

SMELL TEST

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"He" as an individual, like any other citizen, is welcome to pursue such an endeavor. However, "he" as an elected official can not make such an obligation for Baker County without public knowledge, public input, and ultimately, without a majority of votes from the Board of Commissioners of which he is just one member.

Chairman Harvey received significant push back from both Commissioners at that April 6 meeting. Commissioner Bennett explained that Baker County already is served by affiliations with a variety of organizations (which, by the way, are legally authorized to represent Baker County) to address public land issues and concerns. These include the Public Lands Council, Association of Oregon Counties and the Public Lands Steering Committee National Association of Counties (NACO).

Bennett also cited budget concerns stating, "We put a budget together. If we keep deviating from it, then what's the point of the process?"

Commissioner Kerns also voiced objection, pointing out this topic had been added at the very last minute with no opportunity to study the organization. He said he had never heard of the American Stewards of Liberty and stated he would require time to study the matter before making any decision regarding such a membership.

But, Bill doesn't like being told no.

After hearing the comments from his fellow elected Commissioners, Harvey stated the discussion regarding membership to the American Stewards of Liberty would be tabled until the next regular meeting.

Immediately following Harvey's comments, a member of the audience

stated they would be willing to donate \$100 and did not think it would be difficult to raise the remainder of the necessary \$1,000.

Audience member John Creighton simply stated, "Study it, but get it done."

I had expected the discussion regarding joining the coalition to appear on the agenda for the next Regular Meeting, just as Harvey said it would be.

However, it was not. And, because it was not, I made the decision to cover the District FFA competition instead that same day, which also began at exactly the same time as the Commission meeting (and is precisely why public agenda topics are required by law to be included on meeting agendas).

(By the way, FFA is such an incredible organization which offers important skills and helps to instill the values of our future leaders in America. Many exceptional role models within our community volunteered their time to help at the District contest in a variety of ways including Dr. Bob and Jarrod Maxwell who is an example of a young man who is following his passion, excelled in his highly competitive training program and, as a result, has a high paying, high demand career here. In fact, Jarrod was snatched up right away, I think even before he had graduated from his program, by a prominent local employer. Jarrod has volunteered for years as a judge in this important contest for the kids.)

But, I digress.

Citizens who also expected the matter to be discussed attended the meeting. When asked about it not being on the agenda, Harvey stated that we didn't have to worry about it because private individuals had stepped up and paid the

\$1,000.

This is more than problematic for Commissioner Harvey.

The general public was left in the dark and the decision potentially places our County in a position of liability which could make the recent McCarty lawsuit payout of \$324,000 seem like change we scattered on the coffee table. The dollars at risk, by the way, are those belonging to all Baker County tax payers.

One of the questions asked Tuesday night of all County Commission candidates at the AAUW forum, happened to be about their stance regarding bringing a lawsuit against the federal government by the County. The answers were as diverse as the candidates. One indicated he would wholeheartedly back Commissioner Harvey and would support such action. Another emphatically stated he would never approve leading the County into potential bankruptcy in which such a lawsuit could result. This same candidate also said he knew the dollars put at risk would be those belonging to the people of Baker County.

The Baker City Council manages to send out meeting packets which clearly detail each and every item of significance to be addressed by council members. Their agenda gives opportunity for citizen input and most importantly, the agenda and packet have enough specificity so a member of the public, or a member of the media, knows exactly what action items will be discussed and by whom--whether or not they choose to attend. With every meeting video taped and televised, any person can easily find out the outcome of a particular vote. The packets are always sent out in a timely manner.

