

# Outdoor Rec / Local

## HELP WANTED

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. BAKER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Oct. 15, 2015. **JOB LOCATION:** Baker City, OR. **HOURS PER WEEK:** 40. **REQUIREMENTS:** 1) Bachelor's degree in marketing, public or business administration, economic development, or related field. 2.) Minimum of 3 years experience in management, business development, tourism or related field. 3.) Must be a creative thinker, detail-oriented, and have outstanding people skills. 4.) Must have advanced computer skills, knowledge of budgeting, accounting, and financing and experience in creating a business plan. Please send cover letter, resume and a list of 3 professional references to: Chamber, P.O. Box 305 North Powder, OR 97867.

10.16.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

**Medical Springs Rural Fire Protection District** Board of Directors will hold its regular monthly board meeting at Pondosa Station, on Thursday, October 3, 2015 at 7 PM to discuss fire department operations.

Check out our low advertising rates at [www.TheBakerCountyPress.com!](http://www.TheBakerCountyPress.com)

## Huntington hosts Cycle Oregon



Eileen Driver / The Baker County Press

Dinner is served to participants gathered in Huntington.

BY EILEEN DRIVER  
Eileen@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Huntington was honored to host Cycle Oregon not once but twice this past week, making many new friends in the process.

In an event that hasn't happened since Cycle Oregon came through the city approximately 10 years ago, every community group in Huntington banded together to help the 2,250 bicyclers and 300+ supporting workers on their journey through Eastern Oregon.

The event began with lunch in Huntington High School's lower field, served by Huntington Christian Center and Huntington Parks & Recreation, with bicyclist trickling in from their starting point in Baker City from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

From there, participants visited local businesses and both the indoor and outdoor Historical Museum before continuing on their way to Farewell Bend State Park where they were greeted and welcomed to Huntington with cheers by historically costumed pioneers, Weiser, Idaho's Onion Skin Players and the Bald Mountain Knuckle Draggers highland games athletes courtesy of the Huntington Historical Society and The Snake River Sternwheeler Association. As they arrived to find their tents set up ready for the night ahead, their luggage was delivered right to their doors for them by Huntington High School students and the Lion's Club who packed them back up for travel the next morning as well. Dinner and breakfast, which took three to four hours to serve each time, was served with a smile by volunteers for the Huntington Senior & Youth Organization.

Table and chair set-ups and take-downs along with garbage removal throughout the park were supplied by the Veteran of Foreign Wars. All this was over seen and organized by the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Huntington with help and thanks to the people at Farewell Bend State Park. At the end of the tiring, but fun two-day odyssey, everyone was exhausted and ready for a rest. George Petit, Quarter Master for the VFW was heard to say, "Tell Tara (Cycle Oregon organizer) to lose my number! I need a rest." But he was also the first to say, "We'll be there," when word came down that Cycle Oregon was coming back not in 10, 5 or even one year, but one day later because of the fires burning near Richland and Halfway making it unsafe for the riders to continue on their journey. With a few well-placed calls and social media pleas, the second time around was even better than the first with all the volunteers returning for another two days of exhausting fun.

So any time Cycle Oregon or any of its riders want to return, from the people of Huntington: "Welcome home. We'll be here!"

## New Baker City Councilor needed

The City of Baker City is looking to fill one open position on the City Council. The City will accept applications through the office of City Recorder beginning on September 25th until October 9th at 10:00 a.m. The individual who is appointed by a majority vote of the City Council will serve on the City Council through December of 2016. An applicant must be a registered voter in the State of Oregon and have resided within the City of Baker City for 12 months immediately preceding the appointment. This partial term will expire at the end of December 2016.

To apply go to [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com) to download and complete the City Councilor application located on the City's home page and submit a letter of interest to Luke Yeaton at City Hall located at 1655 1st Street. Applications can be returned to: Luke Yeaton, 1655 1st Street Baker City OR, 97814, Fax: 541-524-2024, Phone: 541-524-2033, Email: [lyeaton@bakercity.com](mailto:lyeaton@bakercity.com).

