

Local

County: Fair brings in less, Sheriff's office gets tech upgrades

BY TODD ARRIOLA
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its last, regular session of the month, on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse. Topics included discussion of a document regarding mining issues by Jefferson Mining District Coordinating Officer Art Sappington, a Fair update from Baker County Fair Manager Angie Turner, and a Technology update, from Baker County IT Director Bill Lee.

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

Attendance also included Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Baker County Facilities Maintenance Foreman Dan McQuisten, John Creighton, Ken Anderson, Ed Hardt, and Tork and Wanda Ballard.

The session was called to order, followed by the optional Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance, both led by Harvey. With no changes noted to the agenda, it was then adopted, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Citizen Participation included Hardt and Sappington. Hardt commented on the number of political signs he observed had been stolen locally, and he said, "With a little community like this, we should be beyond that." Harvey said, "I agree."

Sappington, on behalf of the Jefferson Mining District (JMD), and for the record, presented copies of a letter to the Board, one he had sent to Congressman Greg Walden, on March 30, 2011, regarding claimed legal violations, against miners. "This article was written on behalf of locatable miners who have been brought before the criminal court system in total violation of due process..." the letter states.

"Basically, what the letter does is, it reiterates the statutory criteria, and the fact that the agencies—both the BLM (Bureau of Land Management), and the Forest Service—are not following them, and that they're actually creating laws, which we call CFRs (Code of Federal Regulations), out of thin air, to make criminals out of citizens..." Sappington said. He references this letter, because he said, as elections near, it's as pertinent today, as it was when he wrote it. Originally, four locatable mineral grantees were charged in Oregon Federal District Court, on December 1, 2010, "... of violating information with unlawfully maintaining, occupying, and using a residence on National Forest System lands..." while on their valid mining claim, Sappington said.

Sappington said the miners were convicted of their charges, and there was some further action, but the cases currently are at a standstill, as well as any actions from the JMD, which is trying to determine its next move. Sappington's letter concludes:



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Baker County IT Director Bill Lee discusses the upgrades this year to the Sheriff's Office.

"How is the mineral grantee today such a small part of the whole of society (less than one quarter of one one-thousandth of a percent of the total labor force) get to petition his government, and what is the procedure for him to know how to produce the needed minerals and energy, for the rest of society, and yet, pay his bills?"

The minutes from the October 5, 2016 regular session were approved, with no noted changes, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Kerns.

Turner provided an update, which included some figures from the 2016 Baker County Fair, which she said was a huge success, better than last year: \$20,675 in sponsor funds, broken down as \$12,900 in cash donations (an increase of about \$2,000, over last year), and \$7,775 in in-kind sponsor funds; and 1,518 exhibits, and 475 exhibitors. The biggest fundraiser this year was the Friends of the Fair pie auction, which brought in around \$6,200, she said, \$3,000 of which will be used to install fencing, along with some grant funding. Future projects include grandstand and entrance upgrades, possibly in the spring, Turner said.

She said that the 4-H livestock auction brought in less this year, because less buyers participated, and the total from that was around \$252,000 (not a final figure). Funds from the Oregon Lottery are received (divided among 37 Fairs, statewide) for purposes of fairgrounds improvements, equipment purchases, etc., and these funds (about \$50,000 last year) depend partly on a yearly report from Turner, which she has filed already, she said.

The theme for the 2017 Fair will be "100 Years, Celebrate The Tradition," Turner said, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Baker County Fair, 1917-2017. On November 4-5, 2016 (Friday and Saturday), the "No Regret Dog Trial" is scheduled to be held at the Baker County Fairground, Conference & Event Center, 2600 Cedar Street. Other events include the Baker County Mounted Posse Gun Show, the weekend of Thanksgiving, with 80 vendors, and the "Local is the New Black" Christmas Bazaar, also held there, November 19-20, 2016 (Saturday and Sunday), with 72 vendors, an event organized by Kristy Backlund.

Lee provided an update, including mentioning

that a web cam had been installed at Holcomb Park, in Richland, which he said was well received by the public. Other items there include a previously expanded wi-fi range of 200 feet, which he said has also been popular.

