

The Baker County Press

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TheBakerCountyPress.com

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Friday, November 3, 2017 • Volume 4, Issue 44

Weed management topic for County Commissioners

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its first, regular session of the month on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

The session included an hour-long discussion of the contentious partnership between the County and the Tri-County Coopera-

tive Weed Management Area (Tri-County), and a decision by the Board to draft a 90-day partnership withdrawal notice to Tri-County, in the hope that Tri-County will resolve issues, including facilitating a staff position in the County.

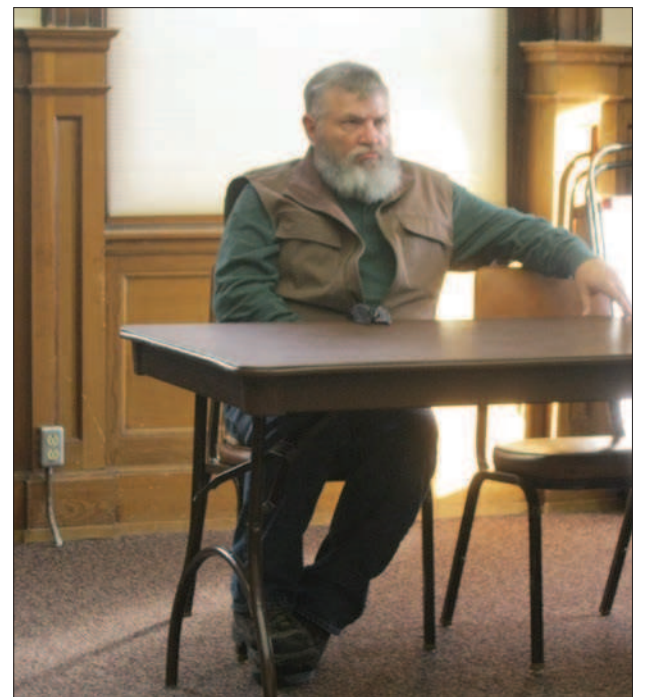
Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Attendance also included Baker County Weed Master Arnie Grammon, Baker County Emergency Management Director Jason Yencopal, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Northeast Oregon Integrated Weed Management Specialist Mark Porter, Tri-County Director Samantha Bernards, Tri-County Board member and co-founder Dave Clemens, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife East

Region Access and Habitat Coordinator and Tri-County Board member Jon Paustian, Doni Bruland, John Creighton, Tork and Wanda Ballard, and Tom Van Diepen.

Harvey called the session to order, provided the Invocation, which included prayer for the victims and families of the recent New York City terrorist attack, and led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Master of the Weeds, Arnie Grammon, listens intently to Commissioners.

A China-sized fund raiser!



Submitted Photo.

L-R: Taya Riley, Amber Graybeal and daughter Cadence Brown. Graybeal was the lucky winner of the basket.

BHS SOPHOMORE RAISES FUNDS FOR HUGE TRIP

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Taya Riley, 15, is a sophomore at Baker High School (BHS)—and she has some big plans. Taya is taking part in the Baker International Cultural Exchange China Trip. BHS students are eligible to go.

Taya, with help from parents Mike and Debi Riley, immediately began collecting items to place in a “Simply Baker City” themed gift basket. The outpouring from the community was instant, with 34 businesses and organizations donating items until the basket was valued at over \$1,000. Taya then sold raffle tickets.

Debi said, “Taya started raising money on September 28. She has raised over \$2,000 from popcorn sales, raffle tickets, recycling cans, and other odd jobs such as delivering newspapers.”

To date, 11 students have paid their initial down payment for the trip, which will happen March 22 - April 2, 2018.

Debi noted that even the flight itself will be an adventure—at 12 hours long.

On Wednesday at 4 p.m., Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner drew the winning ticket for Taya’s gift basket.

“I was more than happy to help Taya with this,” said Lohner. “We all wish her a successful, safe and memorable trip abroad.”



Submitted Photo.

Police Chief Wyn Lohner draws the winner.

Taya said in an interview Wednesday evening, “The whole trip sounds like an amazing experience! I haven’t had much time to think about it, but when my passport came on Monday is when it became real. It’s hard to pick just one part, but standing on the Great Wall of China sounds amazing!”

Anyone wishing to donate toward Taya’s travel expenses can still call 541.519.9312 or 541.519.1987. She is only \$300 short of her end goal.

Arrest made in mail theft

WHEREABOUTS OF SECOND SUSPECT STILL UNKNOWN

On October 25, 2017 the Baker County Dispatch Center received a complaint of mail theft in the area of Richland, Oregon.

Multiple deputies began an investigation into the thefts and learned that checks stolen in the mail theft had been passed at area businesses in Baker City.

With the tips from community residents, along with the cooperation of area businesses, two suspect vehicles were quickly identified as being associated with the crimes:

1. Black Audi A4 four door, Idaho plates of 1A4611N
2. White Ford 4D with a partial plate of HEB

During the course of the investigation, two primary suspects were identified:

1. Quiroz, Rebecca, 37, of Baker City
2. Hunt, Tyler, 30, transient

On the afternoon of October 30, 2017, Quiroz was contacted and interviewed regarding the alleged criminal activity. Quiroz was subsequently taken into custody and lodged at the Baker County Jail.

Quiroz was initially charged with:

- Identity Theft
- Mail Theft
- Forgery 2
- Probation Violation

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Tyler Hunt or who thinks they may be a victim is asked to contact the Baker County Sheriff’s Office.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to express their gratitude to the citizens of Richland and Halfway, along with Idaho Power, for their assistance in this investigation.



Submitted Photo.

Rebecca Quiroz.



Submitted Photo.

Tyler Hunt.

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Friday Cloudy and rain likely. Highs in the mid 40s. West winds around 5-10 mph. Friday Night: Cloudy and snow likely. Lows in the lower 30s. Northwest winds around 3-8 mph.

Saturday Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain/snow showers. Highs in the low 40s. Northwest winds around 3-6 mph. Night: Cloudy with a chance of snow showers. Lows in the upper 20s.

Sunday Cloudy with a chance of rain/snow showers. Highs in the low 40s. Southwest winds around 5-10 mph. Night: Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow showers. Lows in the lower 30s.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:

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