



# The Baker County Press

75¢

TheBakerCountyPress.com

All local. All relevant. Every Friday.

Friday, January 29, 2016 • Volume 3, Issue 5

## X-Drive goes back in studio for movie soundtrack

• **LOCAL GUITARIST AT CENTER OF NEW MUSIC DEAL**

BY **KERRY McQUISTEN**  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

In August of 2014, Baker City native and Baker High School grad, Jeremy Brunner, along with a power-packed lineup of rock industry veterans, released their first CD together as

the band X-Drive.

Now Brunner is back in the studio—in Boise this time instead of Los Angeles—recording a handful of covers, as well as some original material, for an upcoming movie soundtrack.

“I signed a nondisclosure agreement,” said Brunner. “So I can’t comment further on the songs or the soundtrack except to say that’s what we’re working on.”

The 2014 CD, “Get Your

Rock On,” has a sound reminiscent of 80s rock—a sound that garnered the attention of a new producer and at least one movie director.

As for X-Drive, Brunner is the band’s songsmith and guitarist. He’s normally joined by bassist James Lomenzo from White Lion, singer Keith St. John from Montrose, and finishing out the group, drummer Fred Fischer from Midline. If Lomenzo’s name sounds familiar, it might

be because in addition to White Lion, he also played for John Fogerty, David Lee Roth, Ozzy Osbourne, Megadeth and Black Label Society. Lomenzo’s tour schedule with Fogerty this year has precluded him from joining in the recording session in Boise, says Brunner.

“Keith and I are in talks with a new bassist who is yet to be announced,” he said.

SEE **X-DRIVE** PAGE 8



Submitted Photo.

Jeremy Brunner is back in a Boise recording studio working on material for a movie soundtrack.

## Council gets K9 demo



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Officer Coleton Smith shows off Capa’s new K9 badge, which was donated by Billie Jo Deal, at right.

• **TRAIN WHISTLE QUIET ZONE ALSO KEY TOPIC AT TUESDAY’S CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

BY **GINA K. SWARTZ**  
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Tuesday’s City Council meeting was called to order promptly with a full house, then moved into a very full agenda made a little livelier with a demonstration from the Police Department’s new drug dog, Capa.

The Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were led by Rosemary Abell. She stated, “As we move into 2016, an election, year I thought it would be good to think about leadership in terms of what unites us rather than what divides us. I’m talking about our core values, things like integrity, service, authenticity, love, family all of those things that we value.”

The consent agenda was then unanimously adopted with all councilors present.

Citizen’s Participation was called for, and Brian Vegter stepped forward to present Council with a framed jersey signed by last years’ winners of the Baker City Cycling Classic. He thanked Council for support over the last 14 years. Council then turned to their lengthy agenda.

SEE **CITY COUNCIL** PAGE 10



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Capa alerts, finding a drug scent under City Manager Mike Kee during a demonstration.

## Blood is shed in Harney County



Submitted Photo.

LaVoy Finicum was killed Tuesday evening on his way to a meeting in John Day.

BY **KERRY McQUISTEN**  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge 30 miles outside Burns was marked by bloodshed early Tuesday evening with the shooting death of Robert LaVoy Finicum, age 55.

Finicum, an Arizona-based rancher and father of 11 foster children, was one of approximately 40 members of a group, led by Ammon Bundy, to take over the Refuge following the January 2 rally in Burns to support the Hammonds family. Two members of that family were sentenced to five years in prison on arson charges falling under a 1996 domestic terrorism act after burning approximately 130 acres of publicly managed lands. The imprisonment triggered public outrage.

Bundy and Finicum stated multiple goals, including launching the Hammonds’ situation into the realm of national media attention, and then the hope of convincing the Federal government to release control of those lands back to state or county-level control.

Nearly a month into the occupation, the situation had remained without confrontation prior to this week.

On Tuesday, two vehicles from the Refuge, including a truck driven by Finicum, were en route along Highway 395 between Burns and John Day. Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer was facilitating a community meeting in John Day at which he hoped to mediate compromise.

SEE **HARNEY COUNTY** PAGE 12

	<b>Friday</b>	Cloudy with a high around 40 and snow likely before 10 am, followed by rain in the afternoon. Southeast winds around 10-15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70%. Low around 24.
	<b>Saturday</b>	Mostly cloudy with a high around 36 and a 20% chance of isolated snow showers. West winds around 5-10 mph. Lows near 16.
	<b>Sunday</b>	Mostly cloudy with a high around 33 and a 20% chance of snow showers. North winds around 3-8 mph. Low around 19 with wind chill 5-9.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

NRAC meets	Page 3
5J reps attend Econ Dev Board mtg.	Page 5
The Outdoor Column	Page 7
YMCA hosts cancer survivor group	Page 9
'Enhanced Friday' 5J controversy	Page 9
Huntington celebrates 125th BD	Page 11