

# Local

## Turkey Federation Banquet sees record amount raised

By Todd Arriola

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Around 150 people gathered together for the 15th Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet and Fundraiser, hosted by the Baker County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), and held at the Baker City Elks Lodge on Saturday, February 7.

The banquet was the most successful one so far for the Chapter, thanks to the efforts of Committee members Bob Reedy, Al McMillan, Creg Talbott, Daryl Cockram, Nathan Hull, Dustin Hull, NWTf Regional Director Doug Abfalter of California, volunteers, sponsors and the community.

The Longbeards inspired a lively atmosphere, with the beginning of social hour, at 5 p.m. Attendees had the opportunity to view the many fundraising items, 30 of which were slated for the live auction, and 18 for the silent auction. They included donations and purchased items. They also had the opportunity to play different games, and there were many raffle items, including items specifically for the Jakes (members under 17, 22 of whom were present).

Regular sponsors for the fundraiser included Jerry and Linda McLellan, Brian and Sharon Martin, Brady Hill, Nathan Hull of The Bow Shop, Bob Reedy, Ray and Ivonne Illingsworth of Trader Ray's, Dave and Sandy McGuire of Oregon Trail Restaurant, and Chris and Donna Hefermen of North Slope Hay Company.

The table sponsors included Pattie Vanterweile of Triple C Redi-Mix Inc., Ross Bond of Baker Electric, Colleen and Wade Kaseberg of KCMB, and Pat and Liz Custer of Gentry Auto Group.

Dave and Sandy McGuire and crew of Oregon



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Austin Folkman received a \$500 scholarship from the Longbeards.

Trail Restaurant provided the catering, serving 144 people, buffet style, with a meal that included prime rib, baked potatoes, chicken strips, green salad, vegetables, french fries, and pudding.

Reedy emceed the event, periodically making announcements about sponsors, raffle items, games, etc. Reedy called local Austin Folkman up to the area by the stage to give him a \$500 scholarship check, a presentation the Longbeards make every year. Standing with Reedy and Folkman were the Hulls, McMillan, Talbott and Cockram.

Reedy introduced Abfalter, and Abfalter, from the stage, recited the Pledge of Allegiance along with the rest of the attendees. Abfalter asked the veterans in the room to stand, and they were given special coins as tokens of appreciation for their service.

Roger Nakashima, from Payette, Idaho, of Snake River Auction LLC, was at the fundraiser as auctioneer for the many live auction items. Com-

mittee members displayed the items to the attendees, walking around the room with them, as Nakashima entertained the crowd and helped to sell them.

Reedy announced winners of the different games and raffles, and one of these involved a drawing with roses purchased in order to receive a ticket. Forty-eight roses were bought, and some people improved their chances by buying multiple roses, resulting in multiple tickets. Since there were many items on the table, including a pistol for the first winner, and hats, knives, and coasters, to name a few, participants had plenty of choices.

Reedy drew winners for the items specifically for the Jakes, including a .22 caliber rifle, a BB pellet rifle, game calls, and a "Save The Habitat. Save The Hunt" NWTf sign. He drew winners for the regular raffle items also, including game calls, camping chairs, a cooler and a game blind.

All of the Jakes were called to the stage later during the event, and each

one was given a pocket knife and an NWTf water bottle, printed with the motto "Conserve. Hunt. Share."

The gross fundraising total for the banquet was \$27,092, the largest yet, according to Reedy, along with the largest attendance to date. The funds will be presented to the NWTf, and dispersed accordingly at a later date, including portions back into the local community for projects, etc. Because it's early in the year, the Longbeards aren't currently working on a conservation project, but that can soon change.

The NWTf, a nonprofit organization founded in 1973, and the leader in upland wildlife conservation in North America, is composed of sportsmen, women and children dedicated to the conservation of wild turkeys and the preservation of the nation's hunting heritage, with local chapters in every state. The NWTf has spent more than \$412 million to conserve almost 17.25 million acres of habitat.

## Nominations open for Civic Leadership Award

Long time eastern Oregon resident Peggi Timm was the driving force behind the creation of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, serving as the first President of its Board of Directors.

Peggi went on to serve numerous roles on the Board and in the greater electric cooperative community, receiving the Northwest Public Power Association Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2009. She gave back tirelessly to her community, winning the White Rose Award from the Oregon March of Dimes for women who have made a significant impact on their communities. Peggi was named Baker Woman of the Year three times and has served as Baker County Treasurer and as a City Councilor. The former President of the Oregon Trail Regional Museum, she was appointed by the US Department of the Interior to the National Advisory Board for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Peggi was instrumental in helping to bring many of our local employers to Eastern Oregon over the years and worked with state and national leaders to bring the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center to fruition. Peggi's commitment to Eastern Oregon can be seen in almost every facet of the communities she has so ceaselessly served. Peggi Timm passed away in 2013.

The 2015 Peggi Timm Civic Leadership Award will be awarded annually to a woman residing in OTEC's service territory who most exemplifies Peggi's ceaseless spirit of volunteerism to improve life in our communities. Emphasis will be placed upon recognizing individuals who have led in the creation, revitalization, and success of local organizations and institutions.

The Award: OTEC will contribute \$25,000 to a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization chosen by the recipient. The beneficiary must be based within OTEC's service territory. The award will be funded through OTEC's unclaimed capital credit account.

The Process: Nominations should be submitted to OTEC's Manager of Communications and Government Affairs by April 1, 2015. Nominations may be made by an individual or group who wishes to acknowledge the work of the nominee or by the nominee themselves. Nomination forms are available online at [www.otecc.com](http://www.otecc.com) in the "community" tab. Selection of the recipient will be made by the OTEC Board of Directors at the April Board Meeting. This year's award winner will be announced at the OTEC 2015 Annual Meeting, taking place on May 2nd in John Day, and will be communicated through OTEC's News from the Trail Newsletter.

## BHS honor roll announced

Baker High School has announced the honor roll for the first semester of this school year. Students earning a grade point average of 3.5 or above are included.

**Freshmen:** Isabella Evans, Mason Tomac, Josie Ash, KaeLee Blaylock, Kaylee Burk, Caitlyn Calaway, Emily Carter, Ashlie Chastain, Augustena Cook, Lisa Finley, Kaeli Flanagan, Chance Goertzen, Samuel Hamilton, Emily Holm, Carson Lien, Kaylan Mosser, Vicky Ortiz, Delaney Van Arsdall, Dawson Vanderwiele, Samantha Vogt, Calli Ward, Khiana White, and Melody Wiegand  
**Sophomores:** \*Micah Bradford, \*Kourtney Lehman, \*Jared Miller, \*Ryan Schwin, Josephine Bryan, Amrie Christensen, Cheyenne Christensen, Boston Colton, Zechariah Compos, Logan Dyke, Gracie Huggins, James Mazzagotte, Marcus Plumley, Elizabeth Rea, Erik Ruby, Elizabeth VanGaasbeck, Kirsten White.

**Juniors:** \*Makenna Bachman, \*Samuel Baxter, \*Megan Burk, \*Dylan Chaves, \*Porter Cline, \*Christopher Conant, \*Madison Elms, \*Adina Fast, \*Koby Hansen, \*Danielle McCauley, \*Morgan Scilacci, \*Braden Staebler-Siewell, \*Nathaniel Wright, Lena Bowers, Rab Bowers, Stella Bowers, Raelin Davis, Robinita Davis, Melissa Foltz, Naomi Forsyth, Jayden Freeman, Rachel Freeman, Dusty Gyllenberg, Cassidy Hertel, Jennifer Hoernschemeyer, Wyatt Knadle, Ashley Knoll, Emilie Kristensen, Lindsay Livingston, Sierra Mastrude, Gracie McCarrell, Hannah Myers, Hollis Robb, Emily Sandefur, Bryson Smith, Teancum Taylor, Marco Vela, Autumn Weideman, Hannah Wilson, Heather Wright.

**Seniors:** \*Kate Averett, \*Angelee Calder, \*Aria Carpenter, \*Rebekah Compos, \*Skye Crabill, \*Grant Ermovick, \*Celina Fuzi, \*Elizabeth Hardy, \*Matea Huggins, \*Michelle Lehman, \*Levi Mansuetti, \*Taitte Mendenhall, \*Tatiana O'Neal, \*Anna Payton, \*Madison Richards, \*Kaitlyn Sandefur, \*Zachary Tomac, Shannon Allen, Peter Baker, Brooke Bogardus, Michael Brady, Tobin Brown, Brooke Duby, Caroline Dudley, Austin Folkman, Michelle Freese, Taylor Gulick, Skyler Hack, Brian Johnson, Clayton LeaMaster, Brady Nelson, Mairyn Owen, Michael Parsons, Kimberlee Pettit, Stephanie Soliz, Kyle Snack, Elijah Witham.  
•Denotes a 4.0 grade point average.

## Bentz comments on current session

On Monday, February 2nd, State Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) joined his 59 legislative colleagues in the Oregon House of Representatives for the reconvening of the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session. (The Session convened formally on January 12th for Organizational Days and then adjourned until the 2nd of February).

Rep. Bentz said, "It is an honor to serve the constituents of House District 60 for this, my forth elected

term in office. At the top of my list of priorities is the protection of our water rights, improving our fire-fighting capabilities, finding ways to better manage the damage caused by drought, and protecting against the passage of laws that harm District 60."

"Also, bringing a heightened awareness of the incredible opportunities that Eastern Oregon offers the State of Oregon remains one of my most important goals, along with supporting and/or sponsoring the

65 plus bills requested by my District 60 constituents."

Challenges which are anticipated to be presented by the Democrat Majority include: the continuation of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, proposals to expand firearm background checks, replacing the gas tax with a vehicle mileage tax, automatic voter registrations through the DMV, increasing the minimum wage, and mandating paid sick leave for all Oregonians.

"I oppose, as I know most of my constituents would want me to, many of my Democrat Colleagues' concepts. However, I will need your help if we are to stop at least some of these ideas from becoming law. Contact my office if you want to be involved."

Rep. Bentz, except for infrequent weekend trips home, will remain in Salem for the duration of the 2015 Session, which will adjourn in late June or early July.

## Republicans to raffle off rifle, handgun

The Baker County Republican Central Committee has begun its annual firearms fundraiser, this year raffling off both a rifle and pistol at the same time:

a Henry, lever-action 45-70 and the Springfield XDS 9mm pistol.

Tickets are \$10 each. Only 500 tickets total will be sold. To purchase

tickets, contact any Republican precinct committee person, this newspaper at 541.519.0572, or Suzan Ellis Jones at 541.519.5035. Ace Hardware also has

tickets available, and can show the guns on display.

Drawing will take place July 19 during Miners' Jubilee.

Steve, you're the rock I lean on through life's storms.  
Love always,  
Gina.

Happy Valentine's Day, Suzan!  
Love,  
Keith

Jake, thanks for being my sweetheart!  
I love you!!!  
Tonya

I Love you,  
Honey.  
from  
Your Sweet thing

Chris, Thank you for a loving year!  
Love Kayla