



The Baker County Press

75¢

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Friday, September 4, 2015 • Volume 2, Issue 36

Bennett meets with Governor, Secretary of Ag

• BAKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER TRAVELS TO PORTLAND, DISCUSSES FIRES, SAGE-GROUSE

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett attended a meeting in Portland on Thursday

afternoon, August 27th, to discuss with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Governor Kate Brown and others, the topics of the Greater Sage-Grouse and the effects wildfires have had on eastern Oregon.

Bennett, who was invited to the meeting mainly because of his years of experience addressing Sage-Grouse issues, said, "The Governor listened to our concerns about the Sage-Grouse, and that's going to be a long, unfold-

ing process. The Secretary announced, primarily, that there are going to be additional funds—\$200 million—for the 11 states that have Sage-Grouse, for ranchers, to assist them with conservation strategies that improve the Sage-Grouse."

He gave examples of those strategies, such as addressing the issues of invasive weeds and juniper trees. He said, "There's going to be more of an emphasis by the BLM

(Bureau of Land Management) and the (U.S.) Forest Service on fires that are impacting Sage-Grouse areas."

Bennett said that, long-term, there will be a slight de-emphasis regarding juniper treatments, as more is removed, and more of a focus on invasive species like grasses, and "improving the sagebrush," a term Bennett heard mentioned, which he stated could use more clarity.

SEE GOVERNOR PAGE 10



Submitted Photo.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett while on site at the El Dorado fire near his property.



Submitted Photo.

A truck and dozer owned by McKinney Trucking, alongside a weed washer and water tender truck.

Cutting the fire breaks

• A LOOK AT ONE COMPANY WORKING DURING FIRE SEASON

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

While aerial retardant drops and yellow-shirted hand crews may certainly be two irreplaceable—and also the most visible—aspects of any wildland fire-fighting effort, behind the scenes another integral part of the effort literally dozes ahead, largely unsung.

That part is the heavy equipment operator.

For Jerry McKinney and Paula Sawyer of McKinney Trucking, driving and operating a dozer to cut fire lines becomes a way of life for three months of the year.

"We did construction and wanted to add another branch," McKinney said. "So we did."

The company provides an '86 pumper truck, but primarily a dozer and transport to wildfires.

Registered as an independent contractor to the Vale Dispatch Center of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), McKinney said, "We've been doing construction forever—at least 15 years. We've been fighting fire for the past five or six."

This year, McKinney and Sawyer have been on the Bendire, Lesley Gulch, Ship Rock, Owyhee and Lime Hill fires.

McKinney, whose company is based in Ontario, grew up in Bridgeport and graduated from Burnt River High School in Unity.

Sawyer is also known to most in Baker City as the owner of The Flower Box.

While McKinney is on site in the dozer, Sawyer drives the "chase rig." She explained, "It's loaded with dozer fuel and I follow him around in it. He doesn't need to leave with the cat—we can fuel up on the spot."

McKinney says fire season typically begins mid-June and continues through August.

"This year is a little different," he said.

Added Sawyer, "It's been pretty active. Last year, we did do 14 days straight at the Crane fire, though."

As Sawyer explained, during the fire season, independent contractors wait for "the call" to come.

SEE FIRE BREAKS PAGE 5



Submitted Photo.

Paula Sawyer.



Submitted Photo.

Jerry McKinney.

Sumpter holds 'emergency' meeting

• NEW HEAD OF COUNCIL APPOINTED

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
Meghan@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Sumpter City Council held a brief Emergency Meeting Friday evening, August 28th. The meeting was called to add and remove signers to all accounts, elect a new Head of Council, and review Letters of Intent from those interested in serving on Council.

About sixteen people attended the meeting, including Commissioner Bill Harvey and wife Lorrie, Sheriff Travis Ash and deputy Rich Kirby. In addition, City Councilors LeAnne Woolf, Ann Oakley, and City Recorder Julie McKinney were present.

SEE SUMPTER CITY COUNCIL PAGE 8

McKim resigns from 5J School Board

• BHS BOILER NEEDS REPLACED SOONER THAN EXPECTED, SRO TO START IN FALL

BY BRIAN ADDISON
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Four members of the Baker School District Board of Directors, chairperson Kevin Cassidy, Andrew Bryan, Chris Hawkins, and Melissa Irvine attending via telephone, accepted the resignation of fellow board member Richard McKim. McKim vacates his position on the board with about two years remaining on his term to accept a job with the Veteran's Health Administration in Roseburg, Ore.

McKim was not in attendance at the Aug. 27 board meeting but had his resignation letter read: "I will be relocating out of the area to a position with the Veteran's Health Administration. Therefore, I will be resigning from the 5J School Board immediately. It has been a pleasure to serve, and you will be missed."

SEE SCHOOL BOARD PAGE 8

Friday Mostly sunny with a chance of afternoon showers/storms. Highs in the upper 60s. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Low near 40 at night.

Saturday Mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 60s. Partly cloudy with a chance for an overnight shower. Lows in the upper 30s, chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Chance for a lingering shower, otherwise mostly sunny. Chance of precipitation is 20%, highs in the lower 70s. Partly cloudy and cool, lows near 40.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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Local

— COMMUNITY CALENDAR —

EASTERN OREGON MINING ASSOCIATION MEETING

The meetings are held on the first Friday of the month. The next meeting is Friday, September 4th at the Baker City Hall. The building is located at 1st and Auburn Streets in Baker City. The Board meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. The general meeting starts at 6:30 p.m..

SUMPTER FLEA MARKET

Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7 in Sumpter.

BAKER COUNTY FAIR AND PANHANDLE RODEO

Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7 in Halfway.

BANDSTAND DEDICATION

Sunday, September 6, 1:30 p.m. in the Geiser-Pollman park. At 2:00 p.m. enjoy the Blue Yesterdays, classic big band sounds from the past. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., assorted musicians.

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, September 8, 7 p.m. in the Baker City Council Chambers.

ELDERCARE DISCUSSIONS

Thursday, September 10, 1-3 p.m. at Baker County Community Connection. This month's topic is Medicare 101. The class will cover topics such as Part D drug coverage, supplemental coverage, Part A and B, and enrollment periods. What you do not know can cost you and with Medicare changes happening each year it's important to stay up to date.

PATRIOTS DAY, 9/11 VIGIL

Friday, September 11, 6-7 p.m. The community is invited to join in front of the National Guard Armory in Baker City for the second annual candlelight vigil to remember those who were lost during the attack on the twin towers, and to honor those who bravely responded. Watch as the Baker City Fire Department raises the American Flag high atop a firetruck ladder. Organized by Carole Dyke of Baker City, and supported by the Baker County Republicans.

REP. KEN IVORY MEET AND GREET

Friday, September 11, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Baker County Courthouse. Come meet Utah State Representative Ken Ivory, President of American Lands Council. Call 541-523-5035 for more information.

REP. KEN IVORY WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Sunridge Inn in Baker City. Come learn about States rights and the management of public lands. Call 541-523-5035 for reservations. No host lunch available. Space is limited and filling fast.

BUSINESS FOUNDATION WORKSHOP

Monday, September 28 at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave. from 6 to 9 p.m. Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) offers a free, six-week workshop series to help entrepreneurs and small-business owners build the basis for a successful enterprise. Hands-on class covers the basics of running a successful business: overhead and inventory costs, goal-setting and sales projections, marketing, taxes and licensing, and other considerations, and brings it all together in a business plan.

MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday, October 31, 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. at the Geiser Grand. Costumes and ambiance. Carriage rides, celebrity book signings, photography, music, and more! Buy tickets at www.thebakercountypress.com or at the front desk of the Geiser Grand. Ticket numbers are limited, so don't wait!

JAIL ROSTER

VOWELL, Theodore
BOLANOS, Ann
CLAYBORN, Douglas
MABE, Kevin
MADER, Casey
KEEFE, Timothy
MUNSELL, Emily
ROMAN, Melissa
ENTERMILLE, Forrest
PFAFF, Buddy
DOWNING, Devin
BEEMAN, Jason
AUBORN, Angel
GAGNON, Roderick
HANNA, John
SMITH, Tawni
CLARK, Dexter
WOLFE, Alan
BAGGERLY, David
HANSON, Coty
WONG, David
ROTHENBERGER, Daniel
GRAMMON, Jacob
FIELDS, Jonathon
TREATOR, Kevin
THACKER, Melissa
CARROLL, Richard
SPRAGUE, Travis
RICHARDSON, Sherrie
LOTT, Aaron
TURNER, Darren
GILDA, Jeremy
SCHULTE, Michael

— NEWS OF RECORD —

CORNETT, Jeremy
BRODAHL, Robert
KILBORN, Lacey
STEELE, Tiffany
CAVYELL, Eric
SMITH, Glen
ROBINSON, Damon
GRIGGS, Corey
MYERS, Andrew
PADILLA-ALBRADO, Jose
KEYES, Bryan

POLICE LOG

Steele, Dylan Joseph. 8/28. Contempt of Court.
Unrein, Elliot Anthony. 8/28. Assault.
Schulte, Michael Ray. 8/28. Contempt of Court.
Bicknell, Christopher Allen. 8/29. Contempt of Court.
Brooks, Autumn Leanne. 8/29. Criminal Trespass II.
Whitting-Good, Travis Anthony. 8/31. Contempt of Court.
Entermille, Forrest Lee. 8/31. Contempt of Court.

FUNERAL NOTICES

David McGuire Sr., 60, of Baker City, died on Friday, August 28, 2015 at St. Alphonsus Hospital - Baker.

A Celebration of David's Life will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 4 p.m. at the Baker Elks Lodge in Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Priscilla "Pat" Codekas, 73, of Baker City passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2015 at Settlers Park Assisted Living Community. Arrangements are being handled through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR 97818.

Elaine N. Trimble, 93, of Hereford, OR passed away August 17, 2015 at Willowbrook Terrace in Pendleton. A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Wednesday September 30 at the Baker City Christian Church. Pastor Lynn Shumway of Baker City, OR will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

John Beal, 69, of Sumpter, Oregon passed away on August 31, 2015 at his residence. Arrangements are being handled through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR 97814.

— OBITUARIES —

Neal M. Bork

Sumpter, 1937-2015

Neal M. Bork, 78, of Sumpter, OR, died August 20, 2015 at his residence surrounded by his family. A memorial service was held for Neal on August 24, 2015 at the McEwen Bible Fellowship in Sumpter, OR. Pastor Dan Martin officiated.

Neal was born February 2, 1937 at Day Ridge, North of Enterprise, to Ira H. Bork and Lora Mae Moyes Bork. Neal went through the 8th grade and always said he graduated from the college of hard knocks. Neal joined the National Guard and served his country for ten years, retiring at the rank of PFC-1.

Neal married Georgene Wirth in 1961. Georgene and Neal had two boys, Mike and Mark. Though Georgene and Neal did not stay together, they were always connected through their children. Neal later married Marlene Hutton on June 8, 1973. Marlene had a son, Everett and Neal adopted and raised Everett as his own. Marlene and Neal had 42 wonderful years together.

Neal was a mechanic and contractor and worked for Ford Garage and Chet Smith Motors until he decided to step out on his own. He worked as a mechanic for 46 years and a contractor for 14 years, retiring in 2001.

Neal was a very loving husband and though he was not as gentle with his sons as he was with his

wife, he was a very loving father. Neal and Marlene didn't have daughters of their own but Neal doted on his grand daughters, daughters-in-law and nieces. Neal could be rough with the guys but he never swore in front of the ladies.

Neal was a man of quiet concern for others. He sometimes seemed gruff to people who did not know him well, but he had a kind and gentle heart.

During the time he was very ill, he could not bear to watch the news. The ugliness of our present world was just too much. Neal loved to tease everyone. He was well known for giving waitresses a hard time and his standard response when asked about a car problem was "Sounds like a loose nut behind the wheel." He loved keeping his own vehicles in tip top shape.

When he retired Neal and Marlene moved to Sumpter to run their RV park full-time. He bought a cat, a backhoe, a loader and a couple of dump trucks and worked just as hard at being retired as he ever did at being a mechanic.

Although his wife knew he was just playing with his giant Tonka toys.

