

# Commissioners on the hunt for Hayward replacement

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

After Wallowa County commissioner Mike Hayward announced his intention to resign, the remaining county commissioners — Susan Roberts and Paul Castilleja — shifted into high gear to find a replacement. Hayward's effective resignation date is Feb. 1. The process isn't immediate. As Hayward is a Republican, current law requires his successor to belong to the same party. Picking a successor is the job of the two remaining commissioners. The successor will serve at least through November and is not required to file to run for the office.

The commissioners will choose from a candidate list submitted by the Republican Central Committee, a local entity that represents all the Republican voters in the county. The RCC has about a dozen members from different voting precincts within the county.

Letters of interest may be sent to WCRCC, 61581 Tucker Down Road, Joseph, OR, 97846.

Letters must be received no later than Jan. 31.

According to RCC treasurer Lori Schaafsma, several people, including ineligible non-Republicans, have submitted letters of interest to the committee. Schaafsma said the committee is looking for someone who best fits the county's needs to fill the position.

"We'll read through the letters of interest and discuss the skills and abilities of each candidate to see if they want the best things for the county," Schaafsma said. "Although it's

an interim position, we hope to find someone who wants to run for the position later this year."

Commissioner Paul Castilleja said he's looking for a candidate who is interested in putting the county first.

"My goal is to get someone who looks at the issues," he said. "Someone of great virtue and honesty. Someone of friendship who is faithful and of great courage. Someone who will face the issues and represent the will of the people."

Castilleja added that upcoming changes for the commissioners include changing the slots the commission chair from an elected position to a yearly rotating position while equalizing the three commission time slots to three-quarter time positions rather than a pair of two-thirds time positions and a full-time position for the chair.

Commissioner Susan Roberts said her preferred candidate will have a grasp of social services.

"We have a lot of social service issues," she said. "It would be nice to have someone who is more interested in the social services side of things."

Roberts also suggested crisis management as an essential skill for prospective applicants.

"The perfect person is someone who can manage many crises without stressing themselves to Kingdom Come," she said.



Hayward

# Refuge occupiers clash with environmentalists

BURNS, Ore. (AP) — The armed activists occupying a national wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon clashed with environmentalists Saturday as a standoff stretched into a 15th day.

A shouting match erupted as members of the Center for Biological Diversity, a national nonprofit conservation group, tried to speak at a news briefing, The Oregonian reported. As the center's executive director Kieran Suckling began speaking, the

armed activists screamed and booed him.

"We're here to speak up for public land, which belongs to the public," Suckling said over the yelling. "These people are trying to take the land away."

The armed group took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to protest federal land use policies.

The shouting match happened just after occupiers arrived for the briefing carrying a basket of security cameras they

said they had removed at the request of residents, the newspaper reported.

"This in my opinion is unreasonable search," said LaVoyce Sinicum, referencing the Fourth Amendment. He invited the FBI to pick up the cameras, which he claimed it had installed. He also condemned the government for harassing families.

Suckling told the newspaper that his group had a more civil interaction with other occupiers afterward. He said it was im-

portant to be present and to not criticize the occupation from the sidelines.

The occupation started Jan. 2 as a protest over two area ranchers who had been convicted of arson being returned to prison to serve longer sentences.

Afterward, a group led by Ammon Bundy traveled to occupy the refuge to protest the ranchers' return to prison and demand that the 300-square-mile refuge be turned over to local control.

# Joseph short-term vacation rental ban unresolved

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The proposal to ban short-term vacation rentals in Joseph hit a roadblock when the City Council deadlocked on a 3-3 vote at its Jan. 14 meeting. The proposal was intended to curb the commercial rental of homes located in residential zones.

Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands announced two proposals: One that would ban the rentals outright, and a second would that would instead create a regulation process.

"It's a tough issue," Sands said. "We're a tourist town/resort area, so the demand for these is somewhat higher than for other communities."

He added that counterbalancing the tourist demand was the tight rental and housing markets in Joseph.

"That's been my main motivator in saying no to overnight rentals."

Councilor Rodd Clark argued that the two markets were

unrelated. "I think a program that's well-regulated has a place in a resort community especially," Clark said.

Sands countered by saying the two markets may not be directly related but certainly affected one another. He added that if more housing became available he might reconsider his position.

The council then voted on an outright ban and ended the night deadlocked at three votes a side. Councilors Sharon Newell, George Ballard and Mayor Sands voted for the outright

ban, while Rodd Clark, Teresa Sajonia and Tyler Evans voted against the ban. Councilor Pearl Sturm was absent.

Sands said another vote on the proposal is slated for the next council meeting on Feb. 4.

"Hopefully we can get all the council members together for that meeting," he said.

The council also awarded hotel/motel tax grants to the following recipients:

- Alpenfest: \$250.
- Joseph Chamber of Commerce: \$500.
- Wallowa Valley Music Alliance: \$500.

- Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center: \$500.
- New playground equipment for city park: \$2,500.



**BIRTHS**  
Twins, a son (Gideon Lee Miller) and daughter (Rowan Olivia Miller) were born December 17, 2015 in Beaverton to Chris and Taylor (Phelps) Miller of Beaverton. Grandparents are Kim and Kit Phelps of Lostine, and Barry and Judy Miller of Hillsboro.

A son, Oliver Dallas Butterfield, was born January 6, 2016 in Enterprise to Eric and Katie Butterfield of Enterprise. Grandparents are Bev and Gary Fuller, and Lori and Dan Butterfield.

A daughter, Lyla Zylene Harris, was born January 9, 2016 in Enterprise to John and Lea Harris of Joseph. Grandparents are Robin and Lowell Lewis, Dave Ganos, and Cassandra and Randy Harris.

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