



The Baker County Press

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TheBakerCountyPress.com

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Friday, May 15, 2015 • Volume 2, Issue 20

Friends of NRA raises \$9.5K for Sierra Bingham

BY KERRY McQuisten
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Last Saturday evening, the Powder River Friends of the National Rifle Association (NRA) gathered at the Elks in Baker City for their well-attended annual fund raiser.

This year's banquet was the group's fourteenth.

Toward the end of the evening, the tone of the room grew somber accord-

ing to several guests, as the announcement came that North Powder's Sierra Bingham was once again in a hospital in California awaiting a second heart transplant. Parents Jason and Stacy Bingham have enlisted the help of friend Kevin Bradford to create a new version of www.heartsforbinghams.org, which will allow for online donations to help cover medical expenses.

Three of the Bingham children—Sierra, Gage and Lindsey—have experienced or are experiencing heart failure.

A number of impressive items were donated by local individuals and businesses, one being a handgun that was won in the auction, then donated back—a process that repeated, raising money for the Binghams.

The hat was also passed

around the room, and a number of individuals who didn't win silent auction items placed money they might have spent into that hat.

\$9,500 is still an estimate of the total amount raised—the final number may have exceeded that figure, but wasn't available before this article went to print.

SEE FRIENDS OF NRA PAGE 7



Submitted Photo.

This auction item, a Stars & Stripes Guitar signed by Ted Nugent, was underwritten by Baker Aircraft.



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Officer Mike Lary performs an "arresting" balancing act with a tray of drinks, including a few kids' cups.

Inmate dies of meth overdose

• PLASTIC BAGGY FOUND IN STOMACH DURING AUTOPSY

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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On Saturday evening, 28-year-old Joshua Pantle was pronounced dead at St. Alphonsus—Baker City after showing signs of medical distress while incarcerated at the Baker County Jail.

Around 3 p.m., earlier that day, police were called to a home on Second Street, just off David Eccles in South Baker, where Pantle and two others were arrested on criminal trespass charges.

According to the Oregon State Police, at 3:30 p.m., Pantle was brought to the County Jail. At 5:43 p.m. he showed signs of medical distress while in his holding cell. Two minutes later at 5:45 p.m., an ambulance was dispatched to respond to the Baker County Jail, arriving at 5:49 p.m. At 6:07 p.m. the ambulance with Pantle as the patient arrived at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center.

SEE INMATE PAGE 9

Barley's customers Tip-a-Cop

• SECOND ANNUAL FUND-RAISER BRINGS IN \$1.5K FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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Last Thursday night the Baker City Police Department worked for tips to raise money for the Baker City Chapter #511 of the Special Olympics.

This is the second year in a row the Police Department has participated in the event.

Last year the event was held June 12 with the group raising \$2,330 with \$1,230 in tips and a check from Barley Browns of \$1,100.

This year volunteers from the department Sharon Bass, Michael Lary, Sergeant Dustin New-

man, and Reserve officers Ruthie Boyd and Justin Phlaum served up favorites to eager customers at Barley Brown's Brew Pub on Main Street from 5-8 p.m.

The group raised \$946 in tips with a \$600 donation from Barley Brown's, bringing the total to \$1546.

Local Special Olympics Treasurer Stephanie Tweit said, "Customers would walk in and have a bit of a worried look when they saw all the cops but once I explained what it was all about with the Special Olympics they instantly had a big smile and chuckled, especially the out-of-town guests. I was amazed at all the people from out of town stopping in Baker for dinner."

This year several officers new to the fundraiser from the Baker City Police Department joined the cause and Barley's was training several new



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Reserve Officer Ruthie Boyd turns in an order at the counter.

employees so it made for a quick learning process but according to Tweit, "It went very well all around."

One of the newbies to the fund raiser was reserve of-

ficer Ruthie Boyd, who has "waited tables before" and was having a blast doing it for a good cause.

SEE TIP-A-COP PAGE 3

Man leads police on mountain chase

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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• CITIZEN USES FIREARM TO HELP CAPTURE SUSPECT THE NEXT DAY

On Tuesday afternoon, residents of south Baker began reporting a white pickup truck followed by police vehicles "flying" out of the area and onto Highway 7 southbound.

SEE CHASE PAGE 9



Photo Courtesy of Dispatch.

Damon Robinson is a registered sex offender with a past record including burglary.



Friday Cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout the day. Highs in the mid 60s, chance of precipitation is 50%. Low of 43.



Saturday Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the low 60s, chance of precipitation is 40%. Low around 40.



Sunday Cloudy and warmer with a chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, chance of precipitation is 40%.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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2015 Annual Meeting Saturday, May 2 | John Day

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