See **SMELL TEST** on page 8

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June 18

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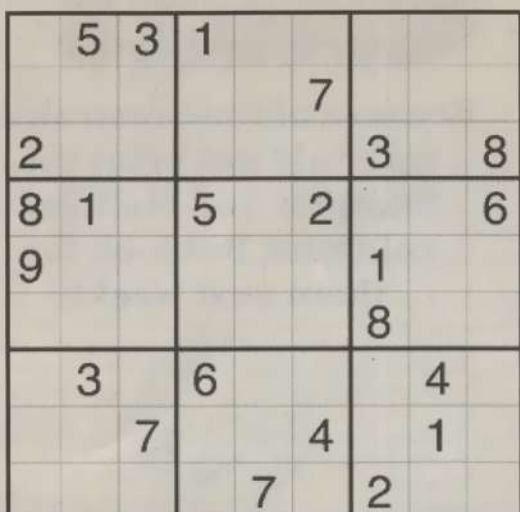
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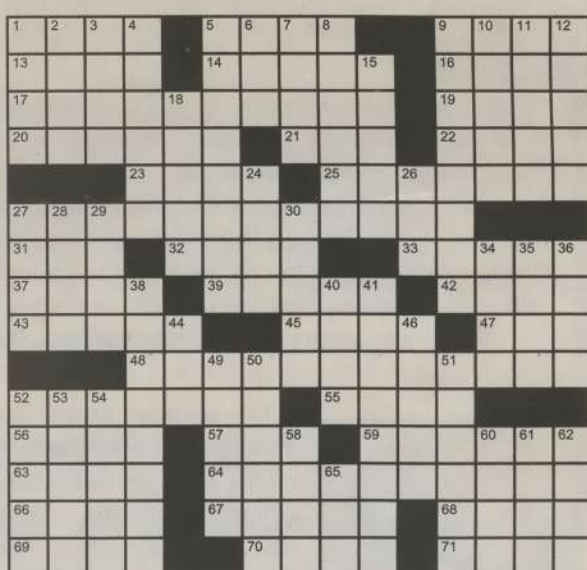
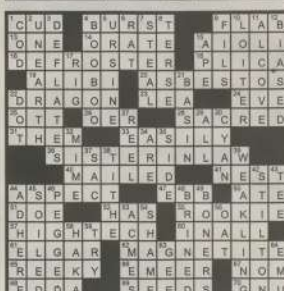
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Across

1. Resting places
5. Healthful retreats
9. Fink
13. ___ cheese
14. Casts
16. Maui dance
17. Viewed with approval or pleasure
19. "Iliad" warrior
20. Two-seater
21. Back, in a way
22. Saws with the grain
23. Goes on and on
25. Fox relative
27. Thin wires with tiny tufts of yarn
31. "Much ___ About Nothing"
32. Course
33. Chest material
37. "___ we forget"
39. Hot spot
42. Baby
43. Song of joy
45. Achy
47. Absorbed, as a cost
48. Short tablès accompanying sofas
52. Disperse
55. 100 kurus

56. Farfetched
57. Sylvester, to Tweety
59. Big step
63. ___-bodied
64. Hardly ordinary
66. Bottom of the barrel
67. Slope of loose rock debris
68. ___ Scotia
69. Coastal raptors
70. Aims
71. Form of matter

- (Italian greeting)
26. Parenthesis, essentially
27. Segmented organ near mouth of invertebrates
28. "I had no ___!"
29. Ask
30. Charm
34. Call
35. A chip, maybe
36. Bakery selections
38. Indiscreet, inconsiderate
40. "O Sanctissima," e.g.
41. Skilled performers
44. "___ a chance"
46. Our "mother"
49. Unborn embryo
50. Home of Paris
51. Large estate or manor
52. Flat
53. Wooden pole used in Scottish games
54. ___ wrench
58. Conflicted
60. "American ___"
61. Hawk's opposite
62. Final, e.g.
65. Cabernet, e.g.

Down

1. Doozy
2. Icelandic epic
3. Angry outburst
4. Small amount
5. Clutter; a total mess
6. Quote, part 3
7. "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
8. Product motto
9. Keen or eager
10. Papal court
11. Beth's predecessor
12. Boito's Mefistofele, e.g.
15. Dorm annoyance
18. Change, chemically
24. "Buona ___"

Approximately
Awoke
Ball
Brown
Cheek
Claw
Dictionary
Doll
Earn
Ears
Egyptians
Ever
Exist
Feed
Felt
Filled

Hell
Hire
Inch
Intend
Item
Length
Less
Lose
Maple
Mayor
Melt
Men's
Mouse
Open
Ours
Plus
Puff

Relax
Responsibility
Rice
Rise
Rose
Rush
Same
Seam
Sells
Sent
Sick
Sides
Sizes
Skim
Skins
Sore

Spell
Steady
Stop
Strip
Suit
Swell
Text
Tight
Tyre
Wage
Wake
Wheels
While
Wont
Worm