she suggested terms and structure that would make the BCNRP more consistent, and spell out in firmer language demands or expectations of agencies.

Rieber billed 42 hours and \$4,200.

The NRAC members discussed revisions to the BCNRP for a little over 20 minutes in their respective sub-committee groups, after which Harvey emphasized the need to have suggested changes to the protest letter in as soon as possible.

Bruland stated that suggested changes to the BCNRP should be in by July 14, and they can be discussed further at the next regular NRAC meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, at 3 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, June 19, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to the same quality last week. Trade activity and demand increased a little this week, however many producers were still busy in the field with the new crop. Few sales of new crop hay. Most producers are still sold out for the season.

No new confirmed sales this week.
USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— GRAIN REPORT —

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

In early trading July wheat futures trended mixed, from 0.50 of a cent lower to 0.75 of a cent per bushel higher compared to Tuesday's closes. Bids for US 2 Yellow Corn delivered full coast in 110 car shuttle trains trended lower compared to Tuesday's noon bids. Bids for US 1 Yellow Soybeans delivered full coast in 110 car shuttle trains were not available in early trading.

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 361

Steer Calves

300-400# Bulk N/A Top N/A
400-500# Bulk N/A Top N/A
500-600# Bulk 229.00 - 256.00 Top 268.00

Heifer Calves

300-400# Bulk N/A Top N/A
400-500# Bulk 238.00 - 257.00 Top 263.00
500-600# Bulk 224.00 - 238.00 Top 240.00

Yearling Steers

600-700# Bulk 224.00 - 253.00 Top 257.50
700-800# Bulk 213.00 - 229.00 Top 231.50
800-900# Bulk 201.00 - 212.00 Top 214.00
900-1,000# Bulk 178.00 - 187.00 Top 189.50

Yearling Heifers

600-700# Bulk 216.00 - 229.00 Top 231.00
700-800# Bulk 184.00 - 201.00 Top 205.00
800-900# Bulk 163.00 - 174.00 Top 176.00
900-1,000# Bulk N/A Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows 81.00 - 93.00
Butcher Cows 95.00 - 108.00
Butcher Bulls 117.00 - 132.00
Pairs BM N/A
Younger Hfrts. 121.00 - 139.00
Young Pairs - N/A

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir is \$415.00/mbf
White fir is \$365.00/mbf
Ponderosa Pine is brought sold on diameter splits
6 to 11 inch dib \$300 to \$310/MBF
12 to 17 inch dib \$350 to \$375/MBF
18 to 23 inch dib \$400 to \$430/MBF
24 inch plus dib \$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at small end of log.
MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.
People interested in selling logs should call and get specific quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1176.70

Silver: \$15.86

Platinum: \$1,074.45

Palladium: \$695.50

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$372.00/bu/USD
Wheat: \$526.50/bu/USD
Soybeans: \$959.75/bu/USD
Oats: \$269.00 bu/USD
Rough Rice: \$10.20/cwt/USD
Canola: \$519.20 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle: \$150.33/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle: \$223.70/lb./USD
Lean Hogs: \$74.20/lb./USD
Bloomberg.com