

# Local & Entertainment

## County Commissioners hold meeting with Forest Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Montoya explained that 82 miles of forest roads have been identified as areas where trees need to be marked and removed to ensure motorist safety. In addition to the forest roads Montoya reports about 12 miles of the Dooley Mountain Highway (OR-Hwy. 245) may be bordered by hazardous trees. The USFS assessment looks at about 150-feet on both sides of the roadways to determine hazards caused by trees.

Commissioner Bennett pointed out the steep terrain to Montoya and Oliver and first questions the 150-foot limitation and secondly, along with Harvey, asks the USFS to expand the area of assessing hazardous trees to 200-feet on either side of the roadways.

Harvey next spoke about the diminishing value of burned timber and asked for progress on USFS administered timber sales to salvage areas on the burned timber stands.

Montoya answered that no timber sales have been released yet and that agency timber cruisers were currently assessing timber stands for harvest viability on the open (Level 2 to 5) roads.

Harvey responded that the USFS should look at timber stands on all existing roads regardless of USFS road maintenance levels.

During the discussion Harvey introduced the need for the USFS to begin timber thinning projects in the dense timber stands as a method of raising revenue for the USFS. Harvey believes the revenue generated from those timber thinning projects need to be directed back to the local management of USFS lands.

“Now, timber dollars go

back to Washington DC and into a bottomless pit,” said Harvey.

Harvey believes that revenue derived from sustains yields on timber projects within Baker County should be funded back to the management of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest instead of into the agency’s national general fund and that this would provide the needed funding to maintain local roads and forests.

During the discussion on roads, Montoya mentioned USFS personnel continue to draw up the road analysis (Sub-part A) portion for the ongoing development of the revision of the Blue Mountain Forest Plan. While information on the road analysis has not been released to the public, Montoya said that the USFS has planned an informational meeting, date and time yet to be determined, with the Baker County Commissioners.

Funding constraints are an ongoing problem facing the USFS and the county as early development of fire recovery project planning takes place, according to both Montoya and the county commissioners.

The USFS currently works on the Burn Area Emergency Response assessment and have budgeted \$230,000 for road work, replacement of culverts, and hazardous tree removal.

Montoya explained that existing culverts are being replaced by larger culverts in anticipation of greater water runoff due to loss of timber and foliage.

Another \$140,000 has been budgeted by the agency for mulching in the Stices Gulch area to control soil erosion. This project takes existing trees in the area and grinds them into mulch to be worked into the unstable soil. Besides funding

limitations, the USFS faces other obstacles in drawing timber harvest contracts on the agency managed land. Area limitations of 250-acres per fire are imposed for emergency fire timber salvage projects. Montoya said that the Windy Ridge Fire and the Cornet Creek Fire are considered by the agency as one fire limiting the 30,000 acres of USFS lands burned within that complex to timber salvage of only 250-acres.

Beyond the emergency timber salvage operation, any timber salvage beyond the 250-acre limitation requires the agency to enact a procedure referred to as an Environmental Assessment, which could take 12 to 18 months to complete, according to Montoya.

Harvey countered by explaining that within the 12 to 18 months to complete an Environmental Assessment, burned pine lumber loses most of its value and timber contractors fail to bid on those delayed contracts due to that loss of value. Harvey said that pine value viability is limited to within the first year after the burn.

When addressing the changing nature of forest fires to what has become a pattern of catastrophic in the forests, Harvey quoted a recent statement by USFS Chief Tom Tidwell, “This is the new normal.” Harvey countered, “Not here.”

When asked for a timeline on the release of timber contracts within the 250-acres of each forest fire within Baker County, Montoya answered an expectation that loggers would be in the forests cutting trees by this November.

