

Republican Listening Tour Hits Baker City Oct. 6

The Oregon Republican Party announces the continuation of its Government Transparency and Accountability Listening Tour with its fifth stop taking place at the Best Western Sunridge Inn, 1 Sunridge Ln, Baker City, OR 97814 on Oct. 6 from 7 - 8:30 p.m..

Party leaders will continue a listening tour, led by legislative leadership, in which they are inviting all Oregonians to participate. The theme is set to be government transparency and accountability, to hear ideas about how to make government more accountable and accessible to the citizens it serves.

"First there was the tangled web of deceit and cover up by our disgraced ex-Governor Kitzhaber and his girlfriend lobbyist Sylvia Hayes. Then there was the intimidation against the heroic whistleblower that exposed it all. Now reports say that history might be repeating itself with this past session's controversial and very costly Low Carbon Fuels bill. This is what One Party Rule has done to our state," said State House District 58 Rep. Greg Barreto.

"It's time to call Democrat leadership on the carpet for killing the transparency and accountability reforms to stop this kind of thing and prevent it in the future. I look forward to hearing from Oregonians about their concerns and sharing what I know about how to clean up our secretive and corrupt State Government," he added.

"This tour is about listening to the concerns and experiences of every Oregonian," said Chairman Bill Currier in a statement. "Transparency and accountability deserve more than lip service. That is why the Oregon Republican Party is committed to doing its part to promote open, honest, and accountable governance for a stronger Oregon."

The Oregon Republican Party is the state's arm of the Republican National Committee. It's Chairman and officers are dedicated to preserving and advancing Republican principles within the state of Oregon and to improving the lives and livelihoods of Oregon's working families through economic freedom and equal protection under the law.

After the Fire: Assessing and Restoring Your Forest and Rangeland

The 2015 wildfire season has sadly been one for the record books with many tens of thousands of acres burned in Baker County alone. Far too many private landowners have lost homes, structures, timber, livestock and forage and are now wondering how to assess the damage that has been done and what can be done to restore their properties that have been burned over.

The After The Fire: Assessing and Restoring Your Forest and Rangeland workshop is a field oriented program designed for woodland owners, ranchers and managers who want to learn more about post-wildfire concerns such as: Assessing fire damaged trees and stands; Assessing personal goals and objectives in light of changed conditions; Salvage harvest issues; Marketing; Site restoration and soil stabilization; Weed control; Forest regeneration; Cost share opportunities, and Range, forage and livestock issues.

Near the end of the program we'll have a

breakout session where participants can have a one-on-one time with the various speakers of their choice. Numerous specialists from OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Farm Services Agency, the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be on hand to share their knowledge.

The workshop will be held on Oct. 15, from 9-4 p.m. We will start at the OSU Baker County Extension Service at 2600 East Street in Baker City then head out to the field. Bring your own lunch and drinks and be sure to wear boots and attire appropriate for the weather as we'll be walking short distances during part of the workshop.

Please preregister by Friday, Oct. 9 so we can plan for handouts and any extra water. Call the OSU Extension Service Baker County Office at: 541-523-6418.

Continuance of Public Hearing to Consider Two 100 Foot Verizon Towers to be Held

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 at 7 p.m., the Baker City Planning Commission will hold a continuance of a public hearing to consider the following requests:

CUP-15-061 – Acom Consulting, on behalf of Verizon Wireless Communications, has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a 100 foot high transmission tower on 2960 East Street, Baker City in the Industrial (I) Zone.

The subject property is located within 100 feet of a residential zone, setting height standards for structures at 38 feet unless a Conditional Use Permit is obtained. As the proposed transmission tower will exceed the height standard, a Conditional Use Permit is required.

CUP-15-062 – Acom Consulting, on behalf of Verizon Wireless Communications, has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a 100 foot high transmission tower on 2431 Eleventh Street, Baker City in the Industrial (I) Zone.

The height standards for the General Industrial District are 50 feet unless a Conditional Use Permit is obtained. As the proposed transmission tower will exceed the height standard, a Conditional Use Permit is required.

A continuance was scheduled to allow the applicant more time to assemble information and evidence relating to potential co-location opportunities, impact on service at different tower

heights, and to answer several questions posed by the Planning Commission during the first hearing on Sept. 16.

The public is invited to attend this hearing and to submit comments. Testimony and relevant evidence, either in support of or in opposition to the proposal, must be based on the applicable review criteria and submitted to the Planning Department by 5 p.m., on the hearing date, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, or in person during the hearing. The Planning Commission will review the aforementioned applications based on testimony submitted by the applicant, Planning Department and impacted parties.

A copy of the application, all documents and evidence submitted by or on behalf of the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and will be provided at a reasonable cost. Staff reports are available for inspection; copies will be provided for a reasonable charge; digital versions will be e-mailed for free.

The hearing will be held in Council Chambers at Baker City Hall 1655 FIRST STREET, BAKER CITY, OR. If you have questions regarding the aforementioned applications, please contact Planner Kelly Howsley-Glover at (541)-523-8219 or kglover@bakercity.org, or at the Planning Department, located in the basement of the courthouse.