Neal loved snowmobiling and served as president of the local snowmobile club for two or three terms. He was a huge supporter for other snowmobilers as well. He enjoyed hunting, four wheeling, tinkering in his shop and blue grass

music. Neal could fix just about anything and made many handy inventions. Even after he became ill, he couldn't resist improving on the design of the medical devices. There was never a dull moment when Neal was around, he always kept the conversation lively. Neal also enjoyed serving with the Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department and was affiliated with the McEwen Bible Fellowship church. His larger than life presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Neal is survived by his wife, Marlene of Sumpter, OR, sons Mike Bork, Everett Bork of Baker City, OR, and Mark Bork of Spokane WA, all his sons spouses and nieces and nephews. He has twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Lora Bork, three brothers; Ivan, Everett and Raymond, two sisters; Alma Giribling and Rita Bork. Memorial contributions in memory of Neal may be made to the Sumpter Valley Snowmobile Club, the McEwen Bible Fellowship or the Sumpter Fire Department. This may be done through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR. 97814.

Nellie Pierce

Heppner, 1928-2015

Nellie Joe Pierce, 86, of Heppner, Oregon passed away on August 27, 2015 while at the Regency Nursing Rehab Center in Hermiston, OR. A graveside service was held Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City, OR with Pastor Lennie Spooner of the First

Church of The Nazarene officiating.

A gathering of friends and family took place after the service at the Oregon Trail Restaurant.

Nellie was born on September 2, 1928 in Sumpter, OR to Louis Blize and Myrtle Ellen Harrison Blize.

Nellie married Tom O. Pierce on October 10, 1946 while in Baker City and together they had two daughters.

Nellie was a housewife and mother most of her married life. Tom passed away on April 25, 1995.

Nellie enjoyed crocheting, ceramics, sewing and painting along with being a great wife and mother.

She was a member of the Baptist Church.

Nellie was survived by her daughters Myrtle Thompson and husband, Ken, of Hermiston, OR and Judy Chastain of Heppner, OR, two grand daughters, Rebecca Picknell of Pendleton, OR and Cheryl Elfstrom of Bellingham, WA, two grandsons, Dan Peterson of Ione, OR and David Elfstrom of Bozeman, MT, and two great-grandchildren, Brianna Peterson and husband Jordan, and Kelly Elfstrom and wife, Amber.

She is preceded in death by her husband Tom Pierce and a son-in-law Roger Chastain.

Memorial contributions may be made to either Heart-N-Home Hospice or Best Friends of Baker City through Grays West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, Oregon 97814.



Nellie Pierce



Michael Rushton, DPM

Podiatric Physician and Surgeon

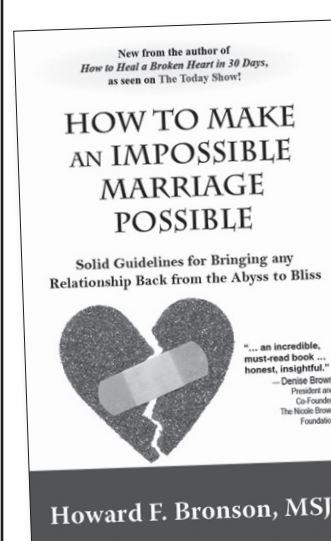
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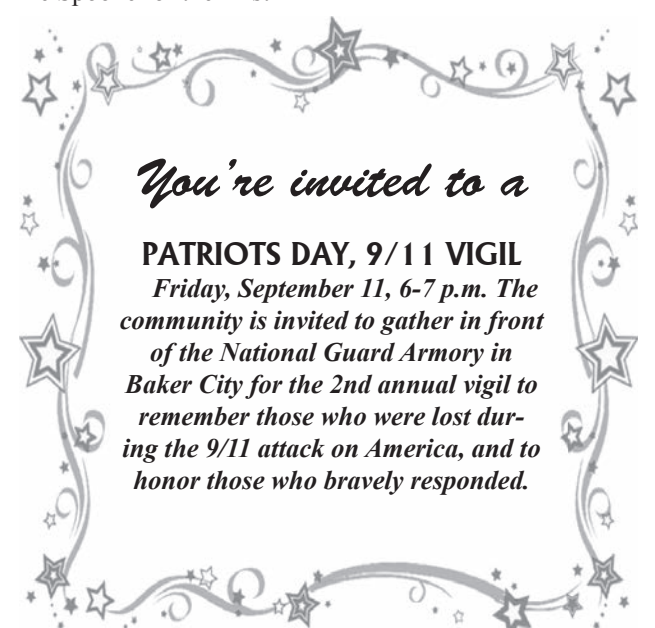
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—Dr. Ben Michaelis



You're invited to a
PATRIOTS DAY, 9/11 VIGIL
Friday, September 11, 6-7 p.m. The community is invited to gather in front of the National Guard Armory in Baker City for the 2nd annual vigil to remember those who were lost during the 9/11 attack on America, and to honor those who bravely responded.

Business & Ag

Historic Baker City holds second plug-in meeting

• COMMUNITY PRIDE, INVOLVING LOCAL YOUTH DISCUSSED

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Wednesday morning The Little Bagel Shop on Main Street hosted the second Historic Baker City (HBC) "plug in" meeting.

The meeting, which garnered an audience of approximately 20, was facilitated by HBC president Larry Abell, Downtown Project Manager Jeff Nelson and Maurizio Valerio of RDI, Rural Development Institute.

Nelson, who was also scheduled to attend another meeting that morning, spoke about Economic Development. He said, "It is one of the strongest arms. There is opportunity with me working also for BMCC small business development program and we have been able to collect data to begin 'business clustering.'"

Clustering is an idea where businesses with similar products and services in the same general industry are placed in the same vicinity, same block.

"Take for example J. Tabor Jewelers and No. 1911. If 1911 started renting tuxedos, someone buying an engagement ring at J. Tabor could be directed to 1911 by staff for renting their tuxedo," Nelson said. "HBC does play an important role for the economic development of downtown but we are reaching out to businesses on 10th street, Campbell Street and Broadway. For all our current HBC members, we are going to have Leo Adler money soon, so if you do have exterior projects, we would love to hear about them and get that info so we can help you and make that project happen."

Nelson then addressed events. "For the events, last year was outstanding. So far for this year, Larry thought up the business duck race and it was phenomenal," he said.

That race was held during Miners Jubilee. Nelson said, "We're coming up to the Taste of Baker, it was our best event last year with record-breaking numbers. This year we will be having the same thing I'm sure and we will have restaurants that are not on Main Street so they will be in Court Plaza.

"The Sunridge is going to help out with their DJ so we will have a little bit of music down there, too. Then we will be getting into the Halloween season I am meeting with the prison to see if they can help with reenacting our scarecrows, they may be making them and I may be seeking donations for materials to make them.

"And we are getting into our holiday season as well and with last years new lights we noticed the garlands that stretch across the streets looked a little dim in comparison to the new lights on the tree so this year the garlands will have new lights as well. I



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Jo Marlett listens to HBC president Larry Abell give his presentation.

have also been contacted by a couple of people that have large trees in their yards they'd like considered for the downtown tree this year.

"I will be getting with OTEC soon to make a decision on that so let me know if you have a tree you'd like considered as well. The homes parlor tour is being compiled as well. I'm sorry I have to go, I got double booked today, we've got some exciting things going on with the chamber and HBC will be playing an important role in that I will get you all informed as soon as I can of that."

Rosemary Abell spoke up and said, "One of the things the Chamber is going to be talking about is the Cycle Oregon event starting and ending in Baker City. The race has started here before but never ended here so this would be a new addition to the event. Next year's event is expecting around 2,200 riders averaging 51 years of age with an average income of \$103,000.

"That could mean good revenue for Baker City and the Cycle Oregon event organizers have money to spend on organizations like the football team for helping unload equipment with money available to HBC and the Chamber for various things too. Tentative plans include a beer garden and other entertainment to be held at the sports complex."

Nelson said, "We'd like to make it so that when they plan for the future they will want to do it again and again."

After Nelson's departure, Larry Abell guided the group in another direction. He spoke of the "restore center" HBC is getting together that will be located on the corner of Washington and 2nd Street that is about 2000 square feet.

The idea behind the restore center is to "recycle" needed building materials into other things.

Abell said, "I think many people have old stuff in their basement or garage that is just sitting there and not needed anymore. We will try to be a little more selective with the stuff that we collect than Salvation Army."

The space was just recently made available and Abell is expecting the

restore center to begin operations in the near future.

Abell also talked briefly about Resort Street banners that are set to be launched, with banners soon to be printed.

Each banner is different and depicts a business or landmark unique to our town.

The idea as Abell explained, "Is to connect visitors and residents to the downtown businesses and buildings because there will be details on the banners so you can find what is on the banner. If you find 10 of them you get a gift certificate to shop in one of the local stores, they've already been donated."

Abell mentioned that in working on events, Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, during the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally debriefing, suggested a survey that would give insight into the event.

The six-question survey would be followed up by a meeting concerning the Rally and any changes that might improve the event.

"The folks that run the Rally will be involved too. They know we are doing this. I don't try and pull any punches; it's all on the table," Abell explained. "And this is not just the Main Street businesses either. There are a lot of business impacted by the Rally."

Abell also told the crowd that an IT person is being sought to redesign, revamp and integrate the HBC website, although some free classes for non-profits in web design have been taken that IT person is vital to the organization.

There were three candidates thus far.

"We feel that having that website is going to attract younger members and people will have an easier time communicating with HBC," said Abell. "Facebook and social media will be a part of that."

Funding initially for the IT person and their work will come from a Ford Family grant.

Abell spoke of a concept called "A City without Walls," which they are working on implementing and will put information into the hands of those who want and need it easier and faster.

He also explained funding sources and that for the first time known to him,

the City gave HBC \$5,000 to work with out of the City budget. That money was crucial to securing grants, etc.

Joyce O'Neil, owner of Copy, Ship & Mail and Joyce's Frame and Craft and manager of the Basche-Sage Place expressed concern over communication.

She stated she did not receive adequate notice about the Cycle Oregon event, learning about it on a Thursday with the event on Saturday.

It was suggested that better and more frequent forms of communication be secured with the possibility of even a monthly column in one of the local papers.

"Years ago, it was if you advertised in one paper and one radio station, you reached 100% of the population. Nowadays you can advertise with everyone and don't get 10%," said Bob Hayes, downtown building owner.

O'Neil spoke to the past of having block captains that were responsible for keeping businesses in their designated block or area informed of upcoming events and even distributing flyers, opening up communications.

She volunteered to fill that role in her block.

Consensus among the attendees was that it was a good idea to revive that program.

There was talk of other volunteers for block captains and the possibilities of contacting any former captains who were still around to see if that may be a role they wished to fill once again.

It was also discussed at great length bringing many of the youth groups in our community into HBC—not just to fill service roles during banquets or for various other dirty jobs but to actually utilize them for input into our community and some of the decisions that are made. It was felt that there had been a long history of ignoring kids and it might be wise to engage our youth; they are part of our community.

Many among the attendees felt the youth could bring an energy and drive to the table different than what was already there.

SEE HISTORIC BAKER CITY PAGE 10

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, August 28, 2015 — Eastern Oregon
Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Alfalfa premium quality in Lake, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, and Wasco Counties trended higher. Demand was slow to moderate. Some producers were wrapping up third cutting alfalfa while a few were beginning fourth cutting. Fires and smoke throughout the counties have limited some producers from being able to move hay. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square, Good	1490 160.00-170.00	160.20
Alfalfa — Small Square, Good	30 180.00-180.00	180.00
Orchard Grass — Large Square, Good	35 190.00-190.00	190.00
Timothy Grass — Large Square, Good/Premium	138 180.00-180.00	180.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, August 26, 2015
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 362

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk 243.00 - 259.00	Top 260.00
500-600#	Bulk 226.00 - 239.00	Top 241.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 241.00 - 265.00	Top 267.00
400-500#	Bulk 223.00 - 247.00	Top 248.00
500-600#	Bulk 203.00 - 230.00	Top 231.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 206.00 - 218.00	Top 222.00
700-800#	Bulk 201.00 - 209.00	Top 214.00
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 198.00 - 212.00	Top 213.00
700-800#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
800-900#	Bulk 164.00 - 172.00	Top 175.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	71.00 - 87.00
Butcher Cows	95.00 - 105.00
Butcher Bulls	97.00 - 118.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	123.00 - 147.00
Stock Cows -	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/mb
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: \$1133.30

Silver: \$14.66

Platinum: \$1014.43

Palladium: \$583.75

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$366.25/bu/USD

Wheat: \$478.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$871.75/bu/USD

Oats: \$225.00 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$12.00/cwt/USD

Canola: \$465.10 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$141.50/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$196.23/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$69.83/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Opinion

— GUEST OPINION —

EOWIB needs transparency in its hiring process

By Eddie Garcia

Baker County is among the eight counties comprising the landscape of the Eastern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (EOWIB) have over 181,400 residents relying on the EOWIB for a prosperous economic future, jobs, effective training and new businesses.

