



The Baker County Press

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What is BCVIBE?

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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A BCVIBE (short for Baker County Vibrancy) meeting was held Thursday in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, in order to discuss plans for attracting people and businesses to the community, and to discuss the scope of work for the position of Facilitator, a role yet to be created.

Attendance included Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey, Baker City Manager Mike Kee, Baker Technical Institute (BTI) Director Jerry Peacock, Baker County

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Shelly Cutler, Baker County Economic Development Director Greg Smith, Smith's assistants Julee Smith, and Phil Scheuers, Baker City Council member Sandy Lewis, Baker City Council member Dan Lowe, Historic Baker City (HBC) President Larry Abell, Baker City Council member Rosemary Abell, Baker County Economic Development Council (EDC) Chair Craig Ward, Baker Heritage Museum Director Lea Hoover Gettle, Dot & Rosie owner Chris Parker, Short Term Gallery co-owner Brian Vegter, Burnt

River Irrigation District Chairman Lynn Shumway, Business Oregon Business Development Officer Melisa Drugee, Catalyst Consultant/Grant Writer Kat Davis, Crossroads Art Center Executive Director Ginger Savage, and Baker County Library Director Perry Stokes.

Kee began the discussion, by speaking about the aging population of the county, displaying graphs with statistics, and stating that increases in the local population will be dependent upon migration from other locales.

SEE BCVIBE PAGE 7



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A group of City and County officials and other interested parties gathered at the courthouse to discuss the "BCVIBE" idea.

A night of politics



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Congressman Greg Walden and State Representative Cliff Bentz hold a Ken Helgerson Bronc and Bull Riding art print, which was one of the oral auction items at Saturday's fundraising banquet.

• ANNUAL BAKER COUNTY REPUBLICAN BANQUET SEES LARGE TURNOUT

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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The Baker County Republicans hosted their annual spring banquet last Saturday night at the Elks Lodge. As always, the event, which included a prime rib dinner, oral and silent auctions, and door prizes, filled the banquet room with around 150 in attendance.

Chair Suzan Ellis Jones said that this year was record-breaking in terms of the generosity of local businesses.

Said Jones, "The outpouring of donated prizes and auction items was incredible this year. Business owners across the county got behind our event and expressed their support of our positions and candidates in an amazing way. The feedback was very humbling."

Congressman Greg Walden continued his tradition as keynote speaker for the event. Rep. Cliff Bentz and wife, veterinarian Lindsey Bentz, travelled from Ontario to attend as well.

From the west side of the state, Senatorial candidates Mark Callahan and Dan Laschober attended, each hoping to make it through the GOP primary in order to face off against incumbent Sen. Ron Wyden in the fall.

SEE REPUBLICAN ANNUAL BANQUET PAGE 5



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Precinct Committee People Peggie and Jim Longwell signed in guests at the door.

BCPD hires new officer

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Johnathan Stanley is starting as the Baker City Police Department's newest officer on April 20, 2016.

Roughly one month after his start date, Stanley will attend the academy in Salem, which is a 16-week course.

Stanley currently lives in Middleton, Idaho, and works for Garden City, Idaho public works in the water department.

According to Lt. Dustin Newman, Stanley comes to Baker City with no prior experience, but grew up with a mother who was a Deputy Sheriff in Douglas County, Oregon. Stanley's wife also has family in the local area.



Photo courtesy of the BCPD.

Johnathan Stanley.

Haines PCP race no longer a competition

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Two Precinct Committee Person (PCP) slots, both Republican, both representing the Haines Precinct, at first looked like competition after all candidates filed earlier this month. But now that competition is down to one slot—that of Kurt Lewis versus Tim Kerns.

Lorrie Harvey had initially filed to run against Connie Pound Lewis for the PCP slot reserved for women, but says she never intended on a competition. When Harvey learned Lewis had also filed, she sought to withdraw her name, only to learn from the County Clerk's Office that it was a tad too late—her name had already gone to the ballot.

Harvey is tossing her support behind Lewis.

Harvey said, "I have nothing but respect for both Connie and Kurt and believe they will make a superb team in representing my home precinct. I was hoping to withdraw my name from the ballot but was unable to due to ballots already being printed. I look forward to both Kurt and Connie winning this position and ask everyone to vote for the Lewises in this primary."

Friday Mostly cloudy with snow showers possible. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Highs in the low 40s. Lows in the mid-20s.

Saturday Mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 40s. Lows near 30 at night.

Sunday Increasing clouds and mild temperatures. Showers possible late. Highs in the lower 50s. Chance of precipitation 30%. Lows at freezing.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Sumpter Museum's new exhibit	Page 2
NRAC: Feds and wildfires, etc.	Page 3
Police investigate stabbing	Page 5
Spring prescribed burns	Page 7
City rate hike, community dev job?	Page 8
Dooley salvage logging	Page 10