SEE USFS MEETING PAGE 12

## Bebe's word search

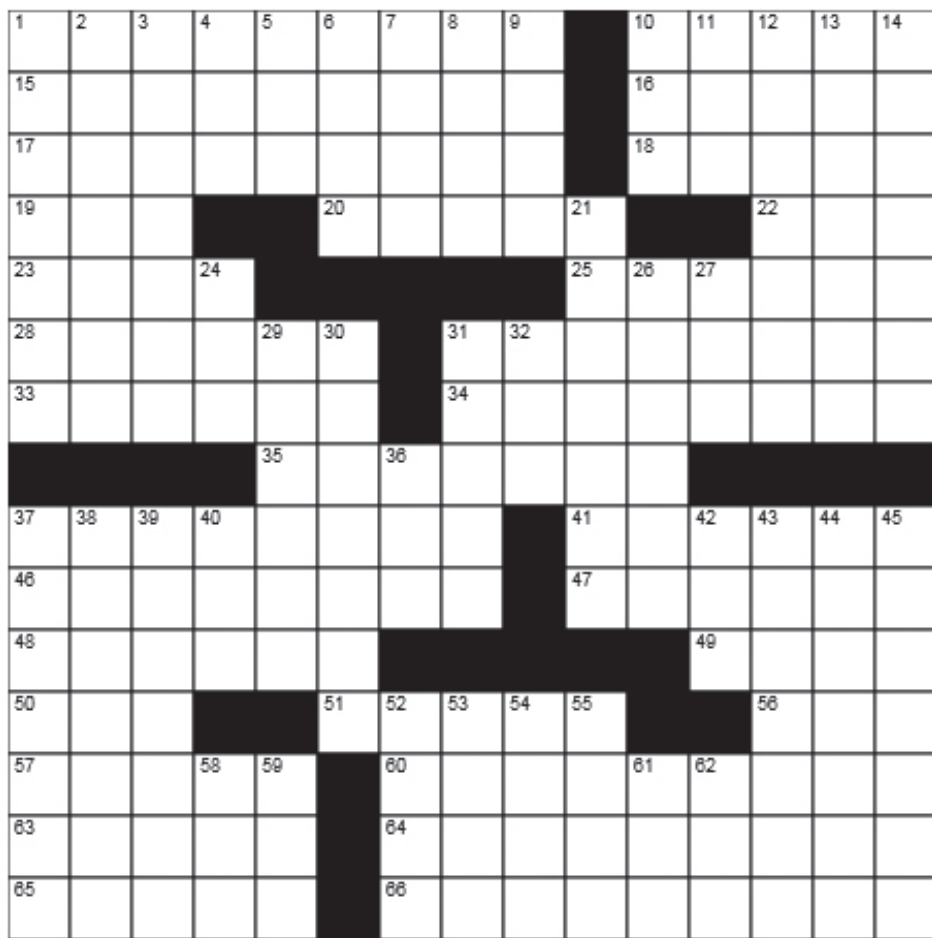
### Physics 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 58 letters spell a Bruce Feirstein quotation.

T S C I N O R T C E L E E C R O F V D R H  
 E D I S B E L A S T I C I T Y T S E E E N  
 P R O T O N N A A N C Y E B E N S L C F O  
 T M O T I O N O W E A N E E O T A O I L T  
 E Y E L L U P N I D R L O I I A M C B E O  
 R E I F I L P M A T U O T I N E R I E C H  
 T J S N N A G R B C C C D N T H I T L T P  
 O O I O G I A A E I A A T Y T C A Y G I Y  
 R U A I P F O L R E I G N R E N D N N G O D  
 Q L L T O E O N R D I B M F H A E U G N E  
 U E A C I M R N I E I P A E F L M G F E N  
 E S G I N I I U L Z E S S N E I A I C U V  
 S C U R T A Y S S R A I T V G L D N C A O  
 I I F F H S B P A S O T A A I R E M C S L  
 W T I C E O A T O N E W I L N I E U S U  
 E E R R H S U L E R D R E O C C U T O N M  
 I N T R P R I L Y B T O P S N M E Y T S E  
 G I N E E G A I T R E N I E L C I T R A P  
 H K E U H A B S O L U T E Z E R O C C E M  
 T D C T H A L F L I F E N E U T R O N S S