Former Union County commissioner Bill Rosholt is now the executive director of EOWIB; he had been a “temporary coordinator,” and many question his prior knowledge, his application, his selection, his qualifications and overall process.

Despite the original job description requiring a bachelor’s and master’s degree, the description implemented to hire Rosholt was stripped of academics.

Board chair, Ms. Susie Cederholm tells me, “The academics were changed to fit experience and there was only one applicant for the job.” Not only is this a crucial and important role for this area of Oregon, but pays over \$90,000 per year.

Why on Earth were the qualifications for academics changed when most other WIBs have that requirement? Out of eight counties, we’re to believe there weren’t other qualified candidates to consider? The selection of former commissioner Rosholt raises serious questions.

For weeks, I’ve emailed Mr. Rosholt to discuss his role, his qualifications, his privileged information as a former commissioner, his travels throughout the region’s communities enlisting Board members, and his academic and job experience, and Mr. Rosholt has first ignored, then refused to provide answers.

I question why Rosholt interchangeably uses his personal EONI email as well as a TOCOWA-based email. Similarly, he uses his (541) 910 per-



Submitted Photo

Eddie V. Garcia is a political consultant who resides in Union County. He has worked in Congress and state legislatures, is a musician member of the Grammy’s and lobbies governmental bodies on public policy matters.

sonal cell phone.

Like the many instances of Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush and others’ personal emails, does his use of a personal email pose a conflict and is all of it subject to Oregon public records?

In August 2014, Commissioner Rosholt voted for the establishment of the very workforce board of which he’s now director. Did he have privileged information, planned the process, selection? There are news reports of Rosholt visiting many counties to recruit Board members, including but not limited to Harney.

To vet out shenanigans and improprieties, I’ve filed a complaint with the Oregon Ethics Commission and am eager to receive the investigative report. We cannot tolerate persons using any elected office for personal enrichment. Is this the case here?

It’s known that both golf courses Rosholt managed never ended up being fiscally successful. Failures in that management role or serving on an elected commission don’t equate to having qualifications to manage an economic development/workforce board for the region.

It’s time for Bill Rosholt to answer questions and prove that he’s truly qualified for this role and that it wasn’t just a “reward” of some kind by and for a few select persons.

Coordination from the NRAC perspective

By Doni Bruland

On August 19, 2015 the Baker County Commission approved the draft 2015 Natural Resources Plan. This happened after the Natural Resources Advisory Committee voted unanimously the night before to advise the Commission to adopt the Plan as submitted. It is with great anticipation that final adoption by the Commission will occur on September 16 during the regular Commission meeting. Guided by the progressive leadership of Commissioner Harvey, and supported by Commissioners Bennett and Kerns, this is a huge step forward for the people of Baker County! By adopting the Plan, it will allow our local government to enter into government to government dialogue with state and federal agencies. This process is formally known as “coordination.”

What is coordination?

The “coordination process” as mandated by Congress is simply a process by which local government and federal agencies are to meet in government to government dialogue in order to the “extent practicable” to reach consistency between federal plans, policies and actions and local plans and policies. The State of Oregon also has coordination written into its Oregon Revised Statutes. In other words, Baker County’s policies on natural resources use and access, as set forth in the 2015 Natural Resources Plan, will be brought to the table at the beginning of the federal and state plan, policy and action taking process.

How did we get here?

Remember your high school history? The Constitution? The Tenth Amendment? The Constitution empowers and guarantees the Federal Government to manage three very important areas of power in the United States: the power to regulate interstate commerce, the military and the Federal Reserve. ALL other powers are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people, through the Tenth Amendment which states, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

It is important to have a fundamental understanding of the Tenth Amendment and the dual sovereignty that was reserved when the Constitutional convention wrote the powers that were to be given by the States and the People to the central government. It was never intended by our founding fathers to be an all-encompassing powerful national government! The



Submitted Photo

Doni Bruland is the Baker County Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) Chair.

power to provide for the public safety, health and welfare are historically left to the level of government closest to the people served.

And this makes sense. Local government is dependent on revenue from the tax base to provide for public safety, health and welfare so must be involved in the development of plans and policies that affect the human and natural environments and resources within its jurisdiction.

In 2001 the Baker County Commissions adopted Ordinance 2001-01 stating their intent to coordinate with federal agencies. The County’s position was reaffirmed in 2009, when the Commissioners passed Resolution 2009-1020.

Unfortunately, the coordination process was never pursued by the Commission at those times.

Since then, we, the People of Baker County, have had many of our forest and range access roads closed, are having our livelihoods threatened by the sage grouse listing and have lost our forest industries.

Mining is limited due to unwieldy regulations and lack of timeliness in processing paperwork by the federal government. These events could have been, and can be, prevented, or mitigated, through the coordination process.

Our Commissioners are now ready to engage the federal and state agencies through the coordination process. The process is not to incite conflict, but rather to create resolutions through plan and policy consistency. With the 2015 Baker County Natural Resources Plan in hand, the Commissioners can now step forward confidently in representing the multiple users of natural resources in an evenhanded negotiating manner in a government to government process.

If you would like more information on the 2015 Baker County Natural Resources Plan, the Natural Resources Advisory Committee or on the Coordinating Process, you can contact me at donibruland@yahoo.com.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

An open letter to the Secretary of Agriculture

Dear Secretary Vilsack & Undersecretary Bonnie:

We write you today in the response to Chief Tidwell’s comments on Aug 18th of 2015 on the current fires raging across Eastern Oregon and the West.

Mr. Tidwell has now openly stated what we have all known, that our homes and lives are not as important as the environment the USDA proclaims to protect. The agency was formed in 1905 to assist in managing the forest lands of the United States.

Today, we see an agency more obsessed with managing the local residents than the timber they were mandated to care for, in short they have lost their way, and under the leadership of Chief Tidwell the situation has gone from bad to worse with over 7.6 million acres burnt, this year alone.

We wrote to you in June because we found no resolution through your current staff either locally, or regionally to meet the needs of our communities and this summer is a prime example of that, with over 300,000 acres burned locally, 50 homes lost, and untold wildlife burned alive, large percentage of those homes belonging elderly couples that worked their entire lives to build, and will never see again.

Our concerns are ignored and we see nothing changing with your supervisors and chief as they defend why our homes

burned for “the greater good.”

The Forest Service often quotes Mr. Pinchot, who once stated “Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation, and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day.”

We are now paying the price of that misery, and the mismanagement of our public land, for what the agency is practicing is not conservation, nor is it stewardship. What the agency is practicing is preservation, but not to see use of resources in the future, but to meet out some utopian ideal of ecological purity.

Gentlemen, these lands must be actively managed, and the only way to complete that work is through a robust open motorized access system. The idea that wildlife corridors and limited human interaction with wildlife overrides the safety of our residents is unfathomable, and honestly irresponsible.

We ask that you, as the leadership review the policies of the agency that have befallen our communities and direct Mr. Tidwell to enact policies that support open motorized access to manage these landscapes, and to actively manage timber and stop obsessing over managing the local residents.

Respectfully,

**Tork Ballard, President
Forest Access for All
Baker City**

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Local

County Commissioners take criticism for NRAC hiring

BY TODD ARRIOLA
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its first regular session of the month on Wednesday, at 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Tim Kerns, and Karlynn Dolby, sitting in for Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Also attending were Baker County Facilities Maintenance Foreman Dan McQuisten, Baker County Emergency Management Fire Division Manager Gary Timm, Art and Suzette Sappington, Ken Anderson, Lorrie Harvey, Ed Hardt, Craig and Doni Bruland, and Tork and Wanda Ballard.

After the Board discussed a couple of changes, the agenda was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

For Citizen Participation, Wanda Ballard took the floor first, expressing her concerns regarding the Commissioners' process of hiring Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) Coordinator Eric Wuntz, who has a background working for federal agencies.

"As an individual, I was really concerned about the Commission's choice of Eric Wuntz... I'm not sure, in my mind, that he serves the County's best interests. I would not be happy. I'm sure he's well qualified. He came highly recommended. Who he was highly recommended from also gives me cause to be alarmed," she said.

She asked for input from the Board, and Harvey explained, "The main thing is, this (Wuntz) is an employee now. The job is basically a staff person to help me—predominantly, I'm the one working on coordination—to gather information. And then, we bring it to the NRAC, and the Travel Management Committee (TMC), and to the Board of Commissioners for their decision. This position is not a decisional position at all. It's just informational gathering, and it's also been mentioned by Mark (Bennett) that this is an employee now, so, we can't really talk about personnel issues, or discussions on how we came about that. That was in an executive meeting, how and why we chose."

Bennett reiterated that Wuntz is an employee, and that he's afforded some levels of protection regarding public questions regarding qualifications or personal issues.

Ramona Creighton also voiced some concerns regarding the hiring process, and said, "We understood you were going to hire somebody... In my mind, I thought it was going to be more of a process where you guys interviewed several people. I understand only a few people even came up on board for you to interview. I think what was hard for us, is that, all of a sudden, we come to a Commissioners' meeting, and he's (Wuntz) already on board."

She noted the concerns



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Ramona Creighton (standing) and Tork and Wanda Ballard (seated behind her and to her left) were among several audience members questioning the hire of the new NRAC coordinator.

she has as a Forest Access For All member, and the lack of introduction and background information provided publicly regarding Wuntz, and Harvey responded by explaining that there had been four applicants, three of whom were qualified, with Wuntz chosen for the position; he and another applicant were well qualified, Harvey said.

Tork Ballard said, "I was wondering, was that a unanimous decision (to hire Wuntz)?"

Harvey said, "No, it was not."

Tork asked the Board what the specific votes were, and Bennett and Kerns stated that they voted for Wuntz, and Harvey stated that he did not.

The minutes from the July 15, 2015, August 5, 2015, and August 19, 2015 Commission sessions were approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

McQuisten discussed with the Board a bid from Valley Metal and Heating (located in Baker City), for the replacement of three aging Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units in the Baker County Justice/Jail Center, at a cost of \$16,840. McQuisten said that requests for bids were provided to three local contractors, and three bids were received in return, with Valley Metal and Heating securing the contract. The bid was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. The Board thanked McQuisten for the effort involved, and the thoroughness of the staff report.

An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for law enforcement services between the City of Huntington and Baker County, for the July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 period, was approved, with a motion from Kerns, and a second from Bennett.

According to the document, the City of Huntington currently doesn't employ a law enforcement office, and the Baker County Sheriff's Office will provide law enforcement services within City limits. The City of Huntington agrees to pay Baker County \$54,000 per fiscal year for these services, according to the agreement.

An IGA between Baker County, Union County, and Wallowa County, regarding Community Development Block Grants, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. The Oregon

Business Development Department announced the availability of these funds for the purpose of supporting economic development through microenterprise training services for low-to-moderate income individuals, according to the agreement.

An IGA between the Department of Education of the State of Oregon, and Baker County, Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. 9876 for professional services, was ratified, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

This contract involved assistance to the County, in the total amount of \$45,000 from general funding for juvenile crime prevention, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, and July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, and the total amount of \$14,583.34 from federal funding for youth investment, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, and July 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014.

The Board and attendees discussed the County's Natural Resource Plan, recently approved (not yet adopted) by the Board. Several individuals present, including Hardt, Ramona Creighton and Ballards.

