

Local & State

COUNTIES

Continued from Page 1A

Walden asked county officials to compile a list of their most important concerns about the plans. He said he would take that list to Forest Service officials.

"I am ready to do whatever it takes," said Walden, a 10-term congressman who is running in the Nov. 6 election against Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner of Terrebonne, near Redmond.

Several county commissioners said Wednesday that they don't think the Forest Service should be trying to manage wildlife, citing parts of the revised forest plans dealing with elk habitat.

As for the federal Farm Bill, Walden told commissioners that the House of Representatives has approved the legis-

lation but the Senate hasn't voted on it.

Walden said he voted for the bill, but that many senators in the West are opposed.

Walden also gave Union County Commissioner Steve McClure an award for his 28 years of service as a commissioner. McClure has 107 days left in his last term, as of the date of the meeting. He is the second-longest serving commissioner in the state.

After the Eastern Oregon Counties Association meeting, the Baker County commissioners reconvened for their regular meeting.

Commissioners approved the potential sale of a county property on Hunt Mountain west of Haines. The county acquired the property due to a foreclosure after the owner failed to pay property taxes. The 160-acre parcel, high on the northeast side of the mountain, will

be sold via sheriff sale auction and the bidding will start at \$80,000. The assessed value of the property is \$90,000.

Sales revenue would go to the county parks department.

Commissioners also discussed the chance that Unity voters have to elect city councilors Nov. 6.

Commissioners have been serving as the city's elected representatives since 2010 due to a lack of interest among city residents in serving as councilors.

To form a city council, Unity voters would have to elect at least three people — by write-in votes as there are no candidates on the ballot — who are willing to serve. Those councilors would then need to appoint at least two people to reach the minimum slate of five councilors.

Unity has a population of 75, of whom 45 are registered to vote.

Sawmill tour set

Local residents, including forest owners, can tour a mill run by the company that recently bought Boise Cascade sawmills in La Grande and Pilot Rock. The tour is set for Sept. 26.

Participants will meet at the OSU Baker County Extension Office, 2600 East St., at 8 a.m. and carpool to the Woodgrain Millworks Inc. Gem Forest Products mill at Emmett,

Idaho.

People planning to attend should bring their own lunch. To RSVP, call 541-523-6418 or email Bob Parker at bob.parker@oregonstate.edu

BEND REPUBLICAN KNUTE BUEHLER HOPES TO BECOME FIRST MEMBER OF HIS PARTY ELECTED AS OREGON GOVERNOR SINCE 1982

Buehler's political activity started with Perot campaign

By Gary A. Warner
WesCom News Service

Editor's note: Knute Buehler of Bend is the Republican nominee for governor. This is the second of a two-part profile of Buehler. Part one was published in the Sept. 12 issue. Part two, today, looks at his life since his entry into politics in 1992.

The Westlund baseball is an odd political trophy that floats around the State Capitol. It's named for the late Ben Westlund, who served as a Republican state lawmaker representing Bend, made an aborted run for governor as an independent, then became a Democrat and was elected state Treasurer.

The holder of the Westlund baseball must meet two criteria:

1. They are a baseball fan.
2. They are willing to cross the aisle to work with lawmakers of the other party.

At the end of the 2016 session of the Legislature, it was held by Rep. Brent Barton, a Democrat representing Oregon City. His choice for the next recipient: Knute Buehler, then about to start his second term as the Republican House member representing Bend.

Buehler won't be back in the House next January.

"I will be passing it along

to another lawmaker who fulfills the same criteria before the next session," Buehler said.

He hopes his next stop will be the Governor's Office in the Capitol, held by Democrat Kate Brown.

It will be up to voters to decide whether Buehler is the Westlund baseball-worthy down-the-middle moderate his supporters say he is, or the zig-zagging political chameleon portrayed by critics on the left and right.

Win or lose, it's a political mix he's represented for the better part of three decades.

Portland: The road home

After five years of living in Baltimore and Britain, Buehler returned home to Oregon in 1991. He had just earned his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University, while shoehorning in a master's degree in politics and economics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He came back with a new career as an orthopedic surgeon, and with his new wife, Patricia, who was on her way to becoming an ophthalmologist.

Both landed residencies at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

While finishing his medi-

cal education, Buehler was beginning his political one. He had met Texas billionaire Ross Perot in Oxford and was drawn to his anti-partisan, pragmatic approach to politics. When Perot decided to run as an independent for President, Buehler signed up.

"I became one of Perot's representatives in Oregon," Buehler said. "My role was more advisory, mostly getting boots on the ground."

"It wasn't the most organized campaign," Buehler said, laughing. "It was really grass roots."

Perot would receive just under a quarter of the 1992 presidential vote in Oregon — one of his better showings nationwide, but only good enough to finish third behind Democrat Bill Clinton and the Republican, President George H.W. Bush. Clinton won the national election, and Perot won no electoral votes, leaving Republicans to paint Perot and his backers as little more than spoilers who made it easier for Democrats to capture the White House.