- ABSOLUTE ZERO
- ADHESION
- AERODYNAMICS
- AIR MASS
- AMPLIFIER
- BIG BANG
- BOILING POINT
- CENTRIFUGAL
- CHAIN REACTION
- DECIBEL
- DIFFRACTION
- DISTANCE
- DRAG
- ELASTICITY
- ELECTRONICS
- ENTROPY
- FARADAY
- FORCE
- FRICTION
- FUNCTION
- GALILEO
- HALF LIFE
- HEAT
- INERTIA
- IONIZATION
- JOULE
- KINETICS
- LIGHT
- MATTER
- MOLECULE
- MOTION
- NEUTRON
- NIELS BOHR
- PARTICLE
- PHOTON
- PRESSURE
- PROTON
- PULLEY
- REFLECTION
- SCIENCE
- SPEED
- TEMPERATURE
- TORQUE
- VACUUM
- VELOCITY
- VOLUME
- WAVELENGTH
- WEIGHT

## This week's crossword puzzle



### Across

- 1- Executioner;
- 10- Stormed;
- 15- Purgatorial;
- 16- Papal garment;
- 17- Group of instruments;
- 18- Tending to a definite end;
- 19- Actress Ruby;
- 20- Actress Zellweger;
- 22- Suffix with meteor;
- 23- Ladies of Spain: Abbr.;
- 25- First name in aviation;
- 28- Online brokerage;
- 31- Noble woman;
- 33- Pardon;
- 34- Covered with scaly spots;
- 35- Cyst;
- 37- In the first place;
- 41- Jazz fan?;
- 46- Proximity;
- 47- Revolve;
- 48- Norwegian arctic explorer;
- 49- \_\_\_ yellow ribbon...;
- 50- 7th Greek letter;
- 51- Wearies;
- 56- Stool pigeon;
- 57- Nouveau \_\_\_;
- 60- Tropical fruit;
- 63- Turns away;
- 64- Breakaway;
- 65- Remove;
- 66- Pachyderms;

### body;

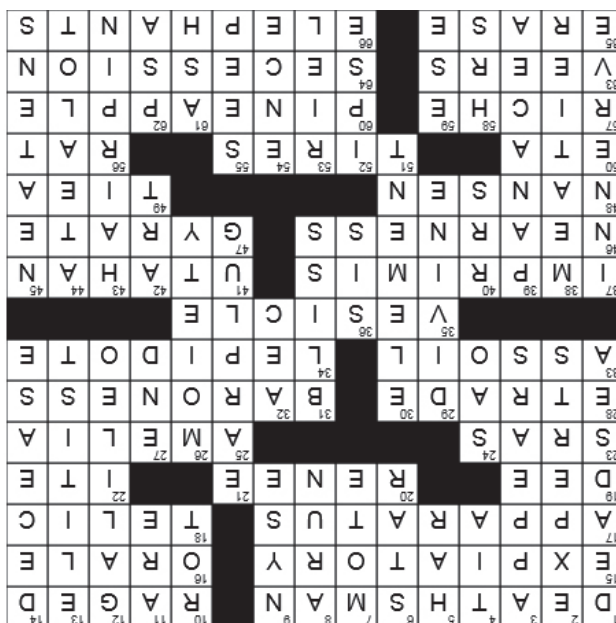
- 2- Adepts;
- 3- Becomes visible;
- 4- Carrere of "True Lies";
- 5- Laughing syllable;
- 6- Asterisk;
- 7- Speck of dust;
- 8- Make \_\_\_ for it;
- 9- AMEX counterpart;
- 10- Go bad;
- 11- Exist;
- 12- U.S. space probe to Jupiter;
- 13- Snob;
- 14- Die;
- 21- Otic protection;
- 24- \_\_\_ Paulo;
- 26- Half;
- 27- Conclusion;
- 29- Godlike;
- 30- Rudimentary component;
- 31- Rapture;
- 32- Former nuclear

### agcy.;

- 36- Family nickname;
- 37- Animate;
- 38- More substantial;
- 39- Cure-all;
- 40- Monopoly quartet: Abbr.;
- 42- Guggenheim display;
- 43- Kind of turn;
- 44- Piggged out;
- 45- Tidies up;
- 52- \_\_\_ dixit;
- 53- Monetary unit of Cambodia;
- 54- Suffix with exist;
- 55- Ooze;
- 58- Timecard abbr.;
- 59- Legal conclusion?;
- 61- Tree used to make baseball bats;
- 62- Largest book of the OT;

### Down

- 1- Salty Mideastern



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