## Ladies golf results

The September 9 Quail Ridge ladies golf winners were: 1st flight, Jennifer Godwin; 2nd flight, Karen Wollard; 3rd Flight, Roxanne McAdams. Bridge winners were: 1st flight Judy Karstens, 2nd Shirley Dodson, 3rd Tie: Kathy Eidson and Carol Stevens.

September 16 Bridge winners were: 1st, Kathy Eidson; 2nd, Judy Karstens, and 3rd Betty Combs.

## Wondering about the grouse



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN  
By Todd Arriola

By now, there's no doubt that everyone on the face of the Earth (or at least in the West), has heard the news that the Fish and Wildlife Service has decided not to list the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. It seems the U.S. Department of the Interior has seen the big picture, and has taken note that an "...unprecedented land conservation effort has already significantly reduced the threats to sage grouse," according to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

In my humble opinion, Baker County couldn't have received better news this month, considering the devastating effects the

listing would have caused locally.

Time and time again, meeting after meeting saw some component of the Sage-Grouse issue mentioned, with some solid solutions proposed and implemented, and some not-so-solid solutions

proposed, including a salt tax which would have effectively labeled livestock producers as partly to blame for the questionable woes of the bird, since they would have been the ones footing the bill. And they proposed the tax.

County Commissioner Mark Bennett has played a key role in the battle to make Sage-Grouse conservation efforts, including local ones, known to state and federal agencies, urging community landowners to enter into a 30-year Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) in the process, as a form of protection in the event the bird would

be listed. Though the bird isn't slated to be listed for now, Bennett's and others' efforts to highlight the benefits of a CCAA—a document that in part acknowledges conservation efforts already in place—have largely fell on deaf ears in the County, as evidenced by a poor response.

Bennett and others have stated that the decision to list the Sage-Grouse would have been based unfortunately on politics, and not on scientific data, since there is ample evidence to show that conservation efforts have been successful. "What more can we do?" Bennett said, noting that predator threats to the Greater Sage-Grouse, including literally any animal that can kill a chicken-sized bird, haven't been addressed adequately, in the decision whether to list it.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak said, "Together, we have shown that voluntary efforts joining the resources of private landowners, federal and state agencies, and partner organizations can help drive landscape-level conservation that is good for sage grouse, ranching operations, and rural com-

munities." That explains the effort in a nutshell, but, apparently, environmental groups are screaming foul, blaming the decision not to list on political pressure from western industries—oil and gas, mining and agriculture. Whatever the claim, I'm not sure what we'd do (or they'd do) if those industries didn't exist.

It appeared that, for quite some time, the Greater Sage-Grouse would be listed, despite the enormous amount of conservation effort shown, and the increasing population numbers. (How could they keep such an accurate, close count on them, like the grey wolf, anyway?) But, we were lucky this time, and dodged the mighty sword.

Don't get me wrong, I'm pleased that the decision has been made not to list the bird, and sometimes, I like to keep things simple with the philosophy, "Why ask why?" regarding positive news, but, I have to wonder, what will the future hold five years down the road, when the state of the bird is reassessed?

Maybe I shouldn't wonder so much...

## Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo Round Robin results



Photos courtesy of Krishele Whitnah.

Above: Contestants in the 2015 Round Robin gather for photos. At right: Grandparents Dorothy and Thorny Hampton pose with winner Abigail Whitnah and siblings.

### SUBMITTED BY KRISCHELE WHITNAH

The 2015 Round Robin winners for the Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo were as follows:

#### Novice Division

Novice All Around Showman Colton Clark Reserve Champion Bailee Griggs

#### Senior Division

All Around Showman Abigail Whitnah Reserve Champion All Around Showman Gussie

#### Cook

Abigail was awarded a buckle sponsored by the Richland Hitching Post Gussie Cook was awarded a chair sponsored by the DLX Ranch

Colton Clark was awarded a trophy and custom jacket sponsored by the Baker FFA.

Bailee Griggs was awarded a chair sponsored by the Pine Eagle FFA. (The chairs are printed to denote the award and sponsor).



In order to compete in the round robin, the youth either won or got reserve for their respective division and species.

In round robin, each of the participants rotates

through rings where they show each species (Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Cavies, Rabbits, and Chickens) for five minutes per round.