

**GOP**

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During that meeting, Republican precinct committee persons (PCP), in addition to voting to suspend the executive committee for 60 days, appointed a temporary chair, Dan Johnson, a PCP from Halfway, and Doni Bruland, a PCP from Baker City, as vice chair.

The dispute was discussed during a meeting of the Oregon Republican Party Central Committee on Saturday, Sept. 24 in The Dalles during which GOP members elected a state vice chair and addressed other business.

Johnson and Bruland attended the meeting as guests invited by the Coos County Republican Party.

So did Joanna Dixon, Baker County GOP treasurer, and Kerry McQuisten, who served as proxy for Jones, who is also McQuisten's mother.

Jones voted as Republican chair for the Second Congressional District, which includes Baker County.

During the meeting at The Dalles, Johnson questioned the credentials of Dixon, McQuisten and Jones as representing Baker County Republicans.

The Oregon Republican Party's credentials committee then convened in private to discuss the issue. The committee voted 7-0 to uphold Baker County's bylaw requiring a quorum, and recognized Dixon, McQuisten and Jones as valid representatives from Baker County.

"They violated Baker County's bylaws in July without a second thought," Dixon said in a press release that Jones sent out on Saturday afternoon. "I'm happy law and order held true today."

Johnson, in an email to Baker County PCPs, described Dixon's comment as "more inflammatory than constructive to this entire situation."

Johnson believes the situation highlights the need for Baker County Republicans to amend the bylaws to prevent, as he puts it in his email, "action by the few to refuse the will of our Committee PCPs."

"Now that we know the bylaws need mending, let's fix those issues rather than continue to blame an individual or individuals."

Johnson said members of the credentials committee also raised questions about whether the Baker County bylaw requiring a quorum of the executive committee is appropriate.

Despite the invalidation of the votes at the July 28 meeting, Johnson and other Baker County PCPs continue to pursue changes to the county bylaws and a change in leadership in the county party.

During a Sept. 15 meeting that 36 PCPs attended, a mo-

tion to recall Jones passed with 28 yes votes and eight abstentions.

That meeting, like the July 28 meeting, was deemed invalid by the state GOP credentials committee due to the lack of a quorum of the executive committee.

Johnson has also prepared a petition calling for a meeting of the Baker County GOP Central Committee to "reiterate our will to recall Suzan Ellis Jones and her Confederates whom we just recalled on Thursday, September 15, 2022."

If such a meeting happens it probably wouldn't be until November, Johnson said on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

In any case, Johnson said the recall is not his top priority, considering the Baker County Republicans are slated to meet to elect executive committee members in November.

In the meantime, Johnson said he is focusing on two other issues — promoting Republican candidates in the Nov. 8

election, and trying to change the county bylaws, and in particular the requirement that a quorum of the executive committee be present before any decisions are made.

Johnson doesn't think it's proper for a few people to be able to thwart the will of the rest of the elected PCPs.

As for the election, Johnson said he hopes all Baker County GOPs will work together to support Christine Drazan, the Republican candidate for Oregon governor, Cliff Bentz, who is running for reelection in Oregon's Second Congressional District, and JoRae Perkins, who is running against Democratic incumbent Sen. Ron Wyden.

In an email to the Herald in response to a question about candidate endorsements, Jones wrote: "County parties don't make a special motion to endorse the candidate. It isn't necessary because the party literally exists to support our nominees and values, which Baker County does."

Jones wrote that Johnson "seems focused on the politics of personal destruction, of tearing down something he didn't build, rather than getting our Republican candidates over the finish line this last month."

Following the vote at the July 28 meeting, forms were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's office listing Johnson as chairman of the executive committee.

That prompted a complaint to be filed with the state, said Ben Morris, communications director for the Secretary of State. He said the department has opened an investigation, but he didn't give any other details, including the name of the person who filed the complaint.

**Aid**

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The money will extend high-speed internet service to about 1,163 residents, 41 businesses, 70 farms and four schools in the three counties, according to the senators.

