

# HARVEY Continued from page 1

"I have to pay close attention to this because we have an ordinance in Baker County from 2001 that says we will coordinate. I don't have an option, as the chief officer of Baker County, my directive is we will coordinate," Harvey stated.

Harvey went on to talk about developing a new natural resource plan by utilizing the framework of the County's old plan and integrating into it the updated expert information, consumer information and data for the best economic growth.

This new plan would then be focused on what is best for Baker County and the other government agencies can come look at the plan and make a decision whether or not they wish to coordinate with the county as a cooperative member.

"It's a process that will take some time, several meetings and lots of patience," Harvey said of the time frame for creating the new plan and coordinating with other agencies.

Art Sappington of the Eastern Oregon Mining Association also reminded Harvey of the money savings that occurs when an entity is coordinating and not cooperating. The cooperating agency must foot its own bill for research, data collection, legal fees, etc. This difference would explain why the county, as a cooperative entity, had expended so much money while assisting in the Blue Mountain Forest Plan revision over the past 14 years according to Sappington.

Other topics brought up were a brief explanation of the Watershed Council, a mention of the new Eastern Oregon Jobs Council and a webinar with Oregon State Legislators Cliff Bentz and Ted Ferrioli.

The webinar is a monthly event, occurring on the first Wednesday of each month. It is held at the Baker County Event Center at 7 a.m. It is

open to the public and anyone with questions or comments for the legislators is welcome to participate. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debi Bainter offered some good advice given to her by Senator Ferrioli for making a difference in how legislation is written and voted on.

She quoted the Senator, "If we want to see something change there had to be more than nine people in my legislative hotline meeting at 7 a.m. in the morning on Wednesday." Extensive amounts of community involvement is the most notable way to get the attention of lawmakers.

Harvey wrapped up the meeting stating, "There's no separation anymore. My job is to bring Baker back together again. We have got to show that we are together and go against what's attacking us."

Harvey suggested that residents show up to meetings, write letters to the editors of newspapers, give our legislators a 'report card' and make phone calls to get the processes of rebuilding our economy started.

## Commissioners Vote to Coordinate

By Emily Braswell

It has been 14 years since the Blue Mountain Forest Plan (BMFP) revision process began. The fact that many citizens are extremely dissatisfied motivated Baker County's Commissioners to change course.

At last week's regular commission session, a full court room witnessed the Commissioners unanimously vote to withdraw Baker County's participation in the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was presented to the 12 counties within the Blue Mountain Forest region the last week of January.

See **COMMISSIONERS** on page 8

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All photos courtesy of Dan Blankenship  
Dan Blankenship (left), his father, Buck and his brother, Denny



**"Being able to hunt with my dad and my brother was very memorable and I feel so fortunate. It was a hunt I will always remember,"**

- Dan Blankenship.

The next day after a rigorous climb, the three of them, Adams, Blankenship and the 120 pound billy, repelled down 200-300 yards to the bottom of the mountain. In a neighboring camp, experienced guides shared with Blankenship they believed the ibex to be 6 1/2- 7 years old. The horns were 37 inches long.

"I told my dad at the start of this we may very well not be successful. Only nine out of the 200 tags were filled. The fact that Jake and I were two of those is amazing," said Blankenship.

"Being able to hunt with my dad and my brother was very memorable and I feel so fortunate. It was a hunt I will always remember," said Blankenship.

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(PG)  
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\* = No Tightwad Tuesday ( ) = Bargain Matinee

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