FIRST RESPONDERS GIVE A LOOK INSIDE THE I-84 MEGA-CRASH
Unsung heroes and miracles

By Kerry McQuisten
herald@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Last weekend was marked by a huge pileup on I-84 involving dozens of vehicles, and a series of additional accidents on secondary highways across the county. Though the freeway was shut in both directions from Ontario to Pendleton most of Saturday, not a single fatality was reported. The mega-crash occurred around 4:54 a.m. at milepost 318 near Pleasant Valley when several semis traveling eastbound on black ice, collided. Lt. Don Taggart and partner Ryan Tachenko of the Baker City Fire Department were the first in a line of dedicated responders to arrive on the scene. “We were dispatched around 5 a.m.,” Taggart said. “We were initially told there were two possible patients with potential critical injuries.” When Taggart and Tachenko arrived they found conditions “extremely foggy,” he said. “There was 50 feet of visibility at best.”

They soon found that the chaos resulting from the accident itself hadn’t come to a conclusion. As the two began to set up a staging area from which to provide emergency medical services, “Two semi-trlrs by the either side of us and almost hit us,” Taggart said.

By Todd Arriola
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Lion’s Club (BCLA), an affiliate of the Oregon Lion’s Club’s (OLC), held its first monthly meeting of the year, at the Best Western Sunridge Inn, in Baker City, on Thursday.

Jacob Bingham, former Vice President of the Association for the last two years, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., his first as the newly elected President, with nearly 30 in attendance. Other officers present included Dave Martin, Vice President, and Dotty Miles, Secretary.

Martin Arriola, Treasurer, was absent.

The meeting proceeded with Lynette Perry (at left) accepting the Legacy Man of the Year award on behalf of her late husband, Doyle Perry.

State Rep. Greg Barreto and wife, Chris, stand near the entrance to the House chambers in Salem.

Inside the Oregon House

By Kerry McQuisten
herald@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Most voters don’t give a passing thought to the two months nestled between November Election Day and the January swearing-in ceremony. But for the winning candidates, those months right after the election are life-changers—particularly if you’re a first-time elected official, a newbie to Salem.

The Baker County Press spoke with Chris Barreto, wife of new State Representative Greg Barreto of Keizer, for a peak at what happens behind the scenes to new political families on both sides of the state.

Eastern Oregon. “After home-schooling for 25 years, putting thekids in a private, Christian school has been one of the biggest changes,” says Chris Barreto.

State Rep. Greg Barreto and wife, Chris, stand near the entrance to the House chambers in Salem.

One from Eastern Oregon, one from Western Oregon:
Behind the scenes with two new representatives

By Todd Arriola
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Around 100 attendees gathered at the Baker Elk Lodge on 2nd Street last Saturday for the Baker County Chamber of Commerce’s 45th Annual Awards Banquet, honoring individuals for their dedication and volunteerism in the community.

Jacob Bingham, right, is the new BCLA president.