Hardt said the NRP doesn't have to be that precise, and that the process seems to be prolonged, and Ramona voiced her concern that there are too many members of the NRAC. Wanda said that the NRAC members are very well-informed, and that the NRP should have been completed three months ago, and Tork said, "I just wanted to reemphasize that, Fred Kelly Grant is a lawyer, the best lawyer they've got on coordination, who specifically said that this plan was the best plan that he'd ever been presented with..."

Emphasizing that he was not criticizing the content of the document, Bennett said the NRP needs to be "clear and concise," and it requires further editing. The adoption of the NRP is tentatively scheduled for September 16th, during the next regular Commission session.

During a Title III public hearing, which is an annual hearing, Timm discussed with the Board details regarding Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding, including limitations of the funding. He said these dedicated funds are currently limited to about three different uses in the County: the development and monitoring of the com-

munity's wildfire protection plan, any fire wise outreach of public education, and any reimbursement of County elements in National Forests, such as firefighting and Search and Rescue. Timm said the uses for the funding are specified, and are very limited. Timm also pointed out that the majority of the funding has been used to annually revitalize the wildfire protection plan.

Timm also said that, while the major wildfires and firefighting efforts were well publicized in the media, there were a lot less publicized accomplishments, citing the efforts of locals to form a fire protection group, in connection with the Sardine Fire two years ago, in the Love Reservoir area, as an example.

"There are a lot of great success stories out there in recent years, of landowners coming together as a group, and then working well together," he said.

A public hearing was held regarding Ordinance No. 2015-06, An Ordinance Prohibiting Medical And Recreational Marijuana Processing Sites, Marijuana Dispensaries, Marijuana Producers, Marijuana Processors, Marijuana Wholesalers, And Marijuana Retailers In The County Of Baker, And Declaring An Emergency.

Bennett spoke about the ordinance, stating in Baker County, 59.4% of the votes cast during the general election on November 4, 2014, were no votes on Ballot Measure 91, and according to House Bill 3400 (enacted in 2015), counties are allowed to prohibit activities relating to the producing, wholesaling, selling, and dispensing of marijuana if at least 55% of the votes cast were in opposition to the measure. The first reading of the ordinance by title only was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Harvey said that landowner Don Phillips sent a letter to the Commission, requesting that the County look into the possibility of leasing some space on his property at 1st and Broadway, for the future purpose of relocating the County Health Department, currently on Pochontas.

Harvey mentioned that the County still has a lease agreement for the building on Pochontas, but the property on 1st and Broadway would be considered at a later date.

Cutting the fire breaks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McKinney Trucking, like other companies, submits bids that include the resources they can make available to the BLM.

"Then the companies are placed on a priority list," said Sawyer. "So when there's a fire, Vale BLM in our case, goes down through the list and begins making calls. You want to be there to answer the call."

Speed of response is important.

"They will keep going down the list if you don't answer," said Sawyer. "It's basically being on call. Jerry has the pickup, the tools, everything ready to go."

When the call comes, the dozer and transport contractors report to the Vale yard for instructions.

"When you get there," Sawyer said, "they give you a big manila envelope. It has the incident location, instructions and so on. And then you go."

Independent contractors are required to go through training in safety, shelter, deployment and so on, and must complete refresher courses.

"The hand crews have to go through much more," McKinney said. "They have a pack test, more physical requirements. They're amazing."

The pair often work alongside engine crews, water-tenders, hand crews and a medic—required on site.

"There are guys who have been doing this far longer than us," McKinney said. "My uncle has been doing this for a long time." He said through that uncle, he first became interested in wildland firefighting. "He's one of those old-time loggers who is fearless. He and his wife are in their 70s and they still go out."

Sawyer said, "It's really kind of neat. When you spend all day, day after day, with the same group, you kind of start to know them as your fire family."

McKinney said his sons, Jake and Brandon (ages 10 and 13) have told him they want to follow in his footsteps.

The heavy equipment operators put in long hours in hot, smoky, dusty conditions, sometimes remaining on site for days at a time.

"But I'll be honest," McKinney said, "A lot of the guys there feel the adrenaline rush."

"Adrenaline! Yes. It's exciting. It's a good situation for a two-person team," Sawyer said.

As for any near misses, Sawyer and McKinney say they've been lucky. "Jerry almost had retardant dropped on him once—but we didn't know it until later when we saw the picture."

For McKinney Trucking, the 2015 fire season is beginning to wind down, and when that happens, McKinney himself will return to regular construction and excavation work while Sawyer will focus on her Washington Avenue business.

Body of missing man found near Succor Creek



Photo courtesy of the Malheur County Sheriff's Office

The abandoned truck and fifth wheel were found about two miles away from the deceased.

The body of Silas Wrigley of California, 69, was discovered roughly two miles from his pickup in the Succor Creek area last Saturday.

The Malheur County Sheriff's Department and Search and Rescue teams (including Baker County Volunteers) had been searching for Wrigley for over a week after he was reported missing. Sgt. Bob Speelman headed up the search and rescue efforts.

A press release from Sheriff Brian Wolfe said that the body was seen from the air at about 9 a.m. in a remote area east of Owyhee Reservoir. Cadaver dogs had also been used in the search.

Wrigley's body was lifted from its location by a helicopter from the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management.

So far no one seems to know what made Wrigley take the path he did, leading off-road.

Wrigley was diabetic, depending on daily insulin, and had neither a supply of medicine nor food with him. However, no cause of death has officially been determined.

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OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Fridays at 8:45 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Alley entrance to "Noah" room.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS. Every Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church on First St.

AMERICAN LEGION. First Thursday of every month. Post at 7:00 p.m., 2129 2nd Street, Baker City.

VFW. Second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. 2005 Valley Ave., VFW Hall.

ROTARY CLUB. Mondays, noon, at the Sunridge Inn.

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FOUR SQUARE CHURCH. Baker City. Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship at 10:45 a.m. 1839 3rd Street.

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HAINES UNITED METHODIST. Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

BAKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. 1919 2nd Street. Sunday services, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

BURNT RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH. 30271 Hwy 26, Unity, Ore. Call 541.446.3317 for information. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship, 10:45.

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BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J is currently accepting applications for an 18 hour a week **Custodian I at Brooklyn Primary**. For a complete description and application of the position go to www.baker.k12.or.us or contact the employment division. You may also call 541-524-2261 or email nnemec@baker.k12.or.us

BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J is currently accepting applications for a Girls Head Basketball Coach at Baker High School. For a complete description and application of the position go to www.baker.k12.or.us or contact the employment division. You may also call 541-524-2261 or email nnemec@baker.k12.or.us.

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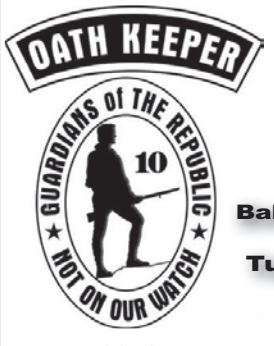


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BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J is currently accepting letters of interest from community members to fulfill Board Position #4 vacated by Richard McKim's resignation. This term will expire June 30, 2017. Interested parties may pick up information for the position at Baker School District 5J, 2090 4th St. or visit our website at www.baker.k12.or.us. Letters of Interest must be returned to Norma Nemeck at the District Office no later than September 7, 2015. At 3:30 p.m. If you have any questions, call 541-524-2261.

Hunting after the fires ...



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN
By Todd Arriola

Last Saturday, as I headed over Dooley Mountain toward Bridgeport from Baker, I couldn't help noticing the still smoldering remains of the landscape, what once resembled grass, brush and trees, now blackened by Mother Nature's fury, which we call wildfire.

This isn't the first time we've experienced devastation like this, nor will it be the last. Being able to precisely place 100% of the blame in any one direction is like being able to draw and fill every big game animal tag this year, or maybe being able to recycle 144 aluminum soda cans without a single rejection or machine mal-

function.

Since last Saturday signaled the start of general deer and elk archery season (not the reason for my trip), thoughts about what effects the wildfires would have entered my mind.

Some landowners in the local communities understandably voiced concerns about the wildfires and the timing of the hunting seasons, and even more heated discussions ensued once there was talk about possibly postponing those seasons in Baker County.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) quickly ended that conversation by stating there would be no postponements.

This is not to say that there won't be complications with hunting (or another endeavor, for that matter). Although there are exceptions, animals tend to avoid volunteering to become crispy, barbe-

cued meals by staying in one place, while a wildfire is active. And, they don't exactly see charcoaled, bare trees and a forest floor covered with ash as appetizing, in the aftermath.

Because of other commitments (and my occasional lack of planning), I failed to purchase the general deer and elk archery tags prior to the opening of the season last weekend.

Generally speaking, it's advisable to purchase tags before the seasons start, but in this case, I can still purchase the tags, albeit with an additional "exception fee" of \$17 per tag, according to ODFW. Hey, it's better than no tags.

Like many, I've wondered how the hunting (and fishing, camping, hiking, etc.) seasons will fair due to the wildfires, and in reality, how much running around I'll actually accomplish. Since I at least attempt to avoid excessive selfishness regarding outdoor activities, even for game meat, I'll assume that some landowners simply wish to restrict access, and they're certainly well within their right to do so. Their land, their rules.

The public landscape has also changed, and

this requires us to adapt, even where we're "free" to roam. Wildfires don't seem to care who owns what, and they don't discriminate, and I can see plenty of public land that went up in smoke, too.

Actually, I can see more of it, because there are a heck of a lot less leaves and trees to block the view now. That's not a good thing.

Nobody has all the answers to "fix" the wildfire situation, and I certainly won't accept that it's the "new norm," because that's a poor attitude and zero management, at best. I plan on continuing to hunt, fish, etc., but awareness of my surroundings may be somewhat heightened now, which isn't a bad thing.

Regardless of the blame for the wildfires, we're now in the stage of restoration, which requires constant pressure up the chain of command, in order to repair the damage already done, and to avoid creating new issues. I should mention, I do love seeing those blue skies again, and I rather enjoy breathing on a regular basis. Now, if I can just dust off that bow and remember to buy those game tags ...

Fire: Eagle Complex still threatens area cabins



Carmelita Holland / The Baker County Press

Portable water tanks remain in front of the Holland Cabin in the middle of the Eagle Complex fire

BY CARMELITA HOLLAND
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

One stubborn flame in the lower bottom of Sullivan Creek continues to threaten cabins two miles up East Eagle Creek.

"I cleaned road to cabin number ten, and I could hear fire popping and snapping in timber directly below," said Mike Lattin of Eagle Telephone, on Tuesday morning. "I have all of my equipment there now. I'm taking my water truck up, wet the road and see if I can reach it," said Lattin.

"If the fire takes off again, it could wipe out all the cabins on the east side of East Eagle Creek. I'm going to stay with it and do what I can to save these cabins. I'm going to put in fire lines and doze around private properties where I can. Everybody else is gone now. The crew from Joseph named the Pat Rick Company has left too. They have released the fire to the local force. I know some of them, they are good. I have a lot of faith in them."

Chary Mires is watching the fire blazing across Lime Creek and roaring through Hudson Creek.

"I'm afraid we are still going to lose Dad's cabin," she said. She refers to the cabin built by the late Jim Weber near the west end of the Forest Service bridge located across from the mouth of Big Kettle Creek. Water used by Weber's cabin flows from the burning area.

She said the fire has already reached her timberland in three places, taking out eighty valuable large trees in one place. The fire spread to her property at the time it burned the DuMars cabin August 21st. Fire then came in from the Sheep Rock Mine area where spot fires peppered the hillside. A third wall of fire struck her timber on Sullivan Creek and part of this fire scorched the earth as it burned within one hundred feet east of the Holland cabin. The present fire threatens more of her timber on Sullivan Creek.

Lattin said he has seen only one fire-killed animal—"a cooked buck fawn. I have not been able to get anywhere to look for more because the roads are all full of downed timber," said Lattin.

There are very few of the hundreds of grazing permittee cattle appearing in lower elevations as the wildfire continues to consume the higher elevations.

—ODFW RECREATION REPORT—

BAKER COUNTY HUNTING

OPEN: COUGAR, BLACK BEAR, ARCHERY DEER AND ELK, MOURNING DOVE, FOREST GROUSE
Archery seasons opened August 29.

