

Outdoor Rec / Local

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, November 5, 2015 at 7 PM to discuss fire department operations.

Sam-O Swim gets renovations

The City of Baker City and the Baker County YMCA are pleased to announce the first step of significant renovations to occur at the Sam-O Swim Center.

The lap pool and training pool will be resurfaced with a quartz aggregate

surface next month.

In addition, tile lane lines and targets will be added to the lap pool replacing the current painted lines and thereby eliminating the need for frequent repainting.

The resurfacing upgrade will be accompanied by

the installation of two new sand filters for the lap pool.

The pool will be closed to the public during these renovations.

Work will begin on November 2nd and the pool is expected to reopen November 30th.

Town hall scheduled over Owyhee land grab

ADRIAN—The Oregon Natural Desert Association and Keen Footwear (Portland) are gathering signatures on vaguely crafted petitions asking for action to “protect the Owyhee Canyonlands.” It is anticipated that these recreationally focused groups will use these petitions to prompt President Obama to use his power under the Antiquities Act to designate about 43% of the land in Malheur County as a National Monument. Depending upon who one asks, this could be good (possibly more tourists), or bad (far less economic activity).

Senator Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day), Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario), Malheur County Judge Dan Joyce, and Malheur County Commissioners Larry Wilson and Don Hodge will hold a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 29th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (MDT) at the Adrian High School gymnasium (305 Owyhee Road) to hear from the people who would bear the “on the ground” consequences of the designation. Representatives from Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, and Congressman Walden’s offices have been invited.

Those in support of this effort include American River, American Whitewater, Conservation Lands Foundation, Mazamas, the Oregon National Desert Association, the Pew Charitable Trust, Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, a Portland shoe company (KEEN footwear), and others. These groups are actively gathering signatures on petitions asking for protection of this 2.5 million acre area.

Local residents have formed the Citizens in Opposition to the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument Committee in an effort to prevent southern Malheur County from becoming yet another vast economic wasteland.

Said Rep. Bentz, “It’s my inclination to oppose this concept, since I believe such a designation will cause more damage to this land than it will prevent, and since the future of Malheur County must include more than just recreation. Nonetheless, it is essential that we hear from you. This is your opportunity to say whether you support, or oppose, such a designation.”

This meeting will serve as an open forum for attendees to share their thoughts on the proposed establishment of an Owyhee Canyonlands designation, be it a National Monument, National Conservation Area, or Wilderness Area.

A petition opposing the establishment of the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument can be found at: https://www.change.org/p/barack-obama-ron-wyden-jeff-merkley-oppose-the-misguided-owyhee-canyonlands-monument-proposal?recruiter=401903828&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink, or at the Committee’s website at <http://www.opposetheocm.com/>. A petition in support of the proposal can be found on the Wild Owyhee website.

Baker High School homecoming



Kailyn McQuisten/
The Baker County Press

Homecoming Queen Ashley Knoll.



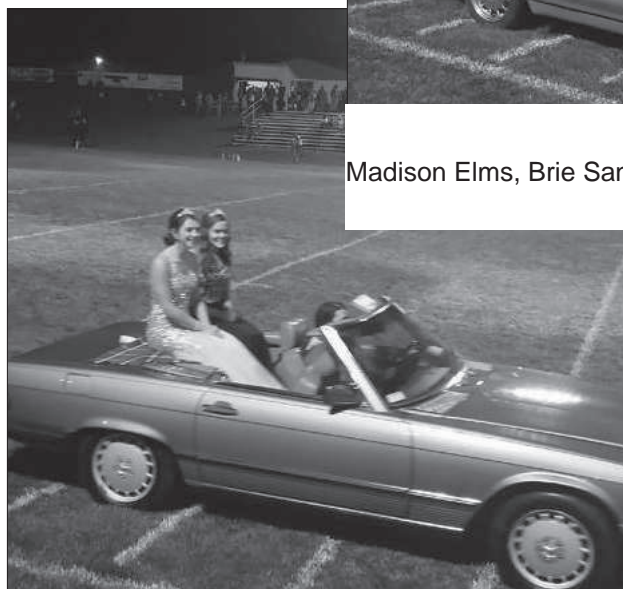
Kailyn McQuisten/
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Homecoming King Morgan Scilacci with Amy Wong and Rory Scilacci.



