

## Independent Party Achieves Major Party Status

Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown today announced that the Independent Party of Oregon has achieved major party status as of Feb. 2, 2015. Major party status is subject to a statutorily required re-verification on the 274th day before the next Primary election.

Oregon law requires that a major political party have membership totalling at least five percent of the number of registered voters in the most recent General Election. Based on the official results of the 2014 General Election, a major political party must have at least 108,739 members.

On Feb. 2, the Independent Party of Oregon had 108,742 members. On that date, a party official inquired about the process for the Secretary of State to officially determine that the party had met the major party threshold.

Accordingly, as of Feb. 2, 2015, the Independent Party of Oregon is a major political party in Oregon, subject to the re-verification of that status as a major political party on Aug. 17, 2015.

## Property Identified as Illegal Drug Lab Site

On Feb. 4, 2015 at about 12:50 p.m. Baker City Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to 301 2nd Street for the report of a "strong smell of ammonia." Upon arrival units could see a gaseous cloud rising from the back of that residence. That gas was later confirmed to be Anhydrous Ammonia.

Upon arrival, Officer Lary observed two male subjects near the origin of the gas cloud and called them away. One subject was identified as 45 year old Kenneth Roy Street, who is listed as living at 2275 19th Street in Baker City. Street was subsequently found to be in possession of Methamphetamine and was taken into custody for Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance. Street was decontaminated at the scene by Baker City Fire and then transported to the Hospital where he was treated and released for exposure to Anhydrous Ammonia.

The second subject was 52 year old David A Baggerly, who is the home owner at 301 2nd Street. Baggerly was questioned at the scene and released, after refusing medical attention. Based on the belief the gas release was Anhydrous Ammonia, and the reports of suspicious traffic to that residence, an Oregon State Police Drug Enforcement Section Clandestine Lab Team was requested and subsequently responded from Central Oregon. Upon service of a search warrant, the team was able to confirm the gas was Anhydrous Ammonia, which had been released from a large metal container. A second container, which also appeared to contain Anhydrous Ammonia, was discovered in the back of a van in front of that residence. The OSP Team summoned an Environmental Cleanup Crew out of Portland, which arrived in Baker City at about 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 5, 2015. That crew rendered both containers safe.

The Environmental Cleanup Crew confirmed that the second container also contained Anhydrous Ammonia, which is a component commonly associated with labs that are designed to manufacture Methamphetamine. While searching the residence, in conjunction with the search warrant, officers also located additional items that are components typically associated with labs that are designed to manufacture Methamphetamine. Based on that discovery, the property and residence at 301 2nd Street has been posted as an "Illegal Drug Lab Site."

Until state requirements are met by the property owners, anyone found on that property will be arrested for Criminal Trespass 1. The Baker City Police Department is continuing the service of search warrants at 301 2nd Street and other locations. This investigation will be ongoing and additional arrests are likely.

## Turbo Helps Make Arrest

On Feb. 5, 2015 at about 8 p.m. BCPD Det. Bass stopped a vehicle driven by Alexander Prentice Oregon on Campbell Street near Walnut Street in Baker City, Oregon for multiple traffic violations. While Det. Bass was completing the traffic stop BCPD Officer Weaver deployed K-9 "Turbo" around the vehicle. Turbo "alerted" on the vehicle. More than one ounce of Methamphetamine and just under an ounce of Marijuana was seized. Alexander Griffin was lodged at the Baker County Jail for Possession and Delivery of Methamphetamine. This investigation is continuing.



### Bell, Kimberly

DOB: 08/31/1986  
Sex: Female  
Race: White  
Hair Color: Brown  
Eye Color: Brown  
Height: 5'6"  
Weight: 200  
Convictions: Theft I

The person above has criminal warrants. If you see this person, do not attempt to apprehend them yourself. If you know where this person may be, contact Parole and Probation at 541-523-8217 or your nearest police department. You may also e-mail parole@bakercounty.org

## COMMISSIONERS

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Photo by Emily Braswell

The County Commission Chamber was full at last Wednesday's meeting.

Commissioner Bill Harvey addressed the audience stating, "As most of you may understand, the Forest Service has to have a MoU in order to conduct projects. It had expired, so they circulated another one for the counties to sign. The problem with that is they already have their plan done, so they are basically asking us to agree to what they put together... We don't agree with the Forest Revision Plan, as it is, so we cannot, in good conscience, be a part of the Forest Revision Plan as provided by the Forest Service."

The Blue Mountain Forest who sign the new MoU will be bound to "coordinate with the USFS to complete Blue Mountain Forest planning activities, accept the designation as a cooperating agency for the Blue Mountain Forest planning effort and recognize that participating as a cooperating agency during the planning effort does not confer standing to appeal or litigate any decision resulting from the Blue Mountain Forest planning effort."

