



# The Baker County Press

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## Columbia Basin Helicopter wins new victory over County

• JUDGE DENIES COUNTY'S APPEAL, UPHOLDS AWARD OF ATTORNEY FEES TO COMPANY

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On Thursday, February 25, 2016, Umatilla County Circuit Court Judge Ronald J. Pahl issued an opinion in the matter of Baker County

vs. David M. McCarty, aka Columbia Basin Helicopter, Inc., Case No. 11-653, stating that the defendant's attorney fees are reasonable, and that they should be granted.

During a hearing held Friday, February 5, 2016, McCarty and his attorney, Janet Larsen, of the Portland firm Lane Powell, presented evidence in support of McCarty's request for attorney fees, and Baker County legal counsel Dan Van Thiel, with

Martin Leuenberger, of the Baker City firm Coughlin & Leuenberger, presented evidence in support of the County's objection.

McCarty prevailed in the land-use case last year, first filed by the County in 2011; however, the crux of the issue since that time, argued by both parties, has been what constitutes "reasonable" attorney fees, according to western Oregon standards, versus eastern Oregon standards, because McCarty had ultimately

enlisted Lane Powell for representation.

According to the Defendants' Supplemental Statement For Attorneys' Fees And Costs, the total amount is \$306,713.24, which also includes fees and costs of the La Grande firm of Mautz, Baum & O'Hanlon, in the amount of \$7,348.57.

SEE COLUMBIA BASIN HELICOPTER PAGE 3



Submitted Photo.

Columbia Basin Helicopters agriculture services focus was recognized in court last year.

## Huntington completes Middle School Invitational Basketball Tournament



Eileen Driver./ The Baker County Press

Colts number 10 takes a free throw shot during the final girls' game between Jordan Valley and Powder Valley in Huntington.

BY EILEEN DRIVER  
Eileen@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The 53rd Annual Huntington Middle School Invitational Basketball Tournament was held on Friday, February 26th and Saturday, February 27th. The purpose of this tournament is to provide an excellent opportunity for athletic competition, social development and recreation for the children involved. The students and parents look forward to the Tournament and the chance to see neighbors from all over the area, and catch up on what's been happening all year 'round.

The school parking lot and the surrounding streets were packed with vehicles of all descriptions and "tailgating" parties are a common site throughout the competition. There were eight schools who participated this year:

Huntington Panthers coached by Becky Lockett (boys), Amy Jones and Adrian (girls).

Antelopes coached by Nolan Shira, Nathan Bayes and LaDawn Bayes (both boys and Ggirls).

Jordan Valley Colts coached by Mike Eiguren (boys) and Ryan Bruce, Todd Gluch and Andrea Burch (girls).

Willow Creek Warriors coached by Todd Gregory (boys), Austen Gregory and Rick Jacobs, Brad Jacobs, Mick Jacobs and Michael McGourty (girls).

Powder Valley Badgers coached by Wendy Bingham (boys), and Erika Woodworth and Wendy Bingham (girls).

Harper Hornets coached by Scott Talbot (boys), Vanessa Lovell (girls).

Cove Leopards coached by Ron Rees (boys) Bruce Nell (girls).

Prairie City Panthers coached by Joe Merchant (boys), and Mike Wall (girls).

Competition categories were for both the boys and girls basketball teams.

From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. both Friday and Saturday teams vied for the first, second and third place trophies in their class in a double elimination contest while being watched and evaluated by the opposing coaches for the coveted team Sportsmanship Trophy and individually for the limited AllStar Ribbons awarded at the end of the tournament. During halftime for each of the games was either entertainment by a school's cheer squad, a cake raffle or three-point-shot contest for spectators at a \$1 a shot and all weekend long in the Huntington School library was the "Feeling Groovy Book Fair."

The final game in the girls competition was played by Powder Valley and Jordan Valley and both teams worked hard to try to earn the first place trophy. With 49 seconds left in the game, Powder Valley was down to four players on the floor with three players #15 Bailey Cole, #14 Autumn Davis and #21 Josie Krieger having fouled out. They still managed to pull out the win with a final score of Jordan Valley 13 and Powder Valley 19.

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 7

## Prayer topic at County meeting again

• DIELMAN BRINGS UP MORE INVOCATION OBJECTIONS

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its first, regular session of the month on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, which included a grazing and wildfire fuel reduction debate, presented by members of the Baker High School (BHS) Future Farmers of America (FFA) Agriculture Issues team, and the topic of prayer before Commission sessions with Gary Dielman.

Present from the Board were Commission Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Tim Kerns, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Attendance also included Baker County Road Master Jeff Smith, newly hired Baker County 911 Consolidated Dispatch Director Hope Lindsey, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Baker County legal counsel Drew Martin, Community Connection of Northeast Oregon Manager Mary Jo Carpenter, Ed Hardt, Lorrie Harvey, John and Ramona Creighton, Kody Justus, and Tork and Wanda Ballard.

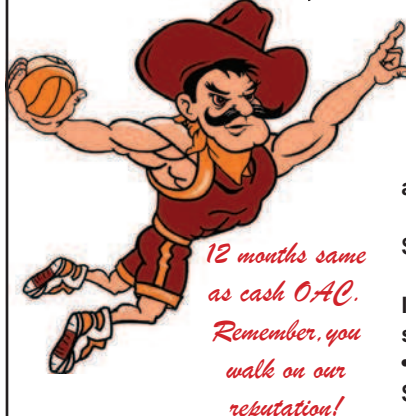
Harvey called the meeting to order, followed shortly thereafter by recitation of the optional Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

After noting a couple of changes to the agenda, it was adopted, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

SEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PAGE 5

## BAKER CITY CARPET EXPRESS

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Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat. 12-4

	Friday	Partly sunny and warm. Highs near 60. Mostly cloudy with a chance for showers. Low near 40. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
	Saturday	Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s. Chance of precipitation 60%. Lows in the upper 30s.
	Sunday	Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Lows near 32.

### Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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