

Outdoor Rec / Local

FARM / RANCH



12 yr.-old
sorrel mare.
14 hands high.
\$1000.
541-519-5035.

LEGAL NOTICES

DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

Medical Springs Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors will hold its regular monthly board meeting at Pondosa Station, on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7 PM to discuss fire department operations. Equal opportunity provider.

Another wolf depredation meeting held

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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A Baker County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 2:30 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, to further fine-tune and discuss application information provided by area livestock producers for the year 2016.

This was in response to Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Grants Program Area Director Jason Barber's concerns regarding the total submitted for missing livestock—\$54,787, the largest claim in the history of the program, with only \$150,000 to \$160,000 available to the whole state—among other details.

Committee presence included Chair and Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett, Tom Van Diepen, Mike Colton, and Steve Edwards, joined by Baker County Commission Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Since the last committee meeting, on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 2:30 p.m. (as detailed in the Friday, March 31, 2017 issue of *The Baker County Press*), Bennett said that more requested information had been received from Ontario-based livestock producer Earl Andersen, and Richland-based producer Deven Thompson. Bennett noted a consensus that the two producers' applications were considered complete, and they would be submitted as presented.

Bennett said, "On (Richland-based producer Chad) Del Curto's, I think it's important that we have it on the record, that we have not adopted a lot of criteria, but the producers have provided what information they have... My thought is...we just take and use what the historical averages of loss are in that (radio-collared gray wolves) OR 29, OR 36, area of known wolf activity (AKWA)..." Del Curto had originally submitted a claim for the loss of eleven cows, and forty-one calves in the Fish Lake area, the largest claim the committee received.

Edwards said, "I would make it clear that we are recognizing that as an area of known wolf activity...The second part of it, I would be more forthright, and focus on the cows, and not the calves..." Bennett said he agreed, Martin asked, "What are you saying, then?" and Van Diepen said, "We're going to amend the submission on Del Curto, to reflect normal losses for that area."

Bennett said that the benchmark for normal losses for that area would be amended, and that the committee, as Edwards suggested, would not try to determine pregnancies of the cows, and the specifics of the calves, but rather, focus on the number of claimed missing cows.

Martin said she spoke with Barber, and, "...he said that they're (ODA) probably going to be coming up with...a guideline, of questions to ask (producers)...He said they're going to try to get that pulled together in the next few weeks, and ship it out to us."

The committee discussed the number of cattle turned out by Del Curto, stated on his original application as two hundred pair. Using the amended criteria, the committee decided to submit Del Curto's application, with one percent considered normal loss, and three percent above that claimed as missing livestock, or six pair (six cows, and six calves).

The six bred cows, whose weight was stated as 1,400 pounds each, valued at about \$.96 per pound, came to about \$1,350 each, using Intermountain Livestock's (IML) rate as a guide (Del Curto didn't have a contract). The six calves, stated at around 650 pounds each, were valued at about \$1.19 per pound, or about \$770 each, also using IML's rate.

Bennett brought up the subject of the Range Rider program, and he asked the committee how members would like to see it implemented this year (whether it still would be, and whether the County may contract directly with a rider, rather than a rider contracted through the Baker County Soil and Water Districts, or BCSWCD).

Bennett said, "The SWCD is not that terribly interested in being involved in it..." He said that the County discussed the idea before, and decided against it, and then he asked Van Diepen about the possibility of Van Diepen applying for the position, which could be performed by horse, or by plane (Van Diepen's a licensed pilot).

Van Diepen said, "I would like to do that..." Bennett said, "The application's pretty quick--you want it, you got it..." noting the difficulty in finding someone to fill the position.

Edwards said he thinks that's a good idea, because, "...if one of this committee had direct intelligence about what's going on out there, it would be money in the bank, I'm telling you."

Colton suggested contacting the Wallowa County committee, for some guidance on how that committee uses its VHF (very high frequency) direction-finding antennas for locating wolves (Baker County has three of these antennas).

Bennett said that the Range Rider should provide more specific information to the committee, including riding locations, riding days and times, any signs of wolves, applicable photographs, etc. (basically, a more thorough log book), and there should be more interaction with the livestock producers. Van Diepen said, "It wouldn't hurt to interview him, when we have the meetings," and Bennett said, "Really, I guess he should be attending the meetings..."

Last year, Halfway-based James Chetwood performed the task of Range Rider, logging 318 hours of riding time, at \$22 per hour, for a total of \$6,996. BCSWD District Manager Whitney Collins said earlier this year, Chetwood indicated interest in continuing with the position, if funding is available.

'Recreational' fishing and its necessary accessories . . .



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN By Todd Arriola

The day I wrote this article, I purchased annual fishing licenses for myself and my wonderful and delighted better half, Brandi, and I purchased a camp chair for my equally wonderful and delighted Airianna, with visions of Free Fishing Weekends—thank you, Oregon State Legislature, for that rare product of solidarity--and other adventures in mind, for 2017.

Technically, I dub both girls my better "three-quarters," but this phraseology may not be quite as popular, since Airianna will inevitably outgrow her infancy at some point not many moons from now, and I will then be required to amend my hastily created nickname for my loyal duo.

A note about the fishing licenses I purchased—they seem to have inexplicably metamorphosed into "recreational" licenses in recent years, a fact noted by the ever observant Tork Ballard, Forest Access For All (FAFA) President, during a First Friday with the

Commissioner meeting in February, hosted by Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey.

I was curious myself about the reason(s) "hunting" or "fishing" suddenly appeared as "recreational," so I asked Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) State-wide Wildlife Communications Coordinator Michelle Dennehy, and she said, via email, that, "This change to 'Recreational License' occurred recently with year 2016 licenses, and was meant to save space on documents."