### Letter Drafted from Commissioners to Forest Supervisor

To officially withdraw from the MoU, the Commissioners prepared a letter to Willowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor, Tom Montoya, which listed five reasons why the county had made the decision to withdraw. The letter addressed the USFS never coordinating with Baker County's natural resource plan and how only the county's residents truly know what is best for their forests and natural resources, including those on national forest lands. It asserts the county does not agree with the USFS becoming the lead agency and holding all authority for management decision making. The final reason offers to coordinate with any government agency only if they follow the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as Baker County Ordinance dictates.

### FLPMA of 1976

The FLPMA of 1976 requires the BLM and USFS to manage its lands for multiple use and sustained yield and to balance competing resource interests, including historical, ecological, environmental and archaeological values.

Baker County, along with its neighbors, has provided input to the USFS adamantly declaring their disapproval of the draft plans over the past few years, to the point where the Eastern Oregon Counties Association requested that the USFS just start the revision over from scratch. The USFS declined to do so.

Baker County, specifically, has spent a lot of staff time and money "and it appears all for naught, actually, and even worse than that, because all of our feelings were very optimistic, but as we saw the end product none of the benchmarks had put out there were even addressed," Commissioner Mark Bennett added. Alternative D of the BMFP revision, which was formulated by the counties, remains only an alternative and was never considered an option to include in the revision.

"One of the things that personally bothered me was that at no time did those involved in the revision effort come out and just talk to the people on the ground; whom this plan affects," said Bennett. "At this point, I cannot, in good faith, move forward on something that isn't representing what all of us, as a community, want..."

"I agree with both of you wholeheartedly...", remarked Commissioner Tim Kerns. "It's been real frustrating, because this whole thing started at least 13 years ago and they haven't done anything that encourages us. So I am all for this."

### What's Next?

Harvey opened the floor to citizen testimony and many positive responses were heard from all who spoke. Although there was no dissent to opting out of the MoU, there were concerns about what steps need to be taken next and an underlying worry that the county will, in essence, remove any rights to have a voice over USFS land by taking this step back.

Harvey answered, "What we're going to do in Baker County is what we have been tasked to do, and that is to pursue our natural resource plan... We are supposed to be following the laws of Baker County." He continued with an explanation of how the FLPMA protects the counties from being completely pushed out of the federal land management process.

Section 202 of the FLPMA, to which Harvey was referring, describes the coordination policies as follows: "In implementing this directive, the Secretary shall, to the extent he finds practical, keep apprised of state, local, and tribal land use plans; assure that consideration is given to those state, local, and tribal plans that are germane in the development of land use plans for public lands; assist in and, to the extent practical, inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal Government plans, and shall provide for meaningful public involvement of state and local government officials, both elected and appointed, in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public lands, including early public notice of proposed decisions which may have a significant impact on non-Federal lands. Such officials in each state are authorized to furnish advice to the Secretary with respect to the development and revision of land use plans, land use guidelines, land use rules, and land use regulations for the public lands within such state and with respect to such other land use matters as may be referred to them by him. Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with state and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act."

Baker County's decision to withdraw from the MoU is only the first step in a process that will take some extra time and effort to develop.

### Code Red Explained

Director for the Baker County 911 Consolidated Dispatch, Sheila Thompson, gave her department update. She described Baker County's new emergency response system called Code Red. The reverse-911 system was obtained with a grant that will pay for the system of use. Anyone can sign up to receive texts, phone calls and/or emails whenever the emergency response is triggered. Incidents that could set off the notifications could include hazmat accidents, neighborhood incidents, flooding, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc. Due to the high number of landline to cell phone switches, they will be making outreach efforts through the community centers and assisted living homes, and through each of the rural fire programs. Be on the lookout for fliers that detail how to get registered in the Code Red system. Registration ensures citizens know who is calling them so the call can be answered. The system will not leave messages on answering machines or voice mail.

The dispatch center employees work 12-hour shifts and, though not always possible, they are scheduled in an attempt to have two dispatchers working at all times. Thompson plans to request one more position during budget planning so that the center can be have full time, two-person shifts.

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# Sweethearts Ball

Friday  
February 13, 2015

## Sirloin Steak Dinner

6 - 8 pm • \$12

Music by FRANK CARLSON from 8 - 12

## The Eagles Club

Lodge No. 3456  
2935 H Street Baker City • 541-523-5413

## Narcotic Arrests Made

On Feb. 10, 2015 at about 7:15 p.m., nine Baker City Police Officers, supported by two La Grande Police Officers and one Union County Sheriff's Deputy, arrested 38 year old Jose Daniel Padilla-Albrido for Conspiracy to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) and for a Parole Violation.

Subsequently, Baker City Police served a search warrant on Padilla-Albrido's residence at 3025 D Street, along with six vehicles located at that residence. BCPD officers seized approximately half a pound of Methamphetamine in the search, along with all six vehicles and other associated evidence. This investigation will be ongoing and additional arrests are likely.