

Local

County Commissioners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The minutes of the September 24, 2015, and October 7, 2015 minutes were approved with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Lee gave the Board a Technology Department update, which included the following accomplishments: replacement of the aging County telephone system with a more flexible, advanced one; digital archiving of Justice Court records, for easy retrieval; implementation of video conferencing, including the Commission Chambers, Justice Court, and County Jail; adding technical support for the Sheriff's Office; replacement of computers and other equipment and software in support of Health Department records; development of a new website in association with the Assessor's Office, with over 17,000 uploaded maps, and adaptability to mobile devices; improved accessibility of Clerk's Office records (from a public terminal), with between 125,000 to 150,000 images; encryption of Juvenile Department emails; and efforts to resolve County backup power source issues, including a backup generator test, tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 23, with a unit borrowed from the County Road Department.

Lee noted future projects for the upcoming year, including: the removal of Windows XP computer software; automated reports for accounting; Juvenile e-Court implementation; wireless upgrades for the Courthouse; facilities software and office upgrades.

The decision was made to move ahead with the process of purchasing the old Oregon Department Of Transportation (ODOT) property, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. This includes the purchase price of \$107,000, with a 10-year contract, at 3% interest, for a reduced monthly payment from \$1,500 to \$1,038.03.



Todd Arriola/ The Baker County Press

Undersheriff Warren Thompson (left) with Sheriff Travis Ash.

Savage gave the Board a property tax deferred billing update, including a discussion regarding Tesoro Logistics NW Pipeline Company and Charter Communications, both currently in the appeals stage.

Smith discussed with the Board a petition from Linda Price to vacate a piece of undeveloped property in the Huntington area, in order to increase the lot size of the property. The decision was made to vacate the original right-of-way, and complete the process of disposal, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Order No. 2015-143, Re-Appointing A Member To The Transient Lodging Tax Committee (TLTC), was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. Chelsea McLagan was re-appointed, her term set to expire on August 1, 2018.

Order No. 2015-144, Appointing Members To The Baker County Board Of Property Tax Appeals, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. Tim L. Kerns, (representing) County Governing Pool, Mark E. Bennett, County Governing Pool Alternate, Laurene Chapman, Non-office Holding Pool, and

Sharon Bannister, Non-office Holding Pool, were appointed, their terms set to expire on September 30, 2016.

Order No. 2015-145, An Order Directing The Baker County Sheriff To Make Sale Of County Property; Fixing The Minimum Price And Providing A Portion Of The Conditions And Terms Of Sale, amending Order No. 2015-115, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns, with a minimum bid set at \$10,000. This order is for the sale of property located at 1716 Broadway Street in Baker City, the real market value of which is recorded as \$28,170 (\$22,100 for land and \$6,070 for structures), with total expenses owed in the amount of \$6,402.35 (\$4,596 for taxes and \$1,806.35 for other expenses). The sale is expected to take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., on the steps of the Baker County Courthouse, and a condition of the sale is the demolition and removal of all improvements on the property, to be completed within 120 days from the date of purchase.

Ash and Thompson discussed with the Board Order No. 2015-146, An

Order Designating "Status Automation" As A Sole Source Provider, which was then approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. Status Automation's system, originally installed in 1999, electronically operates the jail doors, intercoms, phones, lights and security gates.

Resolution No. 2015-1007, A Resolution Naming A Portion Of County Right-Of-Way "Gale Garden"; Located In New Bridge At The Intersection Of New Bridge Road, Eagle Creek Road And Governor Lane, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns. Harvey read the Resolution, which explains that the designation is in honor of former Oregon Governor Joseph Gale, who was a resident and active community member of New Bridge, and the property, a beautification project, has been maintained by that same community.