Hunters will face fire restrictions and some closures and they need to know what those are before they go. More info. Some good resources for fire information: Inci eb, National Forest webpages, Oregon Dept Forestry
ODFW is not closing archery season due to fires
The 39 road near Halfway is now open and only minor shoulder work remains.

The Eagle Complex fire in the Keating Unit currently has a closure associated with it but the area of closure was recently reduced. See the Wallowa Whitman National Forest website for current travel restrictions and map of the affected area.

Deer and elk: Archery hunters should find deer and elk around water and cool moist northern aspects. The continuation of warm temperatures will limit animal activity to early morning and late evening. Remember to check the regulations for the area you will be hunting.

Cougars can be found throughout Baker County but hunters should target areas with high concentrations of deer and elk. Setting up on a fresh kill or using distress calls can all be productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

Bear season opened August 1. Successful hunters, remember check-in of bear skull is mandatory;

see the regulations for details. Biologists recommend propping the bear's mouth open with a stick after harvest; it makes for easier tooth collection and measuring.

Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

Grouse season started September 1. Blue grouse can be found in the higher elevations while ruffed grouse are more common in wetter areas. Hunters should expect an average year for grouse. Successful hunters are asked to place the tails and wings from harvested birds in the collection barrels.

BAKER COUNTY VIEWING

Bighorn sheep can be seen in the Burnt River Canyon west of Durkee or along the Snake River Road south of Richland. Young lambs can be seen this time of year with ewes across most of the bighorn sheep range. The best viewing is in the early morning and late in the evening. Please remember to leave wildlife alone. It is crucial for their survival to keep human interactions to a minimum.

Bald and golden eagles can be seen along the Snake River. Take the Snake River Road between Richland and Huntington.

NE OREGON FISHING

The 2 p.m. fishing closure for trout, steelhead, salmon and sturgeon in streams has been lifted as of Sept. 1.

Trout fishing in Wallowa Lake has been very good thanks, in part, to additional stocked trout diverted from nearby ponds too warm to

receive fish

Crappie fishing continues to be good in McKay Reservoir, with the best catches coming early and late in the day.

Walleye fishing continues to be excellent on the Columbia River from McNary dam downstream to Boardman.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass. The river remains open for trout whitefish and bass. However, the 2:00 p.m. closure for trout due to drought conditions is in effect. Fishing for smallmouth bass will be good with lots of fish in the river, warm temperatures and low flows. Steelhead season will open on Sept. 1, however few fish will be in the river until later in the month.

HOLLIDAY PARK POND: rainbow trout. Pond has been stocked with both legal and trophy-sized trout. Fishing has been fair. Pond does have an ADA fishing dock for anglers with disabilities.

JOHN DAY RIVER: smallmouth bass. Smallmouth bass fishing is good with many being caught. There also has been a fair number of catfish being caught. Bass anglers may try their luck higher in the North Fork below the town of Dale. Bass are present up to Dale but in lower numbers.

LUGER POND: hatchery rainbow trout. Fishing restrictions will be relaxed on Luger Pond in preparation for an upcoming fish removal project. Starting Sept. 1, fish may be harvested by hand, dip net, or angling. Daily bag and possession limits will also be lifted. Luger Pond has been stocked with 500 legal-sized rainbow trout.

MORGAN LAKE: rainbow trout. The City of La Grande has closed access

to Morgan Lake due to extreme fire danger.

WALLOWA COUNTY PONDS: rainbow trout. Fishing restrictions will be relaxed at Kinney Lake in preparation for an upcoming fish removal project in October. Starting Sept. 1, fish may be harvested by hand, dip net, or angling. Daily bag and possession limits will also be lifted. These relaxed regulations will be effective until Sept. 25, when the ponds will be closed to all fishing through Dec. 31, to prevent public exposure to rotenone.

Due to potentially lethal water temperatures, trout stocking in Wallowa County ponds was suspended during June. Ponds affected by these changes are; Salt Creek, McGraw, Honeymoon, Teepee, Victor, Weaver, Marr, and Kinney Lake. Trout that would have been released in these ponds were stocked in Wallowa Lake in addition to scheduled trout stockings.

These ponds are traditionally stocked through July with Honeymoon, Teepee, Salt Creek and McGraw also receiving trout in late September to benefit deer hunters. With moderating temperatures managers have determined if these ponds will receive these traditional fall stockings.

WALLOWA LAKE: rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout. Trout fishing has been good at Wallowa Lake. The lake has received additional rainbow trout stocking due to other area water bodies being too hot to receive fish. This means the lake has been heavily stocked with both legal-size and trophy trout. Kokanee anglers have found some recent success, however the fish are still running on the small side.

West Nile virus found in Baker County

Mosquitos in Baker County tested positive for West Nile virus from two samples collected last Monday and Tuesday in the Keating area. This brings the total infected pools up to four.

Dead bird surveillance has been ongoing in the district. People who notice sick or dead birds such as crows, magpies, jays and robins should contact the vector control district so that they can be picked up for testing.

The Baker Valley Vector Control District sets 30 adult mosquito traps baited with CO2 weekly in Baker, Bowen and Keating Valleys each year. The mosquitoes caught are then identified to species, counted and pooled into groups of 10-50 and sent onto the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Corvallis for testing.

No cases of human illness have been reported this year in Baker County.

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not become sick. Some may develop mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally swollen lymph glands or rash. In some cases, West Nile may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain.

Information about West Nile virus, including what to do if you believe you're infected, is available at: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/WestNileVirus/Pages/survey.aspx>.

Local

School Board: McKim resigns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McKim's term expires June 30, 2017. The school district next begins the process of filling the vacant position.

The school district plans to post in local newspapers a notice of the vacancy and a request for letters of interest. (See this week's Classifieds section.) Letters of interest should be submitted to school district executive secretary Norma Nemecek by Sept. 7. Those who've submitted letters of interest to fill the position should expect to be interviewed by the remaining board members of Sept. 15.

Student Resource Office hired.

Lance Woodward has been sworn in as a member of the Baker City Police Dept. and begins working the hallways of the Baker schools this Fall. In discussing what was referred to as the continuing partnership with the Baker City Police Dept., the board and administration explained an expanding role for the Student Resource Police Office.

Woodward's new role includes time spent in the classroom to provide students with "safety and criminal justice information," said Baker High School principal Ben Merrill.

Merrill explained that Woodward would be informed of a weekly plan during scheduled weekly meetings.

Woodward comes to the position with a Master's degree in English and a background in college and city policing, according to Merrill. "He's a unique and talented guy for our community," Merrill said.

Heating boiler replacement at high school.

The district faces the expensive replacement of the natural gas heating boiler at Baker High School this fall, several years earlier than originally expected, said Doug Dalton, school

district finance director. It was expected that the existing boiler would be used for another five to seven years yet a recent required look at the system by Oregon state inspectors pushed that replacement need to an immediate priority.

The boiler currently operating has been in place since 1974 and has been diagnosed with leaks within two of the hundred small tubes.

The location of the leaks indicate the probability that more leaks could develop causing concern that the entire system would need to be shut down for repairs during the cold season, according to Dalton.

To re-tube the existing boiler would run about \$100,000 while a complete replacement of the boiler with a new natural gas burning boiler is expected to cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000, according to Dalton. The decision has been made to replace rather than repair the old boiler.

"This is why we have contingency funds," Dalton said.

Plans are being set in place to begin the boiler replacement this Fall. Before sending out an official Request for Proposal (RFP), the district plans to send out public notice of a "pre-RFP" meeting to prospective heating system installation firms in order to assess the project.

Once a contractor has been selected, the work of installing the boiler begins this Fall, said Dalton. The old boiler will continue to operate during the replacement project, during Oct., Nov., and Dec., and the cost to repair the old boiler to Oregon state statute standards for the approximate four month replacement period runs about \$10,000, according to Dalton.

During the discussion the fact surfaced that the district spends about \$11,000 per month to heat the high

school during the winter months.

When asked by members of the school board about other expensive maintenance issues looming, Dalton explained the greatest expenses for school building included roofs and heating systems.

Dalton said that South Baker and Brooklyn each have had roof replacements and that the roof at North Baker had recently been patched.

He added that the need for a replacement of the North Baker roof was coming and gave a cost prediction of about \$250,000 for that project.

Busy summer for district maintenance crews

The summer of 2015 kept school district maintenance crews hopping as several major construction projects near completion.

Brooklyn Elementary has undergone a major upgrade with a new bus loading zone, sidewalks, installation of a new underground irrigation system, and installation of yet another modular building to accommodate a new full-day schedule for Kindergarten students.

Grass and trees have been ordered for the grounds, according to Dalton. It was estimated by the school district late last school year that Brooklyn Elementary would house approximately 400 Kindergarten through third grade students during this school year.

Haines Elementary was the site of another modular building installation project and the playground has been replaced this summer.

Baker Technical Institute, housed at Baker High School, has a newly constructed lab with a remodel of the welding site planned.

The district reports continual technological upgrades as well. Technological hardware was installed this summer as well as new sound systems in the elementary schools.

The sound systems provide level hearing for every area of the classrooms.

Lighthouse Project

The board passed a unanimous decision to enroll in a professional development program for administration, educators, and board members referred to as the Lighthouse Project.

The Lighthouse Project is described to the board and administration as, "an intensive in-district fully customized board professional development program to help you fulfill your leadership role around student achievement."

The program comes with a price tag of \$10,000 and offers up to 72-hours over two years of professional training curriculum.

Superintendent Mark Witty voiced concern about time constraints placed on participants of the program.

"The program can be structured into whatever is needed," said program administrator Renee Sessler.

SJ board members nominated for statewide board of directors.

Chairperson for the SJ board of Directors Kevin Cassidy was nominated by the SJ board for a position as the Eastern Region representative on the Oregon School Board Association Board of Directors. The Eastern Region includes school districts in Malheur, Baker, Grant, Harney, Wasco, Wallowa, and Union counties. Mike Cosgrove from Grant County was the previous Eastern Region representative.

The position provides a voice for the region with legislators to help establish policy directions, said Cassidy.

Cassidy currently serves on the Oregon School Board Association Legislative Policy Committee and his term on that board expires soon. Andrew Bryan was nominated to fill the position on the Legislative Policy Committee being vacated by the expiration of Cassidy's term.

Haggen files suit against Albertsons

Haggen, the West Coast regional grocer, today announced that the company has filed a lawsuit against Albertsons LLC and Albertsons Holdings LLC ("Albertsons") seeking more than \$1 billion in damages.

The complaint, which was filed today in United States District Court for the District of Delaware, alleged that following Haggen's December 2014 purchase of 146 Albertsons and Safeway stores, Albertsons engaged in "coordinated and systematic efforts to eliminate competition and Haggen as a viable competitor in over 130 local grocery markets in five states," and "made false representations to both Haggen and the FTC about Albertsons' commitment to a seamless transformation of the stores into viable competitors under the Haggen banner."

Albertsons sought out Haggen in order to convince the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") that Haggen would be a new competitor in local markets, which enabled Albertsons to gain the FTC's approval of a merger between Albertsons and Safeway—a merger that created "one of the largest food retailers in the United States, with over 2,200 stores and \$61 billion in combined sales," according to the complaint. Despite the FTC's orders and Albertsons' agreement to abide by all conditions of the sale, the complaint alleges, Albertsons engaged in an illegal campaign against Haggen including "premeditated acts of unfair and anti-competitive conduct that were calculated to circumvent Albertsons obligations under federal antitrust laws, FTC orders, and contractual commitments to Haggen, all of which were intended to prevent and delay the successful entry of Haggen (or any other viable competitor) into local grocery markets that Albertsons now dominates."

"During the transfer process, Albertsons launched its plan to gain market power and/or monopoly power, acting in a manner that was designed to (and did) hamstring Haggen's ability to successfully operate the Stores after taking ownership," according to the complaint. As a result, despite Haggen's plans to successfully operate and expand upon the acquired stores, Haggen was "forced to close 26 of the Stores that it newly acquired as a part of the Albertsons' divestiture, and faces the potential closure of additional stores," the complaint said. "Albertson's anti-competitive actions critically damaged the operations, customer service, brand goodwill and profitability of the divested stores from the outset," the complaint alleged, "[and] have caused significant harm to competition, local communities, employees and consumers," throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Arizona. Instead of focusing on succeeding in the new markets, according to the complaint, "Haggen has had to focus on strategies to recover from Albertsons' wrongful acts, which include, sadly, Haggen's efforts to find new jobs for displaced employees who too are victims of Albertsons' actions."