Rather than spur his ardor, the 1992 campaign cooled Buehler's desire for politics.

"I was turned off by the focus on campaign dollars," Buehler said.

Instead, Buehler finished his residency and moved to Bend in 1997. He concen-

trated on building his orthopedic practice, while Patricia built her eye doctor business. Buehler launched a successful medical devices business and the couple invested in the booming Deschutes County real estate market that eventually would make them millionaires. The couple had a son, Owen, and daughter, Hannah.

For two decades after graduating from medical school, Buehler played at most a supporting role in politics, backing candidates and issues — including bal-

lot measures for campaign financing reform (successful) and open primaries (unsuccessful).

Personal allegiances could temper political ones. Buehler says he was never a Democrat and was an independent until becoming a Republican for good in 1996. Patricia Buehler remains an independent. The couple hosted a fundraiser for Democrat John Kitzhaber's primary campaign for governor in 2010.

"When I was a kid, I broke my arm, and John was the

emergency room doctor in Roseburg who put the splint on," Buehler said. "I told John I am not going to come after him for it healing crooked, but he should know it bends a little to the right (laughs). It is his fault that I am right wing because my left wing didn't heal right."

Buehler said he admired Kitzhaber as a "pragmatist" and helped him raise money to help him defeat a more liberal challenger in the primary.

See **Buehler** / Page 5A

GRUMPY'S Repair Inc. "You'll love the work we do. I guarantee it!" - JR
225 H Street • East of I-84 • 541-523-3200 • grumpysrepair.com



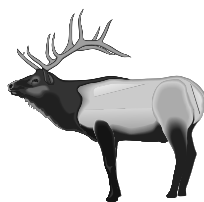
BAKER ELKS IS COLLECTING HIDES

The Baker Elks Lodge is collecting deer and elk hides once again for the Veterans in Homes and Hospitals. Hide barrels are located throughout Baker County at the following locations: the alley behind the Elks Lodge, Halfway, Richland, North Powder, Salisbury Junction, both sides of Sumpter Junction, Whitney, Unity, Austin Junction, Burnt River Junction on the south side of Dooley Mountain and now located at Little Suzie's and Baker County Custom Meats.

Hides should be free of legs and head. Hunters can help ensure the best price by taking the following precautions: Care by not dragging the animal for great distances. Avoid cutting holes in the hide. Get the hide to a barrel while it is still fresh and put a couple of pounds of table salt on the hide if possible and roll it before dropping it in the barrel and do not put the hide in a plastic bags.



If you are not a hunter but would like to help with this program, donations can be sent to Baker Elks Lodge #338 Hide Program, PO Box 347, Baker City OR 97814-0347



The 2018, 12th Annual Great Salt Lick



Would like to thank Baker County for reaching the \$130,000 target and beyond for their generous donations towards Parkinson's research.

Thank you to the following local businesses for their donations and/or services:

Intermountain Law
Settlers' Park
Heart 'n Home
The Lone Pine Café
Hills Dentistry
J. Tabor Jewelers
Clarke & Clarke Insurance
Baker Sanitary
Ryder Bros. Stationary
Baker Valley Physical Therapy
Umpqua Bank
Blue Mountain Fine Art
Breathing Room Massage
Cook's Radiator
Lew Brothers- Les Schwab Tires
Precision Import Auto Repair
Betty's Books
Davis Computer
The Geo.Net
Baker City Realty
Classic Storage
Mt. View R.V. Park
Farm and Industrial Repair
Robbins Farm Equipment
Triple C Redi-Mix
Thatcher's Ace Hardware
Sweet Wife Bakery
Copper Belt Winery
Sorbenots Coffee
Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
Richland Feed & Seed
Oregon Trail Livestock Supply
Barley Brown's Brew Pub
Copy Ship & Mail Baker City
Dennis and Ingrid Hansen

Judges:

Luanne Cook, Nathan Defrees, Ed Cook, Neil Carrol

And the following People and Organizations for their time and or financial support:

Delaney Stone
Ad Hoc Brass Ensemble
Terry Stremou
Hope Buckner
Diane Carlise
Damen Rose
Loren Joseph
Buck Pickenton
Baker County Cultural Coalition
Crossroads Art Center
Oregon Cultural Trust
Baker Future Farmers of America
The Women of Recovery Village
Timothy Bishop
Mo Quinn
Larry and Kathy Pennington
Kerry Savage
Phil Stone
Debbie Friedman
Lawrence and Diane Brenner

This event would be impossible without Ginger Savage, Andrea Stone, and Mib Daily.

This was the 12th Great Salt Lick, earning \$13,000 which put its earnings past its \$130,000 goal of donations given to Oregon Health Science University's Parkinson's Center of Oregon. The Great Salt Lick is one of only a handful of Oregon Events that is locally sponsored and proud of it. Thanks to the above people and organizations, and you the participants makes Baker County one of the most generous counties in the state. Thank you, I am blessed to live in such a place with such a special spirit. - Whit Deschner