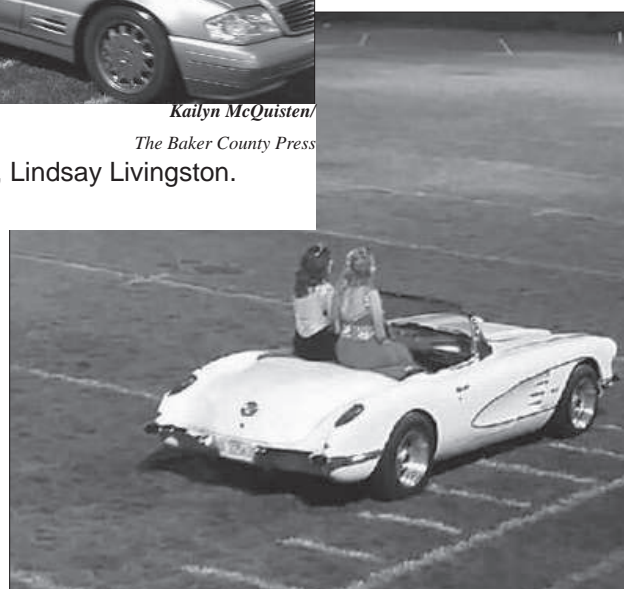
Kailyn McQuisten/
The Baker County Press

Madison Elms, Brie Sand, Lindsay Livingston.



Kailyn McQuisten/ The Baker County Press

MaKenna Bachman and Hannah Boruch.



Kailyn McQuisten/ The Baker County Press

Kassidy Herren and Hannah Myers.

OTEC grants wildfire contract

In the coming weeks, as they travel along Highway 395, near milepost 16, OTEC members will see a few additional vehicles being added to the wildfire reconstruction efforts.

“Prior to the Canyon Creek Complex wildfire,

OTEC had just completed the last installment of the ‘J Bar L to Starr Ridge Fly Job’ with a budget of \$70K,” said OTEC’s Director of Engineering and Operations, Ned Ratterman. “To say the least, this project was in an

‘accessibility-challenged’ area, near milepost 16 and set over extremely rugged terrain.”

Because of the difficult location, OTEC enlisted the use of a helicopter and partnered with the forest service and Bureau of Land

Management to complete the project.

That area was damaged by the wildfire and, on September 7, OTEC put out a call from qualified bidders to perform reparations to the transmission power line.

On Tuesday, October 6, Michael’s Construction were awarded the bid and are expected to begin restorations on or by Friday, October 20 and will be finished on or by Tuesday, December 15.

“There are two phases of this project, the first is that one section of the 69 kilovolt (kV) line has been rebuilt in a new more efficient configuration,” said Ratterman. “So we will be ‘wrecking out’ the fire damaged line and the materials that are no longer useable. The second phase will be rebuilding the area that sustained loss along the hillside.”

To date, OTEC crews have replaced 160 poles and 60,000 feet of wire along the canyon.

For OTEC’s part, the Canyon Creek Complex wildfire and the Cornet-Windy Ridge wildfires have come in at an estimated cost of \$1.5M in total.

All private landowners and members who will be directly affected by this reconstruction have been notified by OTEC.

Meetings ahead for Blue Mountain Forest Plan

The Forest Service has scheduled new public meetings to discuss the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. Please see the current schedule below:

Monday, Nov. 2, 2015, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30), Access and Wilderness, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, La Grande, OR, Armory, 404 12th St, La Grande, OR 97850.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30), Livestock Grazing, Umatilla National Forest, Heppner, OR, City Hall, 111 N Main St., Heppner, OR 97836

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30), Livestock Grazing, Umatilla National Forest and Malheur National Forest, Ukiah, OR, N. Fork John Day Ranger District, 401 West Main St, Ukiah, OR 97880

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30), Pace and Scale of Restoration, Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, La Grande, OR, Armory, 404 12th St, La Grande, OR 97850.

A facilitator will ensure that everyone in attendance has time to speak, listen to others, and propose solutions.

In 2014, the Forest Service released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision and received over a thousand comment letters. Based in part on that feedback, the three Blue Mountains National Forests have worked with stakeholders to identify topics for further discussion – including the Pace and Scale of Restoration, Livestock Grazing, Access, and Wilderness.

A Forest Plan describes the social, economic, and ecological goals of a National Forest and provides a framework for future management decisions. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires each National Forest to prepare a Forest Plan and revise it every 15 years to address changing needs and conditions. The current Forest Plans for the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests are from 1990, and the Blue Mountains region has changed significantly since 1990.

Meeting summaries from previous Forest Plan Revision meetings are available at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision, and the notes from new meetings will be posted there as well. For more information, please contact Peter Fargo, Public Affairs Officer for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision, at 541-523-1231.

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