In particular, Haggen alleged in its complaint that Albertsons, in violation of numerous laws, the FTC order and the purchase agreement, intentionally and deliberately undertook a number of "malicious and unfair actions" that "strained Haggen's resources" and "created substantial distraction and diverted the attention of store-level and senior Haggen management" during the store conversion process, such as:

Using proprietary and confidential conversion scheduling information to plan and execute aggressive marketing campaigns intended to undermine Haggen grand openings;

Providing Haggen with false, misleading and incomplete retail pricing data, causing Haggen stores to unknowingly inflate prices

Cutting off Haggen-acquired store advertising in order to decrease customer traffic

Timing the remodeling and rebranding of its retained stores to impair Haggen's entry into the relevant markets; Diverting customers by illegally accessing Haggen's confidential data to gain an unfair competitive advantage Deliberately understocking certain inventory at Haggen-acquired stores below levels consistent with the ordinary course of business just prior to conversion, resulting in out of stocks which negatively impacted the shopping experience upon Haggen grand openings;

Deliberately overstocking perishable inventory at Haggen-acquired stores beyond levels consistent with the ordinary course of business just prior to conversion such that Haggen had to throw away significant amounts of inventory it paid for;

Removing store fixtures and inventory from Haggen acquired stores that Haggen paid for;

Diverting Haggen inventory to Albertsons stores; and Failing to perform routine maintenance on stores and equipment.

"Albertson's anti-competitive conduct caused significant damage to Haggen's image, brand, and ability to build goodwill during its grand openings to the public," according to the complaint. The complaint continued, "Albertson's unlawful acts destroyed or substantially lessened the economic viability, marketability and competitiveness of the [Haggen] Stores, depriving consumers in each of the Relevant Markets the benefits of substantial competition from a new market entrant."

Sumpter City Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wolf, as senior member of Council, conducted the meeting.

The City attorney suggested this course of action, as Sumpter just voted to recall its mayor, Melissa Findley, and the previous Head of Council, Toni Thompson, resigned earlier in August.

Wolf explained the City also contacted the Head Council of League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and referred to the LOC Model Charter for Oregon Cities Footnote 19 which reads:

"A majority is more than half the Council. For a seven member council, the quorum is four or more. If there is one vacancy, the quorum is still four. If there are two vacancies, the quorum is three, the same as for a five member council. If through resignation or other events,

the number of councilors is reduced to two or one, the quorum is also reduced to two or one."

Wolf explained Sumpter has three active council members, so the majority will be two.

Councilperson Armbruster was out of town, but with Wolf and Oakley present, there was a large enough Council to conduct business.

The first item of business was to review Letters of Intent for serving on the Council.

Approved new members would be able to participate immediately. One letter had been received by Council and Wolf asked those present if there were any others, which there were not.

The Letter of Intent was turned in by Carey Clarke.

It stated he has lived and enjoyed volunteering in Sumpter for several years.

He recently tendered his resignation as president of the Planning Commission. Oakley made a motion to accept his resignation from the Planning Commission and accept him to Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Clarke was not present at the meeting due to hunting season. He will be sworn in at the September 8th meeting.

Resolution 317 to remove previous Council members from all City accounts and add new signers was read.

The Council discussed who should be added as signers and talked about asking Armbruster, in case Wolf or Oakley, who are both facing recall, were to lose their positions.

Commissioner Harvey offered that those present should be added as signers for the time being to allow City business, including

imminent payroll, to be conducted.

This can be modified at the next regular session. Council voted to remove Toni Thompson and Melissa Findley as signers from all accounts and add Wolf, Oakley, and McKinney.

Oakley motioned that Wolf become President of Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

Wolf clarified that all Council members get a vote, even if voting by themselves.

Wolf explained by discussion with LOC and the City attorney, no additions would be made to the agenda and there was no public input at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned after fifteen minutes. Sumpter's next regular Council meeting will be September 8th at 7 p.m.

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Local

What it's like to be a ... Baker City veterinarian

With college students choosing majors and high school students deciding between college or the workforce, this series will highlight one career path each week in August and September.

This week, we introduce you to **Brett Hamilton**, Baker City veterinarian. Brett has been part of the team at Baker Veterinary Hospital located at 3425 10th Street since 1993.

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Veterinarian Brett Hamilton poses with a happy customer.

The BCP: What is your background?

Brett: I grew up in Nampa, Idaho. Went to the University of Idaho. Got my undergrad and after that I went to Washington State. Got my OVMA (Oregon Veterinary Medical Association) after I went to Washington State. After I graduated I came here and I've been here since.

The BCP: So how long does it take to become a veterinarian?

Brett: It took me about seven and a half years but the average is probably 8-12 years.

The BCP: That is about as long as it takes to be a human doctor?

Brett: Well, we are doctors. We do everything they do actually just with more species. I mean, most of the same standards of practice apply. We've got a little more ground to cover in differences in anatomy and physiology.

The BCP: Do you have to do internships like human medical doctors do?

Brett: Yeah, we do. There are more than one kind—some people who are looking at board specialties will do internships at veterinary schools after they graduate. Most just go into practice. During my senior year I did an internship in Bellevue, Idaho. So there is some in practice usually your senior year. Usually people do them where they are interested in entering school, after post graduate or where they might be interested in going into a specific type of practice.

The BCP: What skills, qualifications or education do you need?

Brett: You have to have an undergraduate degree and you have to have a doctor of veterinary medicine from an accredited veterinarian school. Then you need state licenses and national certifications.

The BCP: And do you continue education?

Brett: I do a lot! You've got to be hungry to learn more, never stay the same. You are either getting better at what you do or you're getting worse. Our technology and knowledge is changing all the time.

The BCP: Tell me how a typical day starts for you and how it flows

Brett: Well, that's the best part of our job, truly every day is different. I mean, we have some set routines but we don't plan on staying true to those on

any given day just because we see so much emergency work. We tend to do surgeries in the morning and medical patients in the afternoon but that changes.

The BCP: What is your favorite thing about being a veterinarian?

Brett: I love when people bring in their puppies and their kittens and I think the best part, one of the neat things, is that people's relationships with animals sometimes brings out the best part of that person. We get to see that and that's really cool. We take a lot of pride and it is very exciting to do new things. I can look at what we did, for instance orthopedics, we're doing bone plating fractures that three years ago I wasn't doing and they're so cool. It is so amazing what we can do. We are just doing all these procedures that are cutting edge, like knee surgeries, that weren't previously done here advancing the quality of medicine for our community. It's not only fun but it's challenging. We see our clients and our patients benefiting from it, that's really exciting it keeps you wanting to come to work every day.

The BCP: What is your least favorite thing about being a veterinarian?

Brett: You know, I don't know that I have anything that is my least favorite thing. For a lot of people the concept of euthanasia is really difficult. At times that is probably one of the worst things but sometimes it is truly a gift and a compassionate thing. Even the bad things—a lot of times they're mixed. Most of the animals we get with are fairly easy, some of the owners are a little more difficult, but most of the people we work with are awesome, wonderful I mean truly a pleasure and a privilege to work for.

The BCP: What has been your biggest challenge?

Brett: Trying to be really competent and really good at what you do in a complicated and really diverse occupation. There is so much that is changing all the time it is difficult to stay in front of that. But when you really enjoy it, it's just what you do.

The BCP: How often do you have to work outside of clinic hours?

Brett: All the time. That is part of being a vet in a small community, we don't have an emergency only

facility here like a lot of larger metropolitan areas, that's just part of us, and I think all the vets in town see that as just part of what we do as a community service.

The BCP: What types of animals do you care for?

Brett: We do everything. That is part of the fascination of this type of a practice. We see companion animals, food animals, wildlife, service dogs, guide dogs, drug dogs, exotic animals. We've worked on everything from wallabies, owls, eagles, and llamas to wolves, just all sorts of different species it's part of the fun of what we do.

The BCP: So with regards to the wildlife, say if ODFW trapped a porcupine that needed care they would bring it in to you?

Brett: Occasionally, yep. (Hamilton was unsure if other local vet offices in town do the same.)

The BCP: What is the strangest animal you've cared for?

Brett: Gosh, I don't know. Hedgehogs are kinda weird little critters. Nobody in our practice really does snakes. We don't do a lot of reptile work although we've done some. Wallabies are really cool little animals. I've worked on those in the past. They (any animal) just don't seem all that strange to me I guess at this point.

The BCP: Do you have a funniest story you'd like to tell?

Brett: I don't know. I'd have to think about that. One that you could print is another thing. I can think of a couple funny ones but not that you could print.

The BCP: What is the saddest?

Brett: We deal with sad ones all the time. I honestly don't have a saddest one. In this business we see the absolute best of people and we see the absolute worst of people. Over the years there have been so many abused, terrorized animals and for the most part that has been at the hands of people.

The other big broad category, and sometimes this is true with people, sometimes bad things happen to nice pet owners that do everything right and they just were really unlucky or made one bad judgment and they're sick, their pet is sick and it's all bad. I don't really have a saddest story because unfortunately, I hate to say it but

they are pretty frequent. I wouldn't trade what I do with anyone though. I'm very passionate about what I do. There are frustrations that come with any occupation but in this one the good things way outweigh the bad but the bad are frequent and hard and emotionally taxing. Not only on us (vets) but our staff as well, we develop deep emotional attachments to our patients and their owners. Lots of times we can make it all better but sometimes we can't. Another thing that is a little harder is that the life span of our patients is a lot shorter than that compared to a physician. Not very many people die at the age of 15 being old, so we go through that experience of them coming in when they are a puppy and we see them throughout their life and that's awesome but we also see them at the end.

The BCP: Would you say it is easy or difficult to leave the job at work?

Brett: It's not easy sometimes, that is for sure. It's not uncommon to wake up in the middle of the night thinking about a case, and thinking what I'm going to do different tomorrow. One of the neat things about what we do is it is not easy, we see patients with really difficult medical conditions that are intricate kind of things. You don't just go home and forget about it, you might think about things until you get them right.

The BCP: What advice would you give to for anyone looking at this career path?

Brett: It's like anything. If you're going to be good at it you have to love it. I think if anyone is considering this as a future occupation I think you have to spend time with a veterinarian because I think it is different than what people think a little bit.

You have to be able to get along with people it's not just about animals—it's talking to people about their animals. You also have to be medically sound and there are just a lot of things that determine success. What people judge isn't always how good of a doctor you are, it could be how well you communicate.

The BCP: Any parting thoughts?

Brett: It's a wonderful profession I'm so glad I chose it—but it's not for everybody.

Springing a leak on Court



Photo courtesy of the City of Baker City.

Water floods Court Avenue after a water leak last Thursday morning.

According to Mike Kee, manager of the City of Baker City in his weekly newsletter, "A major water leak occurred just at around 1 a.m. last Thursday morning. Data from the Water Treatment Plant showed that the leak rate was approximately 2000 GPM. Crews had the 6" line repaired before 11 a.m. and spent the remainder of the day rebuilding the road base that the water destroyed."

Crews were still working on the area earlier this week, but the majority of the work appeared to have been completed.

The leak primarily affected the block of Court Avenue in front of business such as Blue Mountain Design.

Show -n- Shine



Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Top: a vintage fire truck drew crowds. Next: Troy and Gen Woydziak stand next to son Mabry's truck. Third: Classic cars lined up in front of the Museum looked at home there. Bottom: A bright blue 1947 Chevy owned positioned in one corner of the park garnered attention.

Local

Out-of-state experts add to panel during workshop

BY BRIAN ADDISON
 Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The legal process of coordination has not only been used by some county governments to protect local interests such roads, the economic base, and cultural heritage against federal and state regulations and planning projects but also as a means of conflict resolution between local governments and federal and state agencies, according to Dick Wright who serves as chairperson on the Shasta County Coordination Committee in Shasta County, California.

