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The Baker County Press

Friday, January 23, 2015 • Volume 2, Issue 4

TheBakerCountyPress.com • Your local weekly news source!

75¢

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FIRST RESPONDERS GIVE A LOOK INSIDE THE I-84 MEGA-CRASH

Unsung heroes and miracles



Photo courtesy of OSP.

While several were injured in the pileup near Pleasant Valley Saturday morning, there were no fatalities.

By Kerry McQuisten
News@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 Satur-

day, 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 chain reaction of 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 semis blew by either side of us and almost hit us," Taggart said.

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Cattlemen gather at Sunridge



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Jacob Bingham, right, is the new BCLA president.

By Todd Arriola
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Livestock Association (BCLA), an affiliate of the Oregon Cattleman's Association (OCA), 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 Drew Martin, Vice President, and Doty Miles, Secretary. Martin Arriola, Treasurer, was absent.

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ONE FROM EASTERN OREGON, ONE FROM WESTERN OREGON:
BEHIND THE SCENES WITH TWO NEW REPRESENTATIVES

Inside the Oregon House

By Kerry McQuisten
News@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 Cove, as well as newly elected State Representative Bill Post of Keizer, for a peek 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 the kids in a private, Christian school has been one of the biggest changes," says Chris Barreto.



Submitted Photo.

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

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Chamber of Commerce hands out awards



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Lynette Perry (at left) accepts the Legacy Man of the Year award on behalf of her late husband, Doyle Perry.

By Todd Arriola
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Around 100 attendees gathered at the Baker Elks Lodge on 2nd Street last Saturday for the Baker County Chamber of Commerce's 88th Annual Awards Banquet, honoring individuals for their dedication and volunteerism in the community.

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Friday Mostly Sunny. Fog early then mostly clear skies. High of 36, low around 26.

Saturday Rain Showers. 40% chance of rain with highs around 40. Skies clear at night with a low of 23.

Sunday Mostly Cloudy. The clouds return with temperatures in the lower 40s. Cloudy at night with a low around 30.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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