COMMISSION MEETING

continued from page 4

The Baker County Oath Keeper militia group has stated they have concerns that Sheriff Ash "does not understand the true authority of his office relative to the federal agencies that he deals with in our county" and are trying to "educate him and others who would support him."

Harvey stated that he has talked with Ash about the situation in Harney County and that Ash works closely with the commissioners.

Thus far, Ash is the only candidate who has filed to run for County Sheriff. Ash was unanimously appointed to the position of Sheriff over John Hoopes to complete the term left vacant by Mitch Southwick who resigned. At the time, Hoopes was vigorously supported by those embracing the Constitutional Sheriff's movement.

In a separate but related matter, a press release issued by Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, stated that he was unwilling to share the name of a City Police Officer who had spent several days in Harney County because of threats made against law enforcement there by militia.

In other local elections, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff has filed to run again for the position. Kerry Savage, has filed for Baker County Assessor.

Others Heckled by Audience Members

Ash is not the only county official to be heckled by audience members during recent County Commission meetings. Public Health Director Robin Nudd and a member of her staff were loudly interrupted during a presentation on tobacco by a member of the audience who said the information was all lies.

Citizen Gary Dielman filed a complaint alleging harassment by John Creighton, following his scheduled public comment at another recent Commission meeting. Dielman was on his way out to attend a physical therapy session when the incident occurred between him and Creighton. Dielman expressed frustration to District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff who declined to prosecute Creighton. Shirtcliff also declined to pursue any action regarding the online impersonation of Dielman which was discovered during the last primary election, despite the fact Dielman is elected to the Baker County Library District and to the Democratic Precinct Committee. Online impersonation of an elected official is illegal in Oregon but Shirtcliff said that he did not believe Dielman's elected roles met that legal standard. Online impersonation of someone which is not threatening or attempts to defraud people monetarily is currently not against the law in Oregon.

Identity of Online Impersonator of Dielman Remains Uknown

The *Baker City Herald* broke the impersonation story and immediately after, the fake Facebook profile was altered from Gary Dielman's name to "James Dillman" and then was completed taken down. Several individuals targeted by the impersonator included Mark Henderson and Lynne Burroughs who were named in the 2012 failed school board recall attempt against them initiated by Kerry McQuisten, now editor of the *Baker County Press*.

Others targeted included Walt Wegener (who was the 5-J School Superintendent at the time), Mike Rudi (treasurer of the Fred Warner, Jr. campaign), Warner's daughter, neighbors of Dielman, Kathy Spence (who is the Baker City Postmaster), Ma'lena Wirth (Oregon State Education Association Union Vice President), Kevin Cassidy (now the School Board chairman), Beverly Calder (former Baker City Councilwoman and owner of BELLA), Gail Duman (who had just been elected to the Baker County Republican Central Committee), and Gina Perkins (publisher/owner of the *Record-Courier*). Not all of those included in the "friends list" of the impersonator received or responded to the private messages sent by the Dielman impostor.

Perkins alerted Dielman of the impersonation after receiving a private email message from the impostor asking Perkins about a lawsuit which had just been filed the day before against her by Kerry McQuisten. The message from the impersonator asked Perkins how she was holding up. When Perkins asked what they were referring to, the impostor answered "the lawsuit." This comment immediately drew the suspicion of Perkins. Because of the very recent filing at the time, Perkins believed only a few of those directly involved, or those with whom they would have shared the information, would have been aware of the lawsuit's existence. The impersonator went on to say that Dielman and his wife (Eloise, who was battling cancer at the time and is now deceased) had been in the *Baker City Herald* that day (which was a Saturday) and "everybody was talking about it." When the impersonator was questioned by Perkins about the Herald not being open on a Saturday, the impersonator said they meant to say Friday.

Perkins called and alerted Gary Dielman who stated that he had no knowledge of the lawsuit and didn't know anything about Facebook, nor had he ever started a Facebook profile. Perkins contacted some of the others targeted by the impersonator, many of whom said they had received leading questions from the impersonator in Facebook messages. This included the Postmaster who was asked by the impersonator what she knew regarding who might have mailed the anonymous campaign postcard depicting Fred Warner, Jr. and President Clinton sent during the primary election. The former president visited Baker County in 2008 during Hillary's initial run for president against Barack Obama. The Postmaster (who was accessed through her personal account at home) did not respond to the impersonator.