Editorial

Hopeful About Chamber

The Baker County Chamber of Commerce board is in the process of hiring a new executive director. This is an important position within a vital organization. Baker County needs dynamic, positive leadership at the helm of our Chamber of Commerce.

Perhaps our board members will consider modeling their choice for the new director after another Eastern Oregon county. In my opinion, Debbie Pedro, executive director of the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce, is an exceptional example of such a person. She is a positive, creative, highly capable person whose energy and can-do spirit is nothing short of contagious.

In my opinion, our executive director must possess more than budgeting skills or the ability to craft a well written, effective press release or articulately and professionally describe the benefits of joining the Chamber. Soft skills matter a great deal. Having a warm, welcoming demeanor and being a "people person" is essential. We need someone who can rebuild membership and gain enthusiastic participants in the Chamber.

Debi Bainter has presided as the executive director for the past several years. She has been very dedicated and hard-working, no doubt putting forth her very best effort in what is a difficult, and often thankless, position. She has spent long hours and many long days and I wish her the very best in the next chapter of her professional life.

It will be exciting to see who the board hires and I am hopeful for a bright future for the Baker County Chamber of Commerce. There's much to be done.

-GDP

Baker City Seeks Councilor to Fill Open Position

The City of Baker City is looking to fill one open position on the City Council. The City will continue accepting applications through the office of City Recorder which began on Sept. 25 and will continue until Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. The individual who is appointed by a majority vote of the City Council will serve on the City Council through Dec. of 2016. An applicant must be a registered voter in the State of Oregon and have resided within the City of Baker City for 12 months immediately preceding the appointment. This partial term will expire at the end of Dec. 2016.

To apply go to www.bakercity.com to download and complete the City Councilor application located on the City's home page and submit a letter of interest to Luke Yeaton at City Hall located at 1655 First Street. Applications can be returned to: Attn: Luke Yeaton, 1655 First Street, Baker City.

Homestead Tunnel Closed Weekdays Oct. 5-16; Detour Available

The tunnel on Homestead Road, near Oxbow, will be closed for maintenance on weekdays, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MDT from Oct. 5-16, with a 30-minute opening at noon. A detour will be available for passenger cars and light trucks.

The Homestead Tunnel, on Homestead Road near Oxbow, will be closed from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MDT Oct. 5-16 while Idaho Power performs necessary maintenance.

The tunnel will open for 30 minutes at noon each day to allow traffic to pass. Also, a detour road will be available for passenger cars and light trucks. Those with recreational vehicles, large trucks or trailers should plan an alternate route or travel on weekends.

Note that all Idaho Power operations are conducted on Mountain Time, regardless of the time zone where the work is taking place.

Fire Closure Lifted

The fire closure has been lifted effective Sept. 28, on the Cornet / Windy Ridge Fire. Please continue to use caution when visiting the area.

Seasonal fire restrictions are in effect for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. More information is available at www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman

A regulated closure is in effect on state and private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast Oregon. Fire prevention orders are also in effect for public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). More information is available at the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center website <http://bmidc.org/restrictions.shtml>

See the
Record-Courier
 website:
therconline.com

E-mail: news@therconline.com

Letters to the Editor

The *Record-Courier* welcomes your letter to the editor. Prefer 300 words or less. Letters may be sent by a single author once a month. Email with your contact information: news@therconline.com.

ATTENTION RC SUBSCRIBERS

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

It's been nearly two years since our purchase of the *Record-Courier*. We want to thank you for your continued readership and support of our advertisers. More than "owners," we consider ourselves to be stewards of this institution which has been a part of Baker County since 1901.

There are constant challenges and changes within the entire newspaper industry and the way people receive their news. We are exploring options for the continued sustainability of this publication and the opinion of our readers is extremely important to us. The cost of printing and postage are two of the largest expenses incurred. While we have an exceptional printing partner, the cost of postage increases while the level of service decreases, although through no fault of our local post offices.

As in photography with the disappearance of film giving way to digital, at some future date, the majority of print media will be a thing of the past. For some, the experience of reading a hard copy book or newspaper over a cup of coffee cannot be replaced. Others who live fast paced lives this modern world seems to insist upon, want their news available on their smart phone or computer. The bottom line is that it costs hundreds of dollars each week to print and mail hard copies and little to nothing (other than production costs) to send the newspaper electronically or post articles to the website. It's also instantaneous.

As we explore possibilities, we are asking to hear from you regarding how less hard copy editions of the RC with a greatly expanded digital presence might affect you. And, if you are one of the many dyed in the wool lovers of reading "real books and newspapers" (like I am), whether you might consider being a print sponsor.

We truly appreciate the support and loyalty shown to this community newspaper, with many subscribing for decades and decades. We do not take your support lightly or for granted. We do, however, want to be good stewards of the *Record-Courier* and be proactive, thinking about the future as we explore all options. We want this publication to continue to be vibrant so that it can continue to record the history of our community, the births, deaths, events, and most importantly, its people.

Your opinion and thoughts matter greatly to us. Thank you for taking the time to share them.

You may call 541-856-3615, write P.O. Box 70, Baker City, OR 97814, or email us at news@therconline.com.

kindest regards,
 The Perkins family
 Gina Perkins, publisher