"I've been fighting for years to bring broadband to rural Oregon, and with the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world, access to reliable, affordable broadband has become more crucial than ever to the success of our workforce, students, and communities," Merkley said. "Improving and investing in access to high-speed internet — a fundamental need in today's connected world — will improve the economy, education, and quality of life for folks in Baker, Grant, and Malheur counties."

The federal aid package will help Oregon Telephone Corporation speed its plan to expand its high-speed internet coverage, said Dee Dee Kluser, the company's general manager.

"We have had plans to build

out to these remote, rural communities, and with the programs offered by USDA through the Rural Utility Service we are able to greatly accelerate our buildout timelines," Kluser said.

"We look forward to providing a reliable, robust fiber service to customers in small communities including Jun-tura, Brogan, Dayville and Unity as well as the outlying area between Mount Vernon and Dayville. We know that fiber connectivity greatly improves the standard of living, and opens up lots of new doors and opportunities for people living here."

Although Oregon Telephone Company has had fiber optic service in Unity for about a decade, there are customers in remote areas still served by copper wire, said Marcus Bott, operations manager for the company.

The federal aid will help fill in gaps in the company's high-speed network, and "allow for an improved level of service in the Unity area," Bott wrote in an email to the Baker City Herald.

**Anderson**

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He marveled at the vista, which includes the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

"Talk about a view," Anderson said.

He was impressed by the Sentinels, whose members have guarded the tomb every minute since 1937.

These soldiers are members of the 3rd Infantry Division, known as the "Old Guard."

The Sentinels wear military issue shoes that have a shank of steel on the heel that allows the shoes to make a distinctive click.

However, when Sentinels walk past veterans they briefly slide their heel on the ground, a recognition afforded only to veterans such as Anderson and the other members of the Honor Flight.

Cross said he noticed that subtle tribute.

While the Honor Flight group was at Arlington, they witnessed an interment, with the casket carried on a horse-drawn carriage, a 21-gun salute and a flyover by military jets.

"The timing was impeccable," Cross said. "It was special. The highlight for me was when (Anderson) laid the wreath."

**Other sites**

Although Anderson was comfortably ensconced in a wheelchair during much of their two busy days, he made an exception at the Lincoln Memorial.

There he climbed 58 steps. "Believe it or not I made it up there," he said. "One of my legs is not so good."

Anderson said the Lincoln Memorial is an "impressive sight" — much larger than it appears in photographs.

The Honor Flight group also toured the U.S. Capitol, where the veterans met with Congressman Cliff Bentz, the Ontario Republican whose district includes Baker County.

Bentz presented each veteran with a certificate and a folded American flag that had previously flown over the Capitol.

Cross chuckled as he notes that Bentz, when it was his turn to greet Anderson, said "I know you."

Anderson, who earned a degree in mining engineering and geology in 1950 and has been a mine manager, consultant and owner, said he has met Bentz a few times — "and I've written him many letters" — to advocate for the rights of miners to work on public land.

The group also visited the National Archives museum,



Photos by Dave Cross/Contributed Photo  
**Kenneth Anderson reads a note from a local student while flying home to Oregon from an Honor Flight tour of Washington, D.C.**



Cody Rheault/Honor Flight of Central Oregon  
**Kenneth Anderson, right examines the original copy of the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives museum in Washington, D.C.**



**Kenneth Anderson visits the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C.**

where Anderson looked at the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Anderson said the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial was "very spectacular."

The only disappointment on the trip, he said, is that it had to end.

"There's so much to see," Anderson said. "We could have spent days at each (site)."

**Red carpet treatment**

Throughout the trip, whether on an airplane, a bus or in the Sheraton Hotel where the veterans stayed, Anderson said the treatment was first class.

"I felt thoroughly honored," he said.

He said he and the other World War II veteran — who is just a month or so older than Anderson — were always at the front of the group.

Which meant, Anderson said with a laugh, that he was in a large percentage of the photographs that an Honor Flight representative took.

