

# Local

## Republican annual banquet

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During dinner, Jones gave a presentation of photos from last summer's wildfires—a presentation similar to the one she gave at the Oregon Republican Party's platform convention last year.

Dennis Richardson, candidate for Secretary of State, and Bruce Cuff, gubernatorial candidate, each sent video messages as they were unable to attend.

Callahan and Laschober each spoke, each hoping to defeat each other and the rest of the slate of Republican candidates in order to advance to the fall general election to face off against Sen. Ron Wyden.

Callahan said, "I just don't give up." Callahan ran against a slate of Republican candidates in the last election, losing to Monica Wehby, who in turn failed to unseat incumbent senator Jeff Merkley.

"Our country was founded as a constitutional republic," Callahan said, "and Ron Wyden has been voting wrong." He went on to cite instances in Wyden's voting record during which the senator had voted against second amendment rights, such as during his 2013 support of the United Nations Arms Trade Agreement. "Ladies and gentlemen, that just isn't acceptable."

He called Wyden and the other who voted for that agreement traitors, which earned a round of applause.

Callahan said the futures of his two daughters motivate him to keep running for office.

Laschober spoke to the crowd next, stating that for the past year and a half he has put his business completely on hold in order to campaign.

Laschober worked for a large global corporation abroad for several years focusing on IT and finance, before settling permanently with his wife and two kids in Portland. He has now run a software and general finance consulting practice for almost seven years.

Kody Justus and Jeff Nelson (who doubled as microphone technical support) also spoke to the audience.

Both men are seeking the part-time County Commissioner position, position #1, soon to be vacated by Tim Kerns. A third candidate, Bruce Nichols, was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Justus's background is both military and agricultural. He's a local area rancher and member of the County's Natural Resources Advisory Committee.

Nelson operated the Baker City Clothes Outlet for years, and has served as downtown manager for Historic Baker City. He currently advises small businesses via his position at Blue Mountain Community College.

Justus said, "I'm running because I see an erosion of basic rights." A fiscal and social conservative, Justus says his decisions would empower locals.

Nelson said, "I will fight for small business ... I will fight against big government on their overreach of public lands."

Rep. Cliff Bentz took the podium, a little worse for



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L-R: Suzan Ellis Jones, auctioneer Mib Dailey and Congressman Greg Walden begin the oral auction.

the wear after spearheading the battle against the minimum wage hike, which was just pushed through Salem along party lines during the recent short session.

Bentz spoke about the issue currently on his mind: the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument, which would seize half the land in Malheur County, where he resides, and move it under Federal control. Bentz said, "We are hoping we're making some sort of progress."

Bentz used humor to keep guests laughing, and said this presidential election was proof of something his mom had told him as a kid—that anyone could grow up to be president.

While he spoke briefly on Federal issues, he also said he couldn't emphasize enough "how far to the left Oregon lurched this year." He stated that nationally, the Democratic party has selected Oregon as the "bellwether" for socialist programs and movements.

He stated that in Salem, the Democrats needed 36 votes in order to pass new taxes, but with only 35 and Republicans holding together against new taxes, Democrats turned to mandates such as the minimum wage hike.

Bentz then handed the mic back over to Jones who introduced keynote speaker U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, who flies to Oregon from D.C. nearly every weekend, was the evening's keynote speaker—a tradition several years running.

Walden said, "It's always a delight to come to Baker County."

He spoke to the theme, "Elections have consequences," and encouraged voters to actually vote. He asked those in the room to imagine a scenario in which Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders was president, the House and Senate were overturned, and Nancy Pelosi became speaker once more.

He talked about federal mismanagement of public lands, stating the original intent was to protect resources for use of the people. Now, he said, "It's do nothing. Let it burn. Do nothing. Let it