

CITY HALL

Continued from Page 1A

The LEDs are both brighter and cooler. Better still, they produce a palette of colors at the push of a button on a remote control about the size of a credit card.

Bachman plans to leave the orange lights on through Thanksgiving (the jack-o'-lantern cutouts will be removed), then return to green and red during the Christmas season.

He's not sure whether he'll try to incorporate Christmas-themed cutouts as well.

"It's still a work in progress," he said.

Bachman said he'd like to use the LED lights to celebrate other holidays with lights, if not necessarily with decorations as well.

It makes for an interesting climb, if nothing else.

Even after the 92 stair steps, the ascent isn't quite finished. The final dozen feet or so are gained by way of the ladder, which is secured by ropes and notches in the wooden walls.

Temperatures in this lofty perch range from stifling in summer to frigid in winter, Bach-

man said.

He's been up there during storms when wind gusts blew spindrifts of snow through the louvers in the wall.

The clock itself is actually more than 30 feet below. A metal rod runs through holes in the floors and connects to the linkages that turn the hands in each of the four faces.

The weight-driven Seth Thomas clock has crowned City Hall's copper-clad tower for more than a century.

In 2005, after city officials noticed that the clock was no longer keeping accurate time, Tabor Clarke, a Baker City jeweler with an affinity for clocks, spearheaded an effort to have the clock restored.

He helped remove worn parts, which were sent to a restorer in Lockport, New York. Other parts of the clock were restored in later years and Bachman said the clock is working well.

It is a purely mechanical device, however, and it has to be wound weekly — a chore that requires at least as much exertion as the climb to the tiny room that houses the mechanism.



Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald

A ladder is the final leg in a series of climbs that Dennis Bachman has to make to reach the room inside the clock tower at City Hall.

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Starnes leaves race, backs Brown

By Gary A. Warner
WesCom News Service

SALEM — The Independent Party candidate for governor has suspended his campaign and endorsed Democratic Gov. Kate Brown because of Republican Knute Buehler's \$2.5 million in contributions from Nike co-founder Phil Knight.

Patrick Starnes, a Brownsville cabinetmaker and home renovator, made the announce-

ment Tuesday during an appearance on television station KATU in Portland. Despite his action, it is too late for Starnes' name to be withdrawn from the ballot.

"I am endorsing Governor Brown and look forward to working on campaign finance reform with her," Starnes said. "We had a heart-to-heart about her commitment to reform. Buehler accepting millions from one person was a turning point for me."

FORESTER

Continued from Page 3A

McClure said 48 percent of Union County is managed by the Forest Service. Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts, who was also in attendance, said the Forest Service manages 68 percent of Wallowa County.

(Baker County's percentage is about 33 percent.)

The group was largely concerned with not being able to thin trees due to regulations.

Casamassa told the group that when he stepped into the position, he wanted to meet personally with officials from the counties who would be affected by this plan.

"The record of decision went

out and then the objections started to come in — and come in, and come in," he said.

He said he ultimately will make the final decision on what's going in the plan, so the meetings he's having with the communities are not falling on deaf ears.

The next step in this process is having Forest Service employees visit communities to conduct resolution meetings.

The group at Thursday's gathering had compiled a list of their personal concerns, which they gave to Casamassa and officially submitted as an objection to go into the record.

Among them were objections to designating new wilderness areas.

"No net loss in general forest acreage and to maintain access to national forest lands and retain open forest designation," the document submitted to the record listed.

There was also a request that the wildlife guidelines and standards for elk and wolves be removed from the plan. Another request was

removing the 21-inch diameter restriction for cutting live trees, which "has no scientific backing and will require the Forest Service do an extensive stand-scale analysis" and prolong the planning phase, according to the list of concerns.

The group also submitted suggestions on how to fix the concerns they brought, which stated, "Access to national forest land is a right of every American citizen and is highly valued by our constituents.... Maintaining access to the land for a variety of purposes ... is a primary concern."

They also suggested to "aggressively attack all wildfires and salvage the commercial volume remaining after the fire in less than a year."

Barreto said the cost of fighting wildfires far outweighs the cost it takes to thin the forest. Allowing companies like Boise Cascade to cut more timber will help both those problems.

Walden agreed, saying that it costs four to five times the amount to fight forest fires than it does to thin the trees.



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