The major focus for upgrades this year was the Baker County Sheriff's Office, Lee said. This included upgrades to the jail notification system, which notifies victims when inmates are released, and upgrades to the Sheriff 911 websites. 911 Consolidated Dispatch Center equipment was also replaced, including the older recording system, server upgrades are being implemented, and UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) equipment was replaced. The system now includes two UPS batteries, which are "hot swap" capable, instead of the older, single battery pack.

Additional upgrades include Office 2016 software (still in progress). Lee said that one of the most interesting upgrades to him was the installation of a cradle point, which uses cell phone technology to add mobile capability to the Sheriff's Office/Courthouse network.

The next session is November 2, 2016, 9 a.m.

Griefshare program offered

Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to register for the GriefShare program held at Calvary Chapel Baker City.

This nondenominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by small group discussion about what was seen on the DVD.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This is an opportunity to be around people that understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage as a slave to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

You are welcome to start at anytime during the 13 week session.

GriefShare will be held Thursdays Nov 3 - Feb 2, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. Our first session on November 3 will begin at 5:30 for orientation and registration. We will be meeting at Calvary Chapel Baker City located at 1668 Resort Street Suite B. To Register or for questions, call 541-519-1644. The total cost is \$15. There are scholarships available. Child care is available.

Minner arrested for burglary

On October 18, James Minner (DOB 01-02-1997) was arrested for Burglary in the First Degree and Theft in the Second Degree. The arrest stems from a Burglary complaint that was received on February 19, 2016 from Linda Miley, a Halfway resident, who reported cash and food items stolen from her home.

On February 20, 2016, Deputies investigating the crimes spoke with Minner in a phone interview, during the interview Minner admitted to the crimes. Minner was believed to have left the state immediately following the incident but recently returned to Baker County. Minner turned himself into the Sheriff's Office Tuesday, and was arrested and lodged in the Baker County Jail.

Contest for kids

This is the 7th year Community Bank has asked kids to design the holiday lobby poster for their branches. It may be a little early to start thinking about the Christmas holiday, but in order to collect entries, select the top 3, and run a Facebook voting contest to determine the winner, the bank needs to have entries turned into a local branch by Thursday, November 3rd.

Entry forms with rules can be found online at communitybanknet.com or at your local branch. Kids Kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to enter. The winner of the contest receives a \$100 Visa Gift Card, one roll of dollar coins (\$25), a large poster of their design, and a set of 20 cards featuring their artwork to send to their family.

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Moving Auction

John Deere * Troy-bilt * Pickup Trailers * Buckaroo Saddle

Date: Saturday Oct. 22, 2016 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. MDT
Sale Located at: 1723 Upper Mann Cr. Rd. Take Hwy 95 north out of Weiser, Id to Mann Creek Store, then approx one more mile to the turnoff to Mann Creek Reservoir, signs posted.

Terms: Cash or bankable check day of sale. No merchandise removed prior to settlement. 10% buyers premium. Concessions available on site

Auctioneers Note: With a change in her life, Angela Childers will be moving. She is downsizing and does not need this nice selection of merchandise. Inventory also added from friends and neighbors. Preview Friday Oct. 21st. Noon to 5:00. For a complete listing and pictures visit our website, www.snakeriverauction.com. To arrange absentee or telephonic bidding call Roger at (541)212-5918.

Vehicle: 1998 GMC Sonoma 2wd, ex-cab, nicely equipped, 142,000 miles.

Trailers: Like new, low mileage, Edge 10' X 6' 3500 lb. Landscape trailer w/metal deck and 26" removeable sides; 10' X 5'6" single axle trailer; 6' X 4' single axle trailer.

Saddle: Like new 15" saddle made by Newell Morgan Nampa, Id. modified assn. Tree, 7/8 flat plate rigging, 2 X 4 dally horn, half breed floral stamping.

Scooter: Nice Celebrity XL mobility scooter.

Furniture and Appliances: Nice selection of major appliances and furniture.

Collectables: Nice antique hutch; double drop leaf table; McPaul upright piano; Treadle sewing machine cabinet w/ sewing machine; Pfallitzgraff "Felicity" earthen ware; crown and redwing crocks; cast iron; Keystone meat grinders; 2 vintage hand washing machines; various decor pieces; Louis L'Amour and Zan Grey books; More to find.

Shop and Misc.: Nice selection of power tools and shop furniture. Brand name in good condition.

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