Anderson said the meals were top notch — including the sack lunches that the veterans had to ensure they didn't miss any prime locations.

"Those sandwiches — you never ate any like that before," he said.

To cite just one example of how well Honor Flight of Central Oregon coordinated the trip, Anderson said he accidentally forgot some med-

ications, leaving them on his kitchen table the morning he and Cross left Baker City.

When they arrived in Redmond, a doctor who traveled with the group immediately phoned Anderson's physician in Baker City and then rushed to a pharmacy to make sure he had the medicine he needed.

Cross said the doctor even took an Uber to the pharmacy. And Honor Flight paid for it all.

"It was a lovely thing," Anderson said.

"The whole thing with Honor Flight is that it's zero cost to the veteran," Cross said. "Not a nickel."

On the flight back to Oregon, Cross said there was a military-style "mail call," with thank you notes handed out.

Although all the veterans received a pile of letters, none was nearly as thick as Anderson's.

"He was inundated," Cross said.

Many of those letters were from employees at the Baker County Sheriff's Office or students at Baker schools.

Anderson said he has thanked Sheriff's Office workers, and he plans to visit local schools to tell students about his trip.

When the group landed in Redmond, they were not only welcomed, but each was also presented with a hand-stitched "quilt of valor."

Anderson said he appreciated every gesture, and every aspect of a trip that honored his service to his country more than three quarters of a century ago.

"Altogether it was very, very nice and we appreciated it."

**McCarty**

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The couples are each seeking monetary damages of at least \$250,000.

The plaintiffs contend in the lawsuit that the defendants felled trees on the Sanders property, and removed padlocks the Sanderses had installed on their cabin and replaced them with other locks, and blocked vehicle access to the couple's cabin with "one or more large obstacles in the driveway."

"They also installed new boundary posts on the Sanders Property and around the Sanders Cabin and 'no trespassing' signs that claimed the Sanders Property belonged to McCarty," the lawsuit contends.

Baker County District Attorney Greg Baxter said on Tuesday morning, Sept. 27 that the aggravated theft charge stems from the Sanderses losing access to their cabin, allegedly as a result of McCarty's actions.

The lawsuit also accuses the defendants of financial abuse and elder abuse, stating that due to the Sanderses' ages and to Sharen Sanders' disability, they are both "vulnerable people as defined in ORS 124.100(e)."

James Sanders is 69 and Sharen Sanders is 81 and

legally blind, according to the lawsuit.

McCarty is the plaintiff in another lawsuit, which he filed against Baker County in April 2021.

McCarty is asking for either a declaration that the disputed section of the Pine Creek Road crossing his 1,560-acre property is not a public right-of-way, or, if a jury concludes there is legal public access, that the limits of that access be defined and that the county pay him \$730,000 to compensate for the lost value of the land based on the legal public access and for other costs he has incurred as a result of the county's actions.

McCarty bought the property in September 2020 and installed the locked gate soon after.

Linstrom said McCarty doesn't object to people walking along the road if they call the phone number posted on the gate, but that he is concerned about people in vehicles posing a potential fire danger.

On Aug. 17 Baker County commissioners unanimously approve a resolution designating a section of Pine Creek Road as a county road open to the public.

Linstrom said McCarty intends to legally challenge the county's action.

She noted that the title report McCarty received before he bought the property,

which begins near the western edge of Baker Valley and extends up Pine Creek toward Pine Creek Reservoir, does not show a public road or any other right-of-way across the property.

In an earlier interview, Linstrom contended that the county's resolution, which is based on Oregon Revised Statutes 368-201 through 368-221 — "legalization of roads" — is not valid.

The reason, she said, is that the current road, which a surveyor hired by the county

catalogued last fall, is not the same route as what's shown in an 1891 map that commissioners had earlier proffered as evidence that the road long predates McCarty's purchase of the property in September 2020.

The resolution commissioners approved Aug. 17 deals with the section of road that starts at the eastern edge of McCarty's property and ends at the junction with another road, which leads north to the middle and upper Baisley Elkhorn mines.

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