Mark Henderson, who has since moved from the area, had communicated at length with the person he thought was Dielman over a period of months, responding to questions by the impersonator about Kyle Knight and the school board. Henderson said that upon learning that Dielman had been impersonated, he found many questions "suddenly answered" which had long perplexed him. This included receiving a copy of a private Facebook message exchange from Jason Smith who had been a BHS teacher at the time and an avid supporter of the recall. Smith, who was mentioned in the conversation, expressed anger with Henderson who was puzzled how Smith would have known about the conversation, let alone had a copy of the written exchange.

Only the impersonator could have shared this with Smith. Henderson provided copies of all of his Facebook exchanges with the impersonator as well as the written communication he had received from Smith to the District Attorney, Matt Shirtcliff, and to the *Record-Courier*.

Smith, who now teaches at the Halfway Charter School, declined to reveal the identity of the person who had shown him Henderson's exchange when contacted by the *Record-Courier* and later, the State Police.

Kyle Knight, former School Board member whose name was mentioned with some frequency by the impersonator, left Baker City shortly after the *Herald* broke the story to pursue a career as a truck driver. He remained a part of the Baker County Republican Central Committee until fairly recently and also resigned from the 5-J School Board. He said he did not know the identity of the impersonator when contacted by the *Record-Courier*.

Shirtcliff stated at the time in a phone call to Perkins (after telling her to contact the State Police) that his reason not to pursue further investigation of the online impersonation had nothing to do with Dielman being on the Democratic Precinct Committee. Shirtcliff is an elected member of the Republican Central Committee.

The largest portion of the lawsuit filed against Perkins by Kerry McQuisten was won by Perkins in Summary Judgment in 2015, debunking claims by McQuisten that Perkins had in any way interfered with McQuisten's attempt to purchase the *Record-Courier*. McQuisten also lost in Summary Judgment to Perkins in her allegations regarding interference with advertisers. A sworn affidavit by Greg Brinton dated June 9, 2014 stated that on or about Jan. 25, 2013, he and McQuisten signed a short purchase agreement in which she had 60 days to complete the purchase, which she failed to do. The sale between Brinton and Perkins occurred months later, in late November 2013.

Dave Conn who had been employed as an advertising sales person for years with the Brinton's and very briefly by Perkins, left the *Record-Courier* in early 2014 and began selling advertising for Kerry McQuisten after her launch of the *Baker County Press*.

Two remaining portions of the lawsuit filed by McQuisten are scheduled for trial in March.

McQuisten also lost a separate attempt to keep Perkins from using the *Record-Courier* name. Brinton's affidavit stated the rights to the banner and name are the exclusive property of the Perkins. The Oregon Secretary of State agreed.

Haines News

Celebrating 100 Years

The Rock Creek-Muddy Creek Mutual Improvement Club will be celebrating their 100th year on Feb. 10, 2016 at the Methodist Community Hall at 2 p.m. There will be skits, door prizes and a quilt drawing.

Please Support the Haines Chili / Potato Feed Fundraiser

The Haines Chili / Potato Feed will be held on Feb. 5 at the school from 4:30- 7 p.m. There is a dessert and silent auction and this is school's largest fundraiser of the year.

From the Ranch to the Rodeo

Tony Lundervold, a country western singer whose album was nominated for the 2015 Album of the Year will be playing at the Haines Steak House this Friday starting at 5:30 p.m.

Friends of Haines

Alita Arendale is the new president of Friends of Haines and Garla Rowe of the Haines Sellrite is the treasurer. Rowe says they want to make some changes to events to bring even more people and add some new ones, too.

The fundraising auction will be held May 14 according to Garla and they are actively looking for new members to participate in Friends of Haines.

Pinochle

Sandy Wood hosted the pinochle party. 1st was Shelly Gray, 2nd Carla Wendt and low was Dean Forman. Prizes went to June Bauck and Shelly Gray. June, Deana and Carla were substitutes.

