

DUNN

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Dunn emphasized he did not want big changes in the county, but wanted to maintain the quality of life while moving forward.

"We don't want to lose all the things we have here, or change all the things we have here, but we do want to try to build on what we have here," he said.

The candidate said he's

seen a slight change of direction with the federal government, which seems to listen more to community concerns, something he noted in the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plan Revision. The county seriously objected to several aspects of the plan, especially grazing management.

"After a meeting between the commissioners, National Marine Fishery services and the USFS, the group found what may be a negotiated path to consensus recognition

for rural counties ... and this is the first time we've gotten the recognition," he said. "I think they're starting to pay attention."

For the future, Dunn said he visualizes the county moving forward in creating more family-wage jobs and ways to stem the "brain drain" that sees young people going to college and never coming back because of the lack of sustaining work.

"I think we can do that if we work at it," he said. "Not just

talk about it but work at it."

While Dunn recognizes that tourism is a substantial part of the economic base and should be promoted, it isn't the county's economic backbone.

"So much of our existence here is based on natural resources," he said. "Tourism is not paying the tax bill. Tourism isn't fixing the streets in Joseph, and they have more tourists than any place else. We like the tourists spending money and helping local businesses, but it hasn't helped our

base infrastructure at all."

Dunn said he's not motivated to run for the position because of a lack of something better to do.

"I realize it's not a glory position at all," he said. "To say this is a stepping stone to higher and better things -- I don't think so. I'll try very hard to help the county like I've been trying to do for the 30 years that I've been here."

Diane Daggett has also announced her bid for the seat.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

This is the remains of a truck that caught fire and exploded near Troy, killing its owner, Ryan Sullivan of Baker City, on Nov. 29.

Baker man killed in bizarre accident

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A Baker County man died in a grisly accident at a Grizzly Flat campground near Troy during the early morning hours of Nov. 29. Ryan "Sully" Sullivan, 37, Baker City, died when his Chevrolet duel cab pickup accidentally rolled to a stop over a live campfire and burst into flames with Sullivan inside.

He and another Baker City man were on a fishing trip to the area.

According to Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers, personnel from the sheriff's office, the county's district attorney's office, Oregon State Police, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Fire Marshal and the Wallowa County Medical Examiner investigated the scene.

Rogers stated that the reason for the truck rolling over the campfire is yet unclear.

Sullivan left behind his wife Nicole, and two small sons, Declan and Jack, as well as a child on the way.

A gofundme site has been established: gofundme.com/ryan-sullivan-memorial-fund.

BOGGAN'S

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be our first choice."

Bill and Ferrel are experienced business people, with backgrounds in business ownership stretching back to their youth in Anchorage, Alaska. As they matured into septuagenarians, they continued to manage Boggan's by employing managers to do the "heavy lifting."

Much of their kitchen and wait staff hails from Anatone, Wash., a tiny hamlet 13 miles up the road. One seasonal worker comes all the way from Pomroy, Wash., staying in a camp trailer during season.

"A lot of our employees have been here quite a while," said Ferrel.

The cabins, trailer parking and campsites up on the little hill above the property are filled through the summer with campers, outfitters, anglers and photographers. Flocks of bicyclists and motorcyclists have discovered Boggan's and meet there, and many go home and write about their trip.

"The word of mouth keeps spreading," Ferrel said.

Boggan's Oasis can be



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Where Dreamz Road meets Highway 126 just before it crosses the Grande Ronde River, dreams are being revitalized after Boggan's Oasis burned down.

expected to continue to be a going and growing concern, the Vails said.

If they rebuild, it will be a different Boggan's. The historic photos and artifacts that graced the walls of the old café are ashes. But the spirit of the place and the joy of marking a trip through the twisty and dra-

matic landscape of Rattlesnake Grade with a stop at Boggan's Oasis would remain.

Some of the many rural friends of the Vails figure that locals, outfitters, ranchers and vacationers may contribute photos and other items to help recreate the original ambiance.

The cause of the fire has not been determined, though the Vails themselves suspect it will be something to do with older portions of the electrical wiring. The café has been remodeled twice, but some of the wiring was still old, Bill said.

FUNDS

Continued from Page A10

In late October, news emerged of \$74 million in possible overpayments to the CCOs between 2014 and 2016. OHA has already recouped \$10.1 million of that.

The errors are likely due to misclassification of certain patients who were also eligible for Medicare, and it's not clear how much of the money the state must repay the federal government.

Other issues have surfaced since, bringing the possible liability to \$112.4 million in additional costs. The repayments could also impact revenue available for the Wallowa County project.

The Oregon Department of Forestry estimates that to-date, the 2017 fire season has cost it \$38.9 million.

Certain property owners pay a state assessment to help cover firefighting costs in addition to money the Legislature appropriates from the general fund.

The state has also had an insurance policy most years since 1973 to help cover firefighting costs.

But before it can tap that coverage, the state has to spend \$50 million of

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jonah Phillips

This week's athlete of the week is first-year wrestler Jonah Phillips, a five-year-old on the Northeastern Oregon Wrestling Club. At the club's home meet at Quinn Court in Enterprise on Saturday, Dec. 2, Jonah won his first match of the year. Phillips pinned his Elgin Extreme Team opponent in short order for the win. After the match, Phillips said he was enjoying his first year experience. Asked if he planned to return next year, he answered, "Yeah." Phillips is the son of Mitch and Vanessa Phillips.

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