



The Baker County Press

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TheBakerCountyPress.com

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Friday, September 22, 2017 • Volume 4, Issue 38

County Planning Commissioner investigated for skipping permit process

BY TODD ARRIOLA
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

According to Baker City Building Department Permit Technician Dawn Kitzmiller, she initiated an official investigation on April 3 of this year,

following a complaint by a concerned Baker County citizen, of two reportedly non-permitted, completed home additions on Baker County Planning Commission member Robert Crawford's property in Halfway, which he owns

with his wife, Elizabeth Crawford.

As a Planning Commissioner, Robert is part of a board responsible for permit approval decisions based on review of applications from private landowners, etc. Most recently

he was a vocal opponent of approval of a permit requested by a Sumpter property and mine owner, which was eventually approved after a contentious four-month debate between the members of that board. The citizen, who wished

to remain anonymous (there's not even a reference to their name in the file), reported the additions to the Department, on March 30, and asked Kitzmiller whether any permits and inspections were required.

Kitzmiller said, "I explained the code and rules, and verified that indeed a building permit would be required for what they described."

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Riding High with a cowboy, gospel and a little music



Kerry McQuisten/ The Baker County Press

Todd Pierce, above, works with a halter-broke-only horse. His sermon likens the development and trust built in the horse to that of spiritual development and faith in God built in Christians.

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

It's not every day one sees a round pen set up in the middle of the Baker High School football field. The horse situated next to a Christian band wasn't quite the norm either. Yet that was the sight to which audience members were introduced when they walked into Bulldog Memorial Stadium last Saturday afternoon.

Riding High Ministries, featuring speaker Todd Pierce, presented its "Born Wild, Created to be Free" presentation to Baker County—free to all who wished to attend.

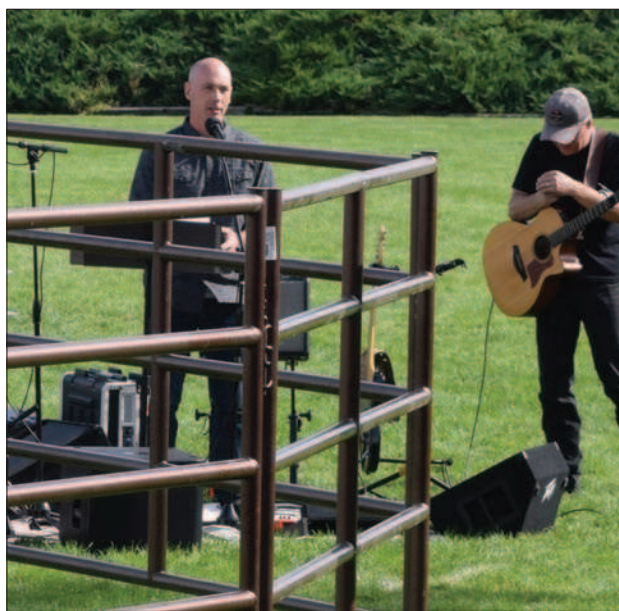
Pierce's presentation for the local community was sponsored by the Blue Mountain Baptist Church in Baker City, though most of his outreach happens behind chainlink fences within prisons. Pierce emphasized that his mission focuses on doing what it says in the Bible—to not forget those in chains.

His presentation has come to both the Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City and the Snake River Correctional Facility in Ontario, reaching 500-600 inmates there.

Given his target audience, it's little wonder Pierce focuses much on a theme of freedom—that of gaining spiritual freedom through a relationship with Jesus.

Taking a horse barely used to a halter, and certainly neither a saddle nor rider, Pierce worked that horse during his sermon to demonstrate parallels between the animal developing trust and skills, to messages in the gospel.

Pierce referred to the Bible as a "love letter" to mankind, and focused much on an understanding of Christ-like love—and even pointed out the change in the horse within the round pen when it sensed a calm, loving energy—which pushed fear out of the space that love and



Kerry McQuisten/ The Baker County Press

Scot Knox, pastor at the Blue Mountain Baptist Church, makes the introductions.

faith now occupied.

Pierce shared short accounts from his family life, and laughed when he said he didn't understand when people stated they believed God had given up on them. He likened Christians to the horse circling the pen, saying it all depended on how many laps a person wanted to take before he or she stopped doing something that didn't work and tried out something new. He stated God was patient and "kept inviting and inviting" to show the way.

More on Riding High Ministries, including their schedule, can be found online at www.RidingHighMinistries.org. Donations are accepted.

Deer rescued from manhole



Photo courtesy of Quail Ridge Golf Course.

Oh deer! This little critter was successfully rescued after somehow getting stuck in this manhole.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On Friday, September 15, Kelly Cassidy at the Quail Ridge Golf Course discovered a deer that had fallen into a manhole near the pump house on Indiana.

According to the Quail Ridge Golf Course's post on Facebook, Cassidy was weed eating and cleaning the area when he discovered the deer.

The manhole was a valve, going down eight feet with three and a half feet to move laterally.

Brian Ratliff, the District Wildlife Biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife explained that he had intended to drop into the hole to blindfold and hobble the deer out.

That plan didn't quite pan out.

SEE DEER PAGE 5

Deer poached in City Limits

According to Baker City Police Lt. Dustin Newman, on September 13, 2017, between about 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. a juvenile male shot a deer with an arrow on the property located at 3500 10th Street in Baker City, Oregon.

Baker City Police assisted Oregon State Police (OSP) with the response, said Newman, and then helped to quickly locate the suspect. OSP handled the case and enforcement aspect. That suspect's name was not released due to his age.

Friday Partly cloudy with a high around 55 and a low at night just above freezing. Light winds and only a 30% chance of rain showers.

Saturday Mostly sunny with a high around 60 and a low at night around freezing. Mild breezes.

Sunday Mostly sunny with a high around 65 and a low slightly warmer around 35 degrees. Less clouds than the day before.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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