Additionally, a letter of support from the Board to the community of New Bridge for the project was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Capa to arrive

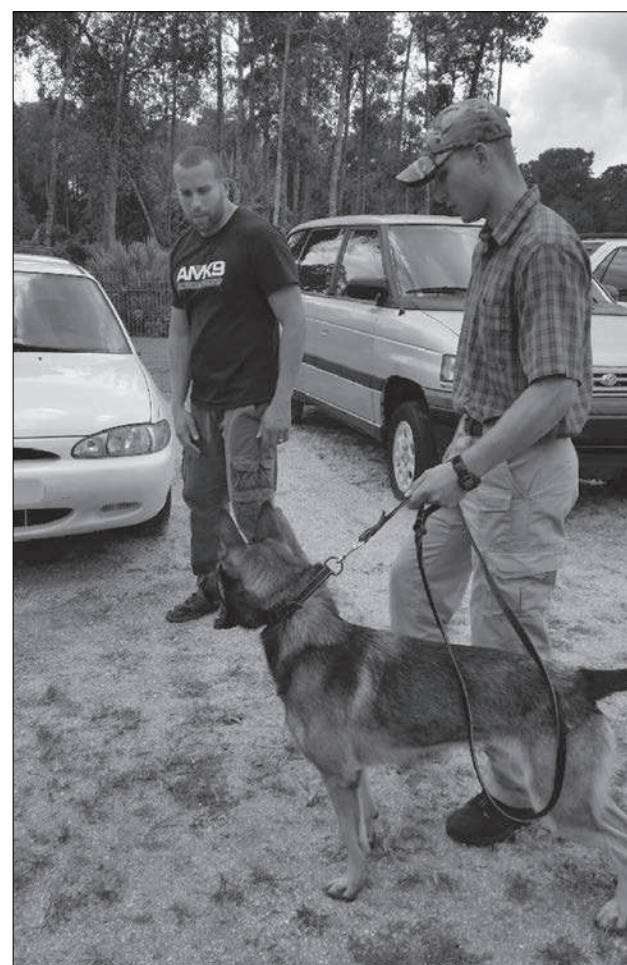


Photo courtesy of the BCPD.

Officer Smith's training with Capa will continue through October 30, after which point the two will travel to Baker City together.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Smith said, "When I told them (at Southern Coast K9, Inc.) what I was looking for, they said, 'We have the perfect dog for you.'"

The company is not a smaller "mom and pop breeder" as Lohner mentioned, but a larger professional organization with 60-80 dogs available on site. The company, he said, is also rare in that it offers canines that have not been trained to detect marijuana, therefore attracting business from Colorado and Oregon where that particular drug is now legal.

"This was a long process," Lohner said—more than a year. When Oregon's new legalized marijuana expedited black lab Turbo's retirement, private donations poured in through a variety of efforts, providing 100% funding for Capa, the training, and even Smith's flight to and from Florida.

"I sent inquiries to and researched multiple vendors," Lohner said. "Eventually, we heard back from two that potentially fit: one in Texas and the other in Florida."

After more research and exhaustive reference checks, the decision pointed toward the Florida-based company. The cost of Capa himself was \$7,500 and the training was \$1,000.

Lohner wasn't just focused on the canine. He said that finding the right officer with the temperament and athletic ability to handle a dog was also critical. "This had to be well-aligned with that officer's career," he said.

Smith said that while the company had a variety of animals for him to meet and view, he and Capa hit it off famously—almost immediately. "They asked me then if I still wanted to see the different dogs and first I thought I'd take a look, but no. I ended up not wanting to. We just got along really well."

Smith, who will complete his second year at the BCPD in November, credits his wife, Julie, and his father-in-law with introducing him to a love of dogs. Living with them and three "big" labs during his college years "made me into a dog person," he said.

Smith is already essentially living with Capa. A crate has been set up in his hotel room, a simulated cage in the back of his rental car. During this interview via phone from Florida, Capa was sitting in his crate next to Smith. "I'm just impressed with him," said Smith.

During the earlier part of this week, Smith trained beside Capa, repeating all the training efforts Capa had gone through alone before a handler was determined. The first part of the training involved simple room searches, but eventually, the training was planned to move off-site to locations where drug residue didn't offer up a persistent smell.

"In those rooms, drugs are planted there every single day, so even when the drug isn't, the odor is still there," Smith said. "We're training on how the dog is supposed to alert. We'll go from one room, one hidden drug to multiple locations and letting him off the leash."

"He's pretty impressive," Smith reiterated. On Monday, Smith and Capa were taken to a large open field where, from 30 yards away if Smith had to guess, Capa made a beeline for a single stash of hidden drugs that had been buried out in that field. "I didn't even know there would be drugs buried in the field, but he went to them right away."

