

County Commission Meeting Update

By Emily Braswell and Gina Perkins

It was a paper shuffle to get through the double-sided agenda of last week's regular Commission Session. Amid updates from the Clerk's Office and Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Office, public hearings and contract reviews, items tabled from the last regular meeting were brought forward, including the County's designation of a Paper of Record and the vacation of a Portion of Robinette Road.

Road Vacated

Three cabins, owned by Ed Elms, the Kirkpatrick family and the Goss family were built along Robinette Road in Richland, Ore. in the 1970s within the County road's 60-foot right-of-way (ROW). The 400 foot

portion of proposed road to be vacated is at the end of the Baker County road jurisdiction, just before it enters into Hewitt Park. Baker County Road Department head Jeff Smith recommends the vacation as it will clean up potential property line issues.

Smith stated, "At the end of the 60 foot ROW, 30 feet from center line, you're within about four feet of Elms's porch, and within that are his septic line and drain field out in front of the house. There were no protests, 100 percent ownership will go the property owners, and I don't want to be in the septic business." The Order was unanimously approved.

Baker City Herald Unanimously Selected by Commissioners

The Baker City Herald was unanimously voted to be the County's Paper of Record. The Record-Courier, which over the years has served in that role, did not choose to submit a letter of interest this year but meets all of

the requirements. The Baker County Press and publisher Kerry McQuisten did submit a letter of interest. She stated in her letter of interest to the Commissioners that, "...we have a steady circulation a bit over 500, which includes more than 50% 'bona fide' subscribers as required by law...."

The Baker City Herald exceeds all requirements with 68 percent of total average distribution of 2,554 being bona fide subscribers. Only 4 percent are unpaid. These figures are verified annually by an independent auditing firm, according to publisher Kari Borgen's letter of interest.

Commissioners asked Attorney Dan Van Thiel to review the proposals and in a letter back to the Commissioners said the "statutory backdrop for this decision is found in ORS Chapter 193..." Van Thiel went on to say, "Facially the two proposals meet the requirements of the statute... Please observe that you received independent audited figures from the Baker City Herald and none from the Baker County Press."

Van Thiel further stated, "...the consideration must be which newspaper is most effective for providing actual notice."

County Clerk Updates Commissioners

Baker County Clerk Cindy Carpenter reported the current events with the Clerk's Office. The Integra document preservation contract initiated by Tami Green back in 2013 was recently completed. Having the deed and other public records held in the Clerk's Office digitized means the office's employees won't have to spend time and resources to look up and print out requested documents, and instead, a station will be set up as a public terminal for looking up records. Carpenter is waiting to receive one more RDX from the company and they can then begin an internal data preservation project, which will not be contracted out, but done in-house. The department has spent \$43,405 during the year and a half frame of time it took to complete the project.

See COMMISSION on page 4

Welcome, Hells Canyon
Motorcycle Riders

And be Safe!

This message and photo came to us from rally organizers and we thought it was very much worth repeating:

A Friendly Reminder.....

An experienced rancher from Baker County put it this way when we were talking about safety on the road.

"Steve," he said, "Every mile of road has two miles of ditch!"

So it doesn't take a statistics major to figure out that the chances of ending up in the ditch are twice as high as staying on the road when you're not paying attention. Riding safely into your garage after five days of discovery and adventure is the goal. Put aggressive, macho and stupid away. Take a big dose of reason with a side of responsible and live to ride another day.

Also, much of the road you will be traveling is open range and livestock (or wildlife) can be around the next turn.

Be safe and have fun!

Chalk It up to Art:
Call to Artists

Hayden Perkins of the Record-Courier drew the above design in front of Kick's store on Main Street last year.

Baker Art Guild is once again sponsoring Chalk It up to Art, a fun, family friendly event that recognizes the talent of artists in our community. Local artists will donate their time and talent to create chalk drawings on the sidewalks of downtown Baker City. The event takes place Saturday, July 25, with artists beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. Residents and visitors are invited to view the work in progress during the day while shopping or dining, and stroll along Main Street that evening to view the finished works of art.

Artists of Baker City and Baker County are invited to participate, while businesses are invited to sponsor sidewalk squares for chalk drawings at \$5 a square to help support Baker Art Guild events.

To sign up for Chalk It up to Art or for more information please call Ann Mehaffy at 541-519-0698.

The Baker City Public Arts Commission has designated July as Public Art Awareness Month in and around Baker City!



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You are invited to join us for a
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honoring
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90th
Birthday
2015

1925

Saturday, July 18, 2015
from 1:00 to 4:00
in the afternoon
Baker City Elk's Lodge
Baker City, Oregon

No Gifts Please