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Inside the first GOP presidential debate

• A VIEW BEHIND THE SCENES

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The GOP's first presidential debate was held August 6 at Cavaliers Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio. With ten top-polling candidates on stage, the gathering was not without controversy—and also not without eastern Oregon representation.

Cove's Rep. Greg Barreto and wife, Chris, who also serves as his legislative assistant, flew from Oregon to attend, as did Oregon Republican Party (ORP) Chair Bill Currier and ORP's National Committeeman Solomon Yue, all of whom have spent time in Baker City on multiple occasions. Rounding out the group from Oregon was ORP's National Committee woman, Donna Cain. "It was loud and noisy, but great!" said Chris Bar-

reto. "We couldn't ask for better seats. We had a great view of the candidates, Fox News, and the audience." Yue is a member of the RNC Primary Presidential Debates committee. "My committee succeeded in two ways," said Yue. "First, we limited total debates to 11—five in 2015 and six in 2016—and second, we increased the first debate audience size to 24 million for the first time in both parties'

primary debate history." Yue added, "However, we couldn't reduce the number of total debate participants (on the stage)." The candidates in the 5 p.m. primetime debate were: Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Mike Huckabee, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Chris Christie, and John Kasich. The moderators were Bret Baier, Megyn Kelly, and Chris Wallace. SEE DEBATE PAGE 8



Submitted Photo. Cove's Rep. Greg Barreto (right) meets candidate John Kasich before the debate aired.



Brian Addison / The Baker County Press

The Cornet Fire, visible from Hwy. 7, created a level-three evacuation for Stices Gulch and other areas of the county, sending residents out of their homes.

Baker County burns

• TWO LARGE FIRES IGNITE ON DOOLEY, DOWN BURNT RIVER CANYON

BY BRIAN ADDISON and KERRY McQUISTEN
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

A fast-moving thunderstorm moved through Baker County August 10th, and left in its wake several presumed lightning-sparked fires, two of which grew into large fires in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest including the Cornet Fire initially 19 miles south of Baker City and about seven miles east of Hereford. The Cornet Fire was first listed as a fairly small affair, charring about 243 acres on August 10th, but exploded over the next 24 hours reaching around 15,000 acres by Thursday and filling Baker Valley with dark smoke and threatening structures. At the same time, the Windy Ridge fire down Burnt River Canyon flared to over 10,000 acres, sandwiching Bridgeport Valley between the two fires. By 1 p.m. Wednesday, residents of Stices Gulch on Dooley Mountain were evacuated, their homes and safety in immediate danger. This was the first of many county evacuations to come—more than two dozen homes early on. The Cornet Fire was considered "extreme fire behavior with uphill runs and group torching," according to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. SEE BAKER COUNTY BURNS PAGE 12



Submitted by Suzan Ellis Jones

The Cornet Fire crests with flames visible from Bridgeport at the foot of Dooley Mountain at the home of Ann Racey, burning down to Hwy. 245.

How Portland's Metro affects eastern Oregon

• POTENTIAL BALLOT INITIATIVE ADVOCATES FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF LAND PLANNING ISSUES

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Les Poole, a planning commissioner from Gladstone, is on a tour of his old stomping grounds in eastern Oregon. His purpose? To collect signatures on a petition for a statewide ballot initiative in 2016, which will focus on local control of land use and transportation planning. Poole, along with chief petitioner, Eugene Schoenheit, and others, hopes to combat former governor John Kitzhaber's "Regional Solutions," a concept now picked up by current Governor Kate Brown, which would mirror Portland Metro's controversial model across other areas of Oregon—including eastern Oregon. SEE METRO PAGE 5

Sumpter shakeup

• RECALL PETITIONS MOVE FORWARD IN PROCESS, ONE COUNCIL MEMBER RESIGNS DURING MEETING

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
Meghan@TheBakerCountyPress.com

More recall elections will proceed in the City of Sumpter, as recall petitions on Council members Toni Thompson, Ada Oakley, and G. LeAnne Woolf were turned in and signatures verified by County Clerk Cindy Carpenter this week. Ballots will be mailed August 26th and are due back by 8 p.m. on September 15th. The Chief Petitioner on the petition to recall Oakley is Sumpter Mayor Melissa Findley. Her statement in demand of recall states that Oakley has contributed virtually nothing to City Council, voted blindly for sewer and water rate increases, opposed recording City meetings, and changed the nature and size of her residence without the proper building permits. SEE SUMPTER SHAKEUP PAGE 5

	Friday	Smoky. Sunny and not as hot as the rest of the week. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 40s.
	Saturday	Sunny and cooler still. Highs near 80. Mostly clear at night with lows in the upper 40s.
	Sunday	Sunny and warming up again. Highs in the mid 80s. Mostly clear with lows in the mid 40s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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