From the *Record-Courier* Archives Jan. 1950

Winter Round-up of Range Horses Starts Estimated 100 Horses May Be on the Range

The Advisory Board, Marvin Wendt president, of the Bureau of Land Management, at a meeting last week authorized the gathering and round-up of stray horses on the range or winter grazing on lands of the Bureau.

S.R. Bennett, chief grazier with Charles Caviness assistant, started the winter round-up Tuesday and the first operations will be in the Huntington sector.

School Days Here; Chickenpox Gone

Muddy Creek School re-opened Jan. 3. All youngsters have recovered from the Chicken Pox which was quite prevalent.

Two for Judge; Interest Mounts in 1950 Campaign

The first official filings for the local 1950 campaign were made this week with County Clerk Lloyd Rea putting his name on the record book as democratic candidate for county judge and Gill C. Wright of New Bridge entering the democratic primary for county commissioner, a post he now holds.

Below, view from the Alan and Pam Maxwell ranch west of Haines on Sunday.

Photo by Gina Perkins

Message from the Mayor Jim Brown: Important Changes at the Haines Recycle Center

There have been some necessary changes made at the Haines Recycle Center. The City has an agreement with Baker Sanitary to dispose of the recyclable materials deposited at the Haines Recycle Center. Baker Sanitary is no longer able to take co- mingled (mixed) recyclables. All recyclables must be sorted according to the following guidelines. Please read the signs at the center and only place the acceptable materials in each container. There is a large bin for cardboard only, a smaller bin for glass only and roll carts for each item listed: milk jugs, mixed plastic, mixed paper, tin, aluminum, magazines and newspapers. Each row is marked with the appropriate signage. The City appreciates your cooperation in this matter. Remember that it is illegal to dump non-recyclable items in the bins, or on the ground, at the Recycle Center; violators will be prosecuted. Please keep in mind that the area is under surveillance. The City is also asking for help monitoring the Recycle Center. If you see anyone dumping something other than normal recyclable items please contact the Haines City Hall or the Baker County Sheriff's Department.

Faith and Humanities Team from Baker Making a Difference

This week a group of people, many of whom are from Baker County, are in Honduras helping people. The team is organized by a non-profit called Faith and Humanity based in Baker City and led by Dr. Schott who is celebrating his 15th year of this medical missions trip. Dr. Stephanie Fry and Dr. Warren Whitnah are also part of the team, doing amazing work caring for people.

The team of 23 are holding five clinics this year which once again includes Carrie and Chris Folkman and their family. They hire students from Honduras to travel with them for the week as interpreters. Below are her entries and photos which she generously has shared.

Jan. 25 - Carrie Folkman

The Baker Team of Faith & Humanity Missions has completed three medical/dental clinics and seen over 775 people in Honduras. The need is great and the people are so appreciative. A few hours after landing we spent some time at a Catholic Orphanage that is a special place for Diana Thatcher. This is an emotional experience for most of our team but I can assure you we blessed them with some entertainment and excitement while the doctors, nurses and dentists worked away. On Day 2 we were able to visit one of our very favorite places called "Aguascalientes". In the beautiful mountains of Honduras, it's always an adventure! It was a blessing to see some familiar faces from clinics before. Today we visited a school in El Progresso and saw over 500 people in one day. The team is all well and working hard. Thanks for your prayers and thoughts.

Clinic 3: Today we got bused to a new location in the mountains near La Ceiba. Our big tour bus winded down a dirt road with farm fields and cattle but no people. At the end of the road a village! We pull up to a church and there were 200 people waiting. For us! That is the crazy part of this trip. We never know what is waiting for us. The people were so sweet and we made new friends. Treated over 280 people and saw some pretty sick kids. The youth team painted a new front and sign for their church. Awesome Day!

Submitted photo

Diana Thatcher of Baker City says, "What a wonderful day spending time with my Compassion International boy! We cooked and celebrated together in El Progreso, where we held our clinic. He is such a love."

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Join us for **Ash Wednesday service** on **Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m.** to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

Please join us for fellowship & worship Sunday mornings at 10:45.

Haines United Methodist Church
721 Robert Street, Haines, Oregon
Sally Wiens, Lay Minister • 541.963.6991 (home phone)