Phoebe Wachtel, how works the front desk at the BCPD, set up the details for Smith's return flight home with Capa on Halloween, the day after their training completes, making sure the two would be able to come home together.

According to Lohner, it was essential that Capa would in no way be detained for the weekend at the Boise Airport.

"When I come home, he comes home with me," said Smith.

Capa begins work at the BCPD immediately during Smith's first scheduled shift after his return.

Huntington's homecoming

BY EILEEN DRIVER
Eileen@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Huntington High School celebrated Homecoming 2015 October 12th-16th with a variety of community involved activities.

Kicking it off was Pajama Day on Monday, followed by a canned food drive and bonfire on Thursday and a parade, pep rally, football game, volleyball and dance on Friday.

The big football game began at 1 p.m. with the LocoNets, a combination team of students from Huntington and Harper schools, playing against the Mustangs of Crane Union High School from Crane, Oregon.

The stands were packed with spectators rooting and cheering for both sides.

Unfortunately for Huntington/Harper it was a 80-0 runaway win for Crane but all players gave their best effort right up to the end.

There was also a slight distraction a little before half time when a life flight

helicopter, which would normally land on the football field when coming to town, flew over the game and landed in the lower field at the school and then took off again with a passenger brought over in an ambulance about 30 minutes later.

The football lineup for the game was as follows:

LocoNets:

#1 Morgan Butler
#65 Dalton Bixby
Trevor Fugate
#10 Joe Truscott
Cyrus Scott
#11 Will Bezates
#? Nate Marker
#? Clayton Garcia
#82 David Schweitzer
#63 Jacob King
#22 Greg Chandler
Junior DeSantiago
Dakota Allaire
Julian Osorio
#88 Wyatt Sanchez
#80 Nash Hicks
#68 Gordon Harrison
#56 Nolan Nantz
#24 Charlie Ray
#25 Mauricio Montes
#60 Justin Clark
#9 Shawn Clark
#61 Steven Rasinski
#84 Justin Wilson
#? Andy Ngo

Mustangs:

#7 Joe Valentine
#8 Miles Maupin
#10 Elijah Epling

#11 JayJay Balowski
#15 Jack Bentz
#20 David Steeves
#21 Dustin Ramage
#22 Cashe Davis
#30 Casey Otley
#34 William Clark
#43 Adrian Huerta
#44 Sam Williams
#45 Joel Otley
#50 Joe Davis
#52 Warren Johnson
#53 Jacob Dunn
#62 Alex Defenbaugh
#64 John O'Toole
#66 Bryce Otley
#73 Zach Davis
#85 Matt Witzel

4 p.m. on Friday saw the girls volleyball competition between the Lady LocoNets and the Lady Mustangs with the Lady Mustangs upsetting the Lady LocoNets in a straight three-set win.

The competition was fierce and everyone had a fun but exhausting time.

Volleyball lineup was as follows:

Lady LocoNets:
#9 Alycea Wilson
#15 Megan Vahsholtz
#14 Shayla Joyce
#12 Bailey Bundy
#6 Shyanna Allaire
#16 Tyonna Ray
#2 Rose Harrison
#13 Haylee Lunt
#10 Brook Johnson

#3 Hannah Matthews
#5 Montanna Polke
#10 Alexis Wilson
#11 Kyle Jager
Lady Mustangs:
#1 Elizabeth Jenkins
#2 Savannah Maupin
#3 Dakota Perkins
#4 Claire Hammond
#5 Bryanna Dunn
#6 Hannah Maupin
#8 Kaylee Newman
#9 Grace Lillard
#12 Kayla Mims
#14 Sadie O'Toole

This year's Homecoming Court was honored with a Homecoming Dance on Friday Night from 7-10 p.m. held at Huntington High School and was sponsored by the Huntington High School Sophomore Class.

The Homecoming Court this year was Queen Megan Vahsholtz Senior, King Justin Clark Senior, Prince Shawn Junior, and only one in his class, hence no Junior Princess, Princess Hannah Matthews Sophomore, Prince Mauricio Montes Sophomore, Princess Cassidy Lawhon Freshman and Prince Justin Wilson Freshman.