

ANDREW

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“The psychologist suggested putting up ‘don’t walk’ signs,” Lea said.

Andrew promptly took up a paintbrush and the largest canvas he had to paint “Don’t Walk” against an abstract mix of bright colors.

Then he moved on to another canvas, and another.

“I’d be working on five or six paintings at a time,” he said. “It’s the only thing I was doing for six months. It was the perfect escape.”

Painting was not his first choice, but it occupied his hands and mind.

“It was the only thing I could do,” he said. “It’s so two-dimensional. That frustrates me.”

But he had a goal: Kate Reid, who owns Royal Artisan in Baker City, asked him to be the featured artist for December.

He’ll have nearly 40 paintings in the show, which opens during the First Friday art walk this Friday, Dec. 7. The show is titled “Therapy”

“It tells an amazing story, I think,” Lea said. “It’s awesome to see them all on one wall. You can see the ebbs and flows of his recovery through his paintings.”

The pieces don’t have one particular style.

“There’s no trend,” he said. “I just tried different things with manipulating paint. I just imagine it and make it happen.”

After returning home, Andrew had occupational and physical therapy. After

appointments, he had homework to do certain moves with his arms.

Bored with simple movements sitting in his wheelchair, he instead incorporated the exercises into his painting technique.

“We think that sped up his recovery,” Lea said.

Every day, he maneuvered his wheelchair across their gravel driveway to his shop. Instead of the power tools, Andrew worked in a smaller room outfitted with paint and brushes.

“Being in that damn wheelchair — it hindered the art,” he said.

But he filled canvas after canvas.

“Lots of Hobby Lobby trips in the wheelchair,” Lea said.

He received a prosthetic leg on Sept. 22. Although more mobile, he continued painting.

As he wrapped up his final paintings before the show opened, Andrew’s mind was clearly somewhere else — in a nearby room, where his sculptures await.

He’s been cleared to use power tools again after passing an eight-hour test that also allowed him to take a driving test.

He’s especially eyeing a life-like figure he created from wood scraps — the project he worked on the day of the accident so many months ago.

It is his version of a burning man. The final step in this piece of art is to burn it and then arrest the flames after it’s good and charred.

“I’m pretty excited to torch him,” Andrew said with a smile.



Lisa Britton/For The Baker City Herald

Andrew Gettle created this painting after a psychologist recommended Gettle’s wife, Lea, put up “Don’t Walk” signs around their home to discourage Andrew from trying to walk before his prosthetic leg was finished.



Lisa Britton/For The Baker City Herald

Andrew Gettle

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— Andrew Gettle

FORESTS

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The Eastern Oregon Counties Association was one of a number of organizations and individuals who expressed concerns about the proposed Blue Mountains Forest Plan as registered objectors.

One concern expressed by the Eastern Oregon Counties Association is how the proposed plan could reduce motorized access through road closures. Beverage said that reducing access would have many negative consequences. For example, closing roads would make it impossible for firefighters and their trucks to get to a wildfire.

“You cannot fight fires (effectively on the ground) when there are no roads,” she said.

The Union County Commissioner said that when the Forest Service closes roads, it sometimes makes them impassable by laying trees across the road.

“They do a lot more than put up gates,” Beverage said.

The Eastern Oregon Counties Association also opposes additional road closures because they would prevent people from enjoying forests for recreational purposes, including the handicapped and riders of all-terrain vehicles.

Beverage also pointed out that reduced road access would mean the remaining open roads would become more crowded. This would make visiting the forest less enjoyable and harm the accessible land, which would receive more intensive use by campers, hikers, anglers and others.

In a document submitted to the Forest Service, the Eastern Oregon Counties Association noted that the proposed plan seeks to boost elk security by 30 percent. Owens described this goal as a backdoor way of restricting forest access, and the association’s document called it “simply a surrogate for road closures.”

The Blue Mountains plan’s proposed limits on grazing were also discussed. Beverage said that grazing

“Grazing keeps forage down, preventing large fires. Cattle can be good tools for managing forests.”

— Donna Beverage, Union County commissioner

restrictions would have a number of drawbacks. For example, she said that grazing restrictions, like logging restrictions, allow fuels such as grasses to build up, making forests more susceptible to major wildfires.

“Grazing keeps forage down, preventing large fires,” Beverage said. “Cattle can be good tools for managing forests.”

Wolves were also discussed at the forum. Owens said it would be best if the forest management plans do not address wolves.

“The Forest Service does not manage wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife does,” he said.

The U.S. Forest Service will present an updated Blue Mountains Forest Plan in 2019 after considering the objections presented in the recent forums. Owens hopes that substantial changes are made and he said he has reason to be optimistic.

“The Forest Service officials at the forums) are definitely interested in our concerns,” Owens said.



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The Elkhorn Saloon and Restaurant would like to invite all the area veterans to join in the Starlight Christmas Parade and festivities in Sumpter!

Saturday, December 8th
Line up at Dusk
(at the Snow Shed)

Please call Richard at 541-894-2244 if you have any questions



Lisa Britton/For The Baker City Herald

Gettle posing beside his version of a Burning Man sculpture.

The Baker City Police Department presents

3rd Annual Drug Prevention K9 Fundraiser

Demonstration • Dinner • Auction

Saturday, December 8th

Baker City Event Center



4:00PM: Social hour with a no-host bar courtesy of Barley Brown’s Brew Pub

5:00PM: Live demonstration featuring BCPD K9 Capa and K9 Handler, Sergeant Wayne Chastain

5:30PM: Prime Rib Dinner catered by Oregon Trail Restaurant

6:30PM: Live Auction



SAVE THE DATE

- Meet Capa & the BCPD Officers!
- Kids under 6 FREE
- Silent Auction & Raffle

Key Items include:

- 2000 Watt Honda Generator & STIHL Chainsaw
- Springfield XD 9MM
- Smith & Wesson .40 cal
- BBQ Gas Grill
- 14k Yellow Gold & Blue Topaz Dangle Earrings and Pendant

Tickets \$25 for adult, \$10 for kids 12-6 and kids under 6 are free!
Tickets available at: Baker City Police Department, Barley Brown’s Tap House & Thatcher’s Ace Hardware

All money raised will go to our local Drug Prevention K9 Fund to pay for Capa’s food, training, vet check-ups & much more.

This space proudly provided by Baker City Herald