

Outdoor Rec / Local

Bentz schedules town halls

ONTARIO—Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) is holding town hall meetings in Malheur, Baker, Harney, Grant, and possibly Lake Counties (House Legislative District 60) so that Eastern Oregonians may share their thoughts about proposed increases in the minimum wage.

Oregon's current minimum wage is \$9.25 per hour and is adjusted on an annual basis. Several Measures currently being planned for the ballot in November of 2016 will propose increases in Oregon's minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour or \$15.00 per hour.

Said Rep. Bentz, "Increases in the minimum wage beyond those already required under Oregon law many times damage the very people those supporting the increase are trying to help. On the other hand, many people currently making the minimum wage would certainly like to make more. It is essential that we hear from you. This is your opportunity to say whether you support, or oppose, such an increase."

Each meeting will include a panel of local leaders interested in gathering information from the general public.

Town Hall meetings will

be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

Baker County
Tuesday, January 5th, 2016
6:30-8:30 p.m. (PST)
At the Sunridge Inn (1 Sunridge Ln, Baker City)
Malheur County
Wednesday, January 6th, 2016, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (MST), At the Four Rivers Cultural Center (676 SW 5th Ave, Ontario)

Additional meetings are being planned for Burns, John Day and Lakeview.

Rep. Bentz encourages anyone interested or concerned with this issue to attend the town hall meeting in their area and voice their thoughts. Summaries of what is said and



Rep. Cliff Benz.

the concerns raised will be directed to the Oregon Legislators working on a bill that will be introduced in the 2016 Legislative Session beginning in February.

Parks & Rec announces new grants

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) announces the opening of the 2016 Local Government Grant Program grant cycle for funding public parks and recreation projects. OPRD will host two workshops in February to assist applicants.

Large, small and planning grants are available for cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, park and recreation districts and port districts looking to fund the following types of projects: planning, development, rehabilitation, acquisition, and acquisition and development.

The program is designed to help local government agencies acquire property for park purposes and fund outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. The grants are funded from voter-approved lottery money.

Applications deadlines are set for April and May depending on the type of grant. Two workshops are set:

-Webinar workshop: 10 a.m. to noon, Feb. 3
-Live workshop: 10 a.m. to noon, Feb. 4, Salem
To register and receive workshop notification, send contact information to Mark Cowan at mark.cowan@oregon.gov.

OPRD gives more than \$4 million annually to Oregon communities for outdoor recreation projects and has awarded nearly \$50 million in grants since 1999.

Applications, a grant manual, application deadlines and other information are online at <http://oprdrgrants.org>.

Oregon military to track Santa Claus

PORTLAND, Oregon—The Oregon Air National Guard will be on high alert again this Christmas Eve as they work closely with the United States Air Force and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) to monitor the skies and track the annual flight of Santa Claus.

According to Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander, "It is not uncommon for our pilots to fly alongside Saint Nick in the skies this time of year. He expects to see us and the reindeer have become quite accustomed to flying in formation with our F-15s."

"Year after year, we receive reports on Christmas Eve from the Western Air Defense Sector at McChord Air Force Base,

in Washington," said Capt. Angela Walz, spokesperson for the Portland Air National Guard Base. "They report high-speed radar returns from their defense network radar systems. Because our F-15 aircrews are on continuous alert, they may be ordered to intercept and investigate anything that can't be positively identified on radar."

For more than 65 years, the Oregon Air National Guard's mission in Portland has been to provide air defense of the Pacific Northwest -- 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Oregon National Guard is also prepared to respond to state and local emergency contingencies under command of the governor.

To obtain audio, click on the following link:

<http://newpreview.afnews.af.mil/142fw/santasightings.asp>

For background information from NORAD/NORTHCOM on Santa's annual flight around the world, visit: <http://www.norad.mil/AboutNORAD/NORADTracksSanta.aspx>

SANTA SIGHTINGS: For the official Santa tracker, visit: <http://www.noradsanta.org>

On Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will stream videos on the website as Santa makes his way over various locations. Trackers worldwide can also speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-HI-NORAD (1-877-446-6723)

or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's launch on their smart phones and tablets! Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+. Santa followers just need to type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

Any time on Dec. 24, Windows Phone users can ask Cortana for Santa's location, and OnStar subscribers can press the OnStar button in their vehicles to locate Santa.

ODFW seeks council members

The Access & Habitat Program is looking to fill several regional council positions. The deadline is Jan. 31.

Individuals living in the appropriate region with an interest and experience in hunting and/or wildlife conservation are encouraged to apply. Applications are available online and due at the corresponding regional office by Jan. 31, 2016.

Council vacancies: North Coast Regional Council One Landowner Representative, Contact David Nuzum in Tillamook (503-842-2741 ext. 238); Deschutes/Klamath Regional Council, Chair position representing the public at large, One Landowner Representative, Contact Nancy Breuner in Bend for more information (541-388-6229); South Willamette Regional Council, One Landowner Representative, Contact David Stroppel in Corvallis for more information (541-757-5237); and Southwest Regional Council, One Landowner Representative, Contact Vince Oredson in Central Point for more information (541-826-8774 ext. 232).

These are volunteer positions and duties include participation in up to four public meetings each year to review A&H project proposals and conduct other council business. Meetings may require some travel.

Remember, The Baker County Press will be tracking Santa from the North Pole to Baker County on our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/TheBCPress!

A heartfelt thank you to the following Businesses and Individuals for their contribution to the

2015 Festival of Trees

presented by Saint Alphonsus Foundation—Baker City

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Girl Scouts Troop 50112
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Haines School
Heather McCoy
Heidi Quintela
Home Furnishing Liquidators
Idaho Power Company
I So Scan
Jacki Adams/The Sycamore Tree
Jackie Wirth
Jana Peterson
Jason Yencopal
Jayne Kellar
Jebron Jones
Jennifer Murphy
Jennifer Peterson
Jill Gross
Jim & Carole Webb
Josey Griffin
Judy Gaslin
Justin Nedrow
Kate Pointer
Kathie Pointer

Kathryn Talada
Katie Lamb & Family
Kayley Pointer
Kim Martinez
Kiwanis of Baker County
Kristy Settlemyer
Krystine Justus
Lavish Salon & Day Spa
Lefty's
Les Schwab Tire Center
Life Flight Network
Linda Noble
Lindsay Whitney
Lisa Shira
Lisa Wilson
Little Pig
Long's Waterworks
Lorrie Tritt
Mandy Peterson
Martin & Terry Leuenberger
Marvin Wood Products
Meagan Paoletti
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Saint Alphonsus-Birth Center
Saint Alphonsus-Bootsma Clinic
Saint Alphonsus Emergency Physicians
Saint Alphonsus ER/ICU
Saint Alphonsus HIM Department/ Clinic Coding

Saint Alphonsus Ortho, General Surgery & Rheumatology
Saint Alphonsus Laboratory
Saint Alphonsus Patient Access
Saint Alphonsus Pharmacy
Saint Alphonsus Specialty Clinic
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