I should make it clear that I appreciate the timely responses and every bit of information I receive from media contacts, but that statement made me scratch my head, because I and many others don't tend to label hunting or fishing "recreational," though I chose not to pursue the subject further at the time, since I may have only confused myself again, while failing to find some other explanation that makes more sense.

As I was getting ready to leave the store the day I had purchased the fishing licenses, I couldn't help but notice a display near the fishing gear and GPS units.

When I say getting ready to leave, I mean that I was

looking for an excuse to spend more time in the fishing aisle, and when I say I couldn't help but notice a display, I mean that a video, part of a display, started playing, startling me and commanding my attention (like our beloved millennials, I sometimes become distracted with videos on small screens, too).

This video drew me to a display for a software application (app), called HUNT, by onXmaps. I used maps and my own knowledge before to determine where I was at, which properties were public and which were private, who owned what, etc., but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to download this extremely handy app to my cell phone (it can be loaded onto other devices, including GPS units, of course).

The app—in my case, the Premium App Membership State-Specific Land Ownership Map, good for a year—cost me about \$30, and includes Oregon private land ownership and public land information, roads and trails, topographic maps, wildlife management units, aerial imagery, and a heck of a lot more. I gave it a test drive, and I have to say, I will give up using this app when it is pried from my cold, dead hands.

Complementing this selfish excuse to spend \$30 on software for a phone that's worth less than \$20 now is more actual fishing gear, in the form of poles, possibly the most important pieces of equipment in

our arsenal.

My standard go-to fish grabber is a seventy-inch Shakespeare Ugly Stick, with a Shakespeare spinning reel. I nearly lost the forward section of the pole one day at Anthony Lake, when it sailed into the water along with my line and lure during a cast, but I fortunately managed to reel the whole mess in. Somehow, this reminds me of my first attempt at fly fishing, which probably would have gone better, had I used the awkward, ninety-six-inch monstrosity to spear the fish with instead.

Brandi's gear includes a sixty-six-inch R2F Performance Series pole and spinning reel, and Airianna became the proud owner of a kit that includes a Shakespeare Barbie-themed, twenty-four-inch, telescoping rod and spincast reel, a tackle box, sunglasses, and a practice casting plug (again, she's three). For good measure—and, purely out of curiosity, and in an attempt to experiment—I picked up two, thirty-six-inch Dock Demon Deluxe, with accompanying spinning reels.

Armed with the right gear, enthusiastic spirits, and plenty of bodies of water, our wonderful, adventurous, and loyal family unit will have three-quarters of the year left, in which to investigate and report on as many fishing spots as possible. Notwithstanding work, northeast Oregon weather, and a sometimes tired and cranky, near-four-year-old, I believe we'll find the opportunities ...

Software system wouldn't help County

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 9 a.m., which included discussions regarding issues with a State Building Codes Division software system, called Manufactured Home Ownership Document System (MHODS), service animals, an Oregon House Bill, and the general County budget for 2017-2018.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin. Presence also included Baker County Assessor Kerry Savage, Baker County Administrative Services Coordinator Christena Cook, and Baker County Facilities Maintenance Foreman Dan McQuisten.

Harvey called the session to order, and the Board began a discussion about MHODS issues with Savage. According to an Intergovernmental Agreement (unsigned by the County), MHODS is a system "...with a front end

Web site and a back end database that interfaces to a document management system. The front end Web site will be for customers, including but not limited to manufactured structure dealers, lenders, and title companies, to search for information, submit applications, upload documents, and pay fees. The back end database will be for participating counties to use for issuing ownership documents and trip permits, and for recording interests in manufactured structures..."

One issue Savage pointed out is the all of the fees collected for MHODS, which, according to the agreement, would be deposited with the state weekly, the State would keep \$20 of each \$55 ownership document application fee, and would remit \$35 of that fee and all of each trip permit application fee to the County on a monthly basis.

Savage said that this setup would probably help the people with lower incomes, who've purchased a manufactured home, but if the County entered into the agreement, title company processing

would change in a negative way (he said he feels that title companies would lose business).

"...the problem I'm struggling with is, this system's so complicated..." Savage said.

Bennett agreed, and said, "This thing is totally backwards..." Bennett gave the example of the Baker County Justice Court, which doesn't send collected fees to the State in full, with the County's portion remitted to the County, but rather, sends the State's portion. He said, "We don't have to sign the darned thing (the agreement)..." and he said that there would be a huge burden placed on the County, since the County would be sending full deposits to the State initially, and the State would be collecting \$20 of each \$55, with the County doing all the work.

Savage said that he has easier access to the current system, which makes the whole process more streamlined.

Harvey asked, "If we don't do anything at all, what happens?"

Savage said, "Nothing..." He said that people could come in to his office, he

could give them all the forms they need, and they could finish the process on the Internet.

Savage said he didn't understand why the State was changing the system, and Nichols said, "The reason they're changing it is just for the sake of changing it—it's my opinion."

Bennett said the State's changing it to collect more revenue, but the County is saddled with additional burden. Harvey said the County isn't obligated to enter the agreement by law, and Savage agreed, and said that it's not mandated.

Briefly, Harvey and the rest of the Board voiced their concerns regarding the subject of Oregon House Bill (HB) 3357, the Housing Alliance Fund, which, if passed into legislation, increases the amount of fees that are charged and collected by County clerks, to record or file certain property documents and directs the transfer of the increased fees to Housing and Services Department accounts for housing-related programs.

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