Wright, and a panel of experts in the coordination process, joined renowned land use attorney Fred Kelly Grant to offer the Coordination 101 Workshop in Baker City, Aug. 20 through the 22nd. The three day course provided local citizens with an introduction to the legally recognized process of coordination.

The Shasta County Coordination Committee is made up of about 20 citizens and operates independent of local government. “The committee strongly advocates for the use of coordination and is constantly on the lookout for issues that threaten to jeopardize recreation, land use, health and safety, and the local economy,” Wright’s biographical information states.

Coordination has been used to protect local interests by allowing local governments to form a government-to-government relationship with federal and state land use and regulatory agencies including but not limited to the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Administration, US Dept. of Homeland Security, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The coordination process derives from the Tenth Amendment of the US Constitution and according to Grant hinges on three main concepts: First, coordination requires that federal and state agencies provide local government with notification of planning projects and proposed regulations, which allows local government officials to provide input during conception of those federal or state planning projects and proposed regulations.

Secondly, coordination orders that federal and state agencies be apprised of county plans. And thirdly, it forces federal and state project and regulation planners to recognize conflicts and then to remain consistent with local plans. Any conflict between the federal or state plan to local plans must be backed by legal reasoning.

Coordination with the federal or state agencies must be initiated by a local governmental entity, Grant advises.

“The BLM understands coordination from the top down,” Grant explained. “The Forest Service is dragging their feet.”

While there has been opposition by the USFS to the acceptance of coordination with local governments, Grant cites a letter from USFS Chief Tom Tidwell acknowledging the USFS requirement to coordinate at the bequest of local government.

“The Forest Service is bound by FLPMA (Forest Land Planning and Management Act-1976),” Grant said. Grant cites a further list of federal statutes requiring that the USFS follow the coordination mandate.

Grant also quickly uncovered no less than seven Oregon state statutes requiring coordination between state agencies and local governments.

Wright explained the importance and advantages of forming a local coordination committee independent of local governments. He explained that the coordination committee is able to focus on federal and state issues that threaten local interests. Once the committee has detected a conflict between local plans and federal or state plans, the coordination committee then informs the local governments—which may include county or municipal government, school districts, irrigation districts, or fire protection districts—and advocates for the local government to coordinate and remedy the conflict.

Joining Wright from Shasta County was chairperson of the Recreation Outdoor Coalition Sylvia Milligan, from Anderson, Cal. Milligan has worked on USFS related issues since the 1990s and has used coordination with the USFS to protect roads and trails in her county from closure.

Milligan advises on the importance of following federal agency plans by keeping apprised of the Schedule of Proposed Ac-

tions (SOPA) released by the federal land management agencies.

Sean Curtis, rancher from Modoc County, Cal., and Director of the Modoc County Natural Resources Department, joined Grant’s panel of experts and used his 25 years of experience in using coordination with the federal agencies to educate those attending the workshop.

Along with Grant, Curtis stressed the importance of protecting local economies and cultural heritage through understanding and working within the federal statutes and regulations as written in federal guiding documents such as the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act.

“The Endangered Species Act has a clause included for local economic recovery,” he said. “The biggest gap for the Forest Service in following NEPA is considering the local social/economic impacts. The Forest Service is not staffed for it.”

Curtis explained that the national forest in Modoc County is administered by the USFS Region 5. Region 5 in order to adhere strictly to NEPA concerning local interests hired an expert in social issues and an economist to adhere strictly to NEPA concerning local interests.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest falls within the boundaries of USFS Region 6.

“Region 6 is not where Region 5 is in terms of social/economics,” said Curtis.

Curtis also spoke of the Travel Management Rule and the Travel Management Plan pending within the Wallowa-Whitman.

“Not all Forest Service decision-officers are on the other side,” he said. Curtis added that the purpose of the Travel Management Plan in the forests of Region 6 were to control off-road travel. He explained that through coordination the local government was able to assert and gain exceptions to the off-road mandate to allow off-road motorized travel for activities such as ranch work and wood gathering.

One of Curtis’ main points in coordination between locals and federal and state agencies was for creativity in drawing local plans.

“There’s more than one way to do it. Fit your plan to your own county,” he said.

Grant’s final presenter, scientist Norman Ma-

cLeod, dealt with possibly the most contentious issues on the western rangelands. Wolves and the scientific method highlighted MacLeod’s presentation.

“His concern for the quality of science used in the regulatory community led him to become one of the founders of the Environmental Sciences Independent Peer Review Institute, a non-profit currently building capacity to perform rigorous independent peer review of the science used to inform public policy,” reads MacLeod’s bio.

MacLeod echoes many local sentiments throughout the rural west challenging many of the claims made by climate scientists and opposes the proliferation of wolves on the western landscape.

MacLeod recognizes two types of “biologist—one being the “traditional biologist” adhering to the scientific method and subject to rigorous peer review: And, the other type he referred to as, the “conservation biologist” using added values and advocacy and failing in the rigors of peer review.

“Climate science is based on a model,” he said. MacLeod believes that climate science is manipulated to be used as part of a conservation agenda to advocate for the position of the federal executive branch of government.

MacLeod gives another example of conservation biology, guided by advocacy, as the use of sage grouse and wolves as indicator species. He warns of the constant adding of species to the list under consideration by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion on the nation’s endangered species list and said that there is a current agency backlog of 256 species to be considered.

“Wolves were brought to Yellowstone illegally,” he stated. MacLeod said that the wolf packs in the western US are made up of a non-indigenous sub-species of wolf. These wolves are larger and more aggressively territorial than the sub-species of wolf that historically roamed the northwest region, according to MacLeod.

MacLeod continues to work on coordination in regard to the wolf issue in agricultural lands and offers assistance and information through his electronic newsletter “WolfNews Updates” found on the internet.

Bennett visits Governor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Submitted Photo.

Tom Vilsak.

He said that invitations to the meeting were also extended to Commissioners from Malheur, Harney and Lake counties, as well as representatives from the BLM, USFS, and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Malheur County Judge Dan Joyce and Baker County Planning Director Holly Kerns, both originally planning to attend the meeting, were present instead at a Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) meeting held in Ontario that same day.

The Planning Director for Malheur County was ill, prompting Joyce’s attendance at that meeting, and Kerns represented Bennett there, he said.

Bennett explained that each of the invitees to the Portland meeting were given an opportunity to voice their respective concerns to Vilsak and Brown, but their time was limited to about three minutes each.

Bennett said he spoke to the group about one of his main concerns, in addition to the Sage-Grouse situation. “To me, one of the biggest things that has concerned me about the fires, putting aside the fires themselves, was restoration. And, the four points that I really tried to push for, are, first of all, we pay for loss of livestock--compensating for loss of livestock. That’s probably the biggest thing. The second thing is, is for lost feed. Lost timber, erosion, you know, not only from the fires, but from the cat (bulldozer) lines, up and down the hills. And then, fencing. If you have private land up against the federal government, you’re required to fence the federal government, as a private landowner. Well, here you’ve taken this hit, it wasn’t your fire to begin with, so, you’re an innocent victim ten times over...That, to me, is wrong.”

Bennett, a Unity area rancher, said in the past, he’s seen the federal government complete restoration work on its land, however, private landowners were left to foot the bill for their own needed work, with no compensation.

He said, “I was able to get communicated that, ‘Don’t fix your ground, and stick the private person.’” He said he was assured that wouldn’t happen, but he needs to keep communicating, to make sure that doesn’t happen.

“He (Vilsak) said he directed the Forest Service, the BLM, and the NRCS to work together to do that,” Bennett said. “And I did say that it all starts with leadership at the top.” Using a military example, he said, “If the Admiral doesn’t believe it, certainly, your Captain’s not going to do much about it. If somebody gives lip service to it, it’s got to happen, and as Commissioners, that’s something we have to make sure happens.”

Bennett said that his concerns were acknowledged, and Vilsak appeared to be taking notes (Bennett was seated beside Vilsak), and though Bennett stated in Wednesday’s County Commission meeting that, “I don’t think he (Vilsak) listened to me,” he said, “I don’t want to be critical yet, because, we have to see if it comes in that giant pipeline, down to the local office, and that’s where we’ll know, really, whether it was ignored, or they were good points. I want to be optimistic that he recognizes that.”

Bennett said he found it promising that several of the other attendees echoed his concerns, and he’s hoping that Vilsak considers seriously the strong comments.

He talked about the issues with the timber industry also, stating the disadvantages for the smaller mill operations (and the lack of mills), and the lack of access, and problems with government agencies. “That’s where we, as a county, have to try and make sure that the playing field is fair. I realize that the market drives it, but we have to make sure the playing field is fair, as best as we can.”

“There’s not enough mill capacity, which is another problem. I mean, we have three mills, is all. And, they are already going full-bore on other stuff, and then, we have this gigantic fire in Grant County, so, I don’t know what timber prices are going to be...I don’t want to see our folks continue to be victims of this fire. We really need to help them try and turn around...We’ve got to help them before winter gets here,” Bennet said.

Bennett spoke more about the wildfires, saying, “If it starts somewhere else, and you’re just an innocent victim, you should be as good as you were the day before. You’re not entitled to be better, but you should be no worse.”

Referencing Brown’s statement about wildfires being the “new normal,” Bennett said, “I really don’t accept that. I think we need to get on the ball, and keep it from being the ‘new normal.’ That, to me, would have been a better statement,” he said.

He said he didn’t really get a chance to speak with Brown after the meeting, but she was present to hear Bennett’s concerns during the discussion.

“The thing to remember with the Sage-Grouse is, it’s not a scientific decision (whether to list the bird as an endangered species), it’s a political decision,” he said, speaking with frustration. He also said that the issue of predators, threats to the Sage-Grouse, hasn’t been addressed.

As protection against the possibility of the listing of the Sage-Grouse, Bennett reiterated his emphasis on urging community landowners to find out more information about a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), which has been covered extensively in past articles.

Bennett stated that the decision whether to list the Sage-Grouse is expected by September 30.

Historic Baker City meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

It was noted that Baker Middle School as well as Baker High School has leadership classes that could be tapped. Other organizations and clubs mentioned were FBLA, FFA, 4-H, The Baker High School Film Arts Club, Boy Scouts and Jerry Peacock at Baker Technical Institute might be a good resource as well.

The group also felt community pride was an issue needing to be improved.

Linda Hayes said, “Having parades and fun events is great but we need to address some of the harder things like cleaning up junk stores on Main Street that are never open and that kind of thing, the not so fun stuff. The parkway is great and a lot of work went into it but our river needs attention too.”

One person in the audience advised that a river clean-up event was being sponsored by Powder Basin Watershed Council on September 19 from 10:00

a.m.-1:00 p.m. meeting at Geiser Pollman Park. Community members wishing to participate can pre-register for the event by emailing pbwcoutreach@qwestoffice.net or calling (541)523-7288.

Valerio talked of a community event being held in Milton-Freewater where community members were volunteering time to clean up “eyesores” in the city like Linda Hayes mentioned.

That event, Make a Difference Day, is coming up

October 25, 2015 and Valerio, who will be attending, indicated he would be advising those interested of the success of that event in hopes that one very similar may be organized in our community.

The group also tossed out an idea of “sponsor a building” much like the sponsor a highway program in which groups, organizations or individuals could pledge to help in helping to financially securing upkeep of a building.

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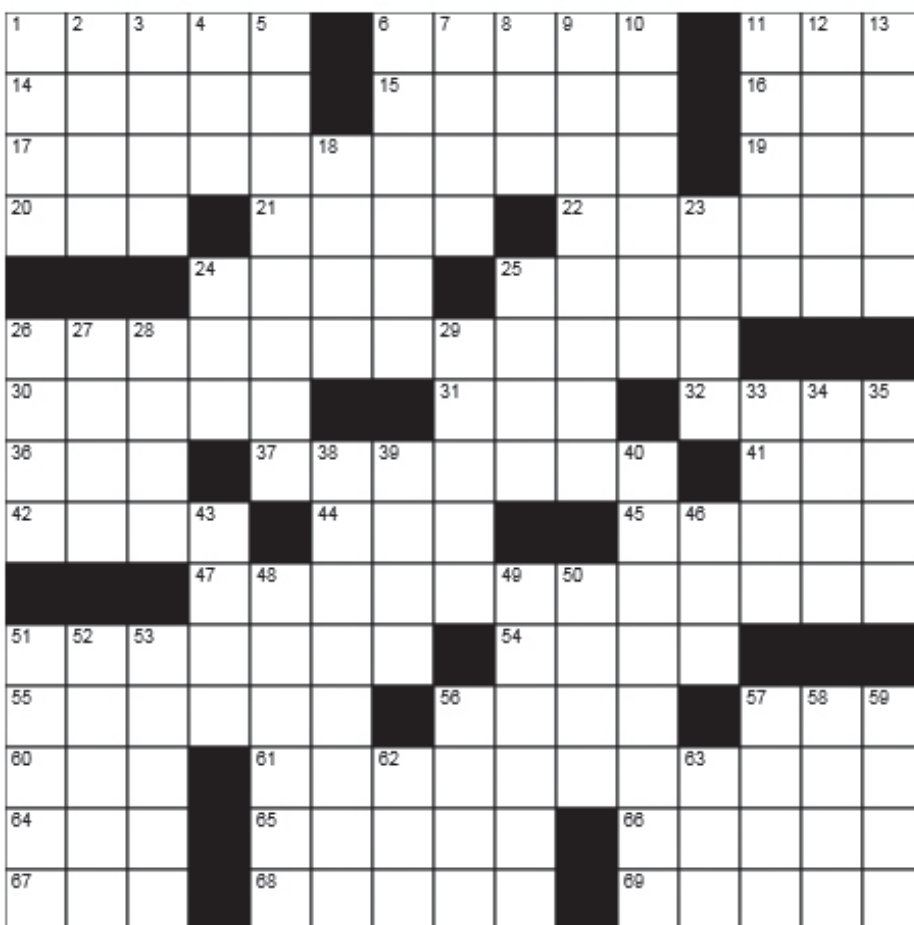
Nursing Home 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Mother Theresa quotation.

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L E N E R O U N D S A I R R U E C S S G V T E
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| ACTIVITIES | COMFORT | HELP | OUTINGS | SING ALONG |
| AIDES | DENTURES | INCONTINENCE | PET THERAPY | SLEEPING PILL |
| ASPIRIN | DINING ROOM | LAUNDRY | PHYSIOTHERAPIST | STAFF MEETINGS |
| BATHROOM | DOCTOR | LINERS | PUZZLES | SUPPER |
| BEDRAIL | DRUGS | MAGAZINES | READING | TABLES |
| BEDS | EXERCISE | MEDICAL GLOVES | RESIDENTS | TELEVISION |
| BOARD GAMES | FALLS | MEMORY LOSS | ROUNDS | TRANSFER BELT |
| BULLETIN BOARD | FLU SHOT | MOISTURIZER | SCRABBLE | URINAL |
| CANE | FRAIL | MUSIC | SCRUBS | VOLUNTEERS |
| CARE | GLUCOSE METER | NAIL CLIPPERS | SENIORS | WANDERING |
| CASE MEETING | HAIRDRESSER | NEEDLE | SHAVE | WHEELCHAIR |
| CHARTS | HALLWAYS | NURSES | SHOWER | |

This week's crossword puzzle



- Across**
- 1- Coptic bishops;
 - 6- Scrawny person;
 - 11- Cabinet dept.;
 - 14- Big name in copiers;
 - 15- Relinquish;
 - 16- Dr. of rap;
 - 17- Nasty vitamin D source;
 - 19- Pot top;
 - 20- Sugar suffix;
 - 21- Comedian Foxx;
 - 22- Clan;
 - 24- Versailles verb;
 - 25- OK to consume;
 - 26- Juice aroma enhancer;
 - 30- Try to pick up;
 - 31- Japanese honorific;
 - 32- Nautical direction;
 - 36- Fruity quaff;
 - 37- "H" is this type of fricative;
 - 41- AOL, e.g.;
 - 42- Exam used to measure aptitude or intelligence;
 - 44- "Hold On Tight" band;
 - 45- Very, to Verdi;
 - 47- Illiterate;
 - 51- Endurance;
 - 54- Auto loan figs.;
 - 55- Intertwine;
 - 56- Met solo;
 - 57- Opener;
 - 60- Remote abbr.;
 - 61- Fragments;
 - 64- Tours season;
 - 65- Hermit;
 - 66- Rust, e.g.;
 - 67- Marshal at Waterloo;
 - 68- Related on the mother's side;
- Down**
- 1- With the bow, to a violinist;
 - 2- Life stories;
 - 3- A followers;
 - 4- Earthlink competitor;
 - 5- Fabric to make a button-down;
 - 6- Whence Ikea;
 - 7- Part of a suit;
 - 8- ___ Grande;
 - 9- Indigenous birds of a region;
 - 10- Trattoria treats;
 - 11- Off-the-cuff;
 - 12- Gridiron;
 - 13- Color anew;
 - 18- ___ Beach, Florida;
 - 23- ___ Hari;
 - 24- That, in Toledo;
 - 25- Q.E.D. part;
 - 26- Excellent, slangily;
 - 27- Assistant, particularly to heads of state;
- Across**
- 69- Helicopter part;
- Down**
- 28- Fr. holy women;
 - 29- Setting on the aperture;
 - 33- Catalog;
 - 34- Morales of "NYPD Blue";
 - 35- Larger than life;
 - 38- Pressured;
 - 39- Spicy stew;
 - 40- Retriever;
 - 43- Writer Janowitz;
 - 46- Paris possessive;
 - 48- Actress Kidman;
 - 49- Zimbabwe's capital;
 - 50- Neat as ___;
 - 51- Early evening;
 - 52- Govt. security;
 - 53- Kind of cat;
 - 56- I'd hate to break up ___;
 - 57- Work with needles;
 - 58- Other name for taro;
 - 59- North Sea feeder;
 - 62- Strands in a cell?;
 - 63- Prefix with skeleton;



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Local

Union Pacific builds new bridge

• TRAIN WHISTLES BEGIN FARTHER OUTSIDE TOWN

BY SUNNY WERNER
Sunny@TheBakerCountyPress.com

For those who have been wondering what has been going on with the gigantic cranes, hoists and other huge heavy equipment between Highways 30 and 7, the railroad has given the answer.

Union Pacific Railroad representatives say the company has had its workers and contractors hard at work for the past couple months, building a “work bridge” that is able to support the heavy equipment needed to build the actual replacement bridge.

They also needed to construct a temporary “access bridge,” so that the trains could travel safely from the established track to the work bridge and back on the other side.

Crews finished the work and access bridges in early July, and much of the new bridge is now completed.

During routine safety checks along the stretch of track from Pendleton to Huntington, it was discovered that the girders for the old bridge were wearing out.

There have been bridge repairs and replacements already completed this year, with two more planned, following completion of the Baker bridge.

Workers had to sink 20 pilings to support the work bridge alone.

The huge crane needed for the new bridge, (which has a 71’ span), weighs 231,000 lbs, or 115.5 tons.

Highly skilled equipment operators have been working in collaboration with trucks delivering ballast, concrete and riprap, as well as those delivering girders.

Entrance and exit strategies have to be reviewed daily by all on-site crews, to ensure safe passage of equipment.

The site foreman coordinates not only the actual



Sunny Werner / The Baker County Press

Workers from Union Pacific are making progress toward completing the new Bridge, visible from Elm Street in Baker City.

work site and its operations, but also has authority over the tracks.

The train engineers observe the warning notices posted incrementally away from the work site, which give them directions to radio in for instructions.

They follow what is known as a “Form B,” in which the foreman gives them specific directions to follow during their passage through the area of track prior to the work site, the work site itself, and the track immediately following.

Included in the instructions for the engineers is the “slow order,” which in this case means they may not travel above speeds of 30 miles per hour.

They are also directed to sound their whistle at the marker before the work site.

What this means for Baker residents is that the train whistles at night begin earlier, before the train actually enters Baker and, because of the “slow order,” the trains appear to be longer.

The workers have needed the foreman to

use his “track and time” rights only twice during the months of construction; these rights allow him to shut down train traffic for a specific period of time, necessary when actual track work is being completed.

The total crew hours for this project has so been only 28, as each time the crews stayed and worked overtime to complete the work.

The end of the project is within sight, although an exact date is impossible to guess.

Along with completing the bridge itself, workers will be dismantling and removing the old bridge.

Also, the buried cable lines will have to be re-cut and spliced, at both ends of the access bridge.

This will involve coordinating again with Verizon crews.

Hamilton Construction, from Lebanon, has been providing the equipment and crews for the pile driving and setting. Knife River Trucking has brought and placed the ballast and rock.

Hamilton Construction

has worked many bridge building and repair sites for Union Pacific, as they have both the skilled crews and the heavy equipment necessary.

The next bridge in line for repair, just outside Huntington, will require an even longer girder span, necessitating the use of an even larger crane than the one used on the Baker project.

Union Pacific Railroad runs more than 9,000 locomotives over 32,000 route-miles, and must continually perform maintenance, repair and regular upkeep on all tracks.

This year, the budget for bridge repair alone throughout its area of operations was \$52,000,000.

According to the company’s web site, “Union Pacific Railroad connects 23 states in the western two-thirds of the country by rail, providing a critical link in the global supply chain. From 2005-2014, Union Pacific invested more than \$31 billion in its network and operations to support America’s transportation infrastructure.”

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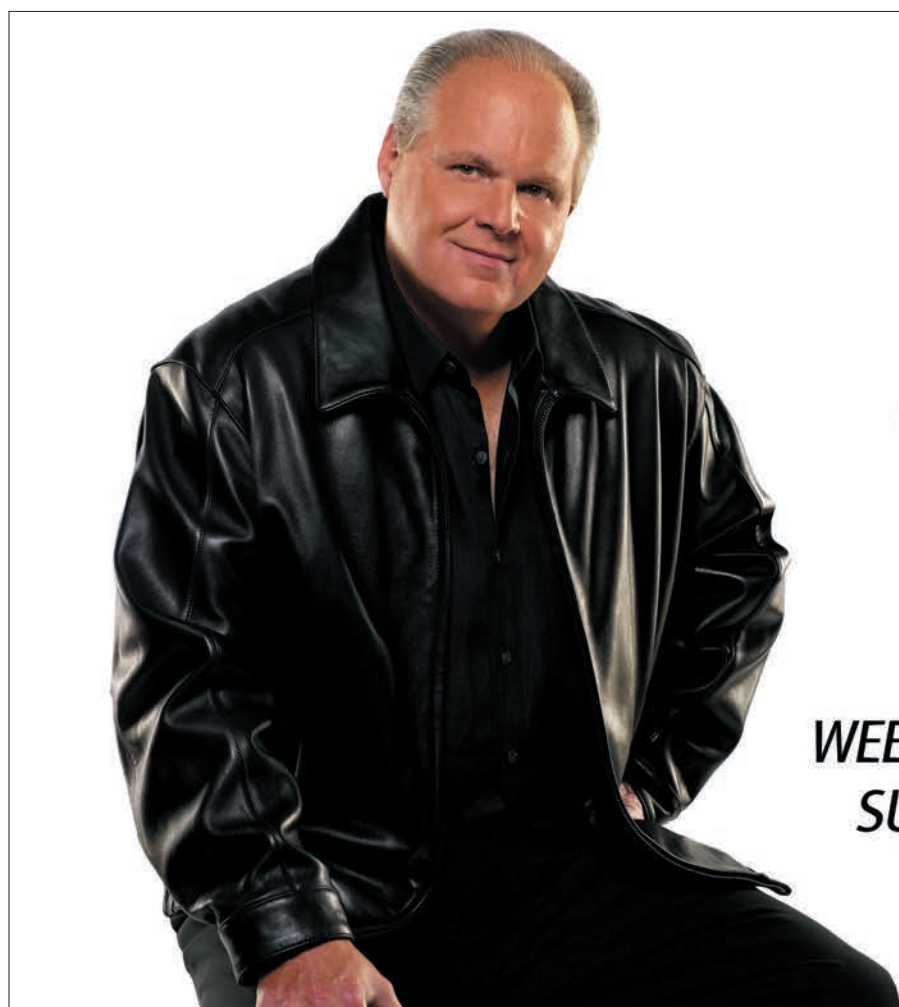


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