

LOCAL: New sergeant, Wayne Chastain, sworn in . PAGE 9



LOCAL: Tips for beating the 100-degree heat wave. PAGE 10



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## K-9 Turbo set to retire

• FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY FOR NEW BCPD K-9

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Turbo, the Baker City Police Department's first drug-detecting K-9, has served well for the last eight years. On July 1, 10-year-old Turbo will be retiring due to the passing of measure 91 legalizing marijuana.

"Most K-9 dogs retire after about 12 years,

depending on their hips, so he's not that far off. Sometimes though, he doesn't act like he is 10 years old, but he doesn't have quite the wind that he used to," Officer Rand Weaver with the Baker County Police Department and Turbo's handler said. "The vet thought maybe he had a torn ACL here a while back, but he came out of it. I mean he was hobbling around and favoring his leg for a while but he doesn't act like it bothers him now."

Weaver, a 20-year police veteran, has been Turbo's

handler for the last six years.

When Turbo first joined the force, Sergeant Wayne Chastain was his handler. Soon after, Chastain who is a member of the National Guard, was called to active duty.

Turbo was reassigned to Mike Harris. Harris left the Baker City Police Department to relocate to La Grande and Turbo was again reassigned to Officer Weaver who has been with him ever since.

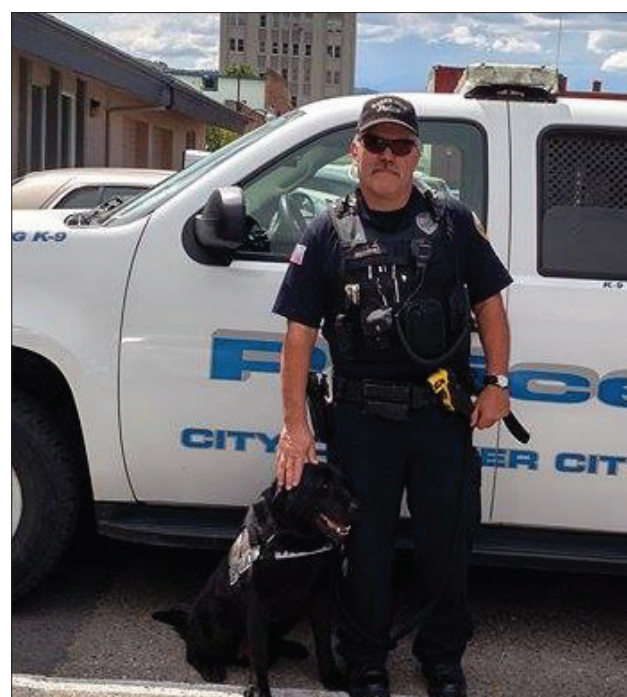
Although Turbo had already been through K-9 School, with each new

handler a two-week course was mandatory. "It was his third time there. The instructors said they ought to just have Turbo teach it," said Weaver with a laugh.

During the course, K-9 handlers learn changes of behavior in their dog when they smell one of the predetermine odors.

K-9 dogs usually start their training at six to eight months old. The type of dogs they are looking for are dogs with a lot of drive that like to retrieve because in the dog's mind, that's what he's doing.

SEE TURBO PAGE 8



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Officer Rand Weaver stands with soon-to-be-retired Turbo outside the Police Department.



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Whit Deschner adds a moment of levity after the official unveiling of the bronze salt lick sculpture.

## Bronze salt lick dedication

• FORD FAMILY 4TH COHORT AND HBC SPONSOR WEEKEND EVENT

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Last Saturday's event had been almost two years in the making—Baker City's community was invited to the dedication of the bronze salt lick sculpture by Whit Deschner from 4-6 p.m. in Court Plaza.

Deschner crafted the bronze sculpture as a way to raise awareness for Parkinson's disease. Deschner is also actively involved with the annual Great Salt Lick Auction where all proceeds go toward Parkinson's research.

Saturday's community event had food, music provided by Terry Lamont and Monica Paul and lots and lots of smiles.

Historic Baker City (HBC) and The Ford Leadership 4th Cohort sponsored the event with HBC Program Manager Jeff Nelson laughing as he perused the crowd.

"Hey, we've got a bronze salt lick, we can do anything!" Nelson said. "This project began almost two years ago and we are finally getting her done. Of course we're not even close to finished with the Court Street Plaza. The City budget was just passed and it will go to the Parks Committee. There was a design made up about 10 years ago. We are going to kind of copy that, but they had a fountain in the middle and some other stuff we won't

do. The plan just isn't finalized yet. Hopefully, I want to make this (the street) all brick and have planters along the sides. But we still have to keep room to bring trucks in for the Christmas Tree—so that's one of our main obstacles."

As the crowd grew, Nelson addressed everyone saying, "I'd like to thank you all for coming out today. Enjoy this great day, the great music and all the great food."

After most of the crowd had prepared their plates and eaten, Nelson introduced Maurizio Valerio of the Rural Development Institute. "He has brought so much to Baker City with his coaching and mentoring. Let's give a big round of applause for Maurizio Valerio."

Valerio humbly took his place at the microphone. "A couple of things. First I'd like to thank the Ford Family 4th Cohort and second, I've had many of you asking 'Can we purchase these shirts?' Jeff is working on it."

Valerio laughed referring to shirts provided for those directly involved in the salt lick dedication, HBC members and the Ford Family Leadership.

He said, "As we unveil this project there are a couple special things about this. We see a lot of these kinds of projects going. This project is particularly important to this community, helping our own town. This bronze was one of the salt licks that were actually sold in the past at one of the auctions, which we have every year."

With that Valerio began a countdown to the unveiling of the bronze salt lick.

SEE SALT LICK PAGE 10

## WWNF completes Subpart A draft

• MORE CONTROVERSY ENSUES AS DOCUMENT REQUESTS ARE DENIED

BY BRIAN ADDISON  
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Forest Service Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) Supervisor Tom Montoya thinks the newly revised Blue Mountain Forest Management Plan, the document guiding all activities on the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur national forests, will be completed and signed by the Region 6 Regional Forester sometime around the end of 2016.

Concurrently with the development the forest plan revision, the United States Forest Service (USFS) staff continues work on the Travel Management Plan Subpart A in the WWNF based on the existing 1990 Blue Mountain Forest Management Plan.

SEE WWNF SUBPART A PAGE 11

## Locals rise up through GOP ranks

• TWO BAKER COUNTY WOMEN JOIN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2 TEAM

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Two Baker County women, Carole Dyke of Baker City and Suzan Ellis Jones of Bridgeport, recently took a major step up the political ladder, becoming part of the Congressional District 2 (CD2) executive team.

Jones is the Chair of the Baker County Republican Central Committee and Dyke serves as Corresponding Secretary in that same group.

Last Friday, with a midnight deadline, Jones was elected by 85% of the votes cast by county chairs in that district to become CD2 Alternate Chair, defeating Dennis Linthicum, a former Klamath County Commissioner who ran against Rep. Greg Walden for that congressional position in the last election. Three other candidates also ran for the Alternate Chair position.

SEE GOP PAGE 5

	Friday	Sunny and hot, highs in the mid 90s. Mostly clear and mild at night with lows in the upper 50s.
	Saturday	Sunny and hot, highs creeping up around 100. Lows around 60 at night.
	Sunday	Sunny with blistering heat. Highs in the low 100s. Chance of spotty shower or thunderstorm is 20%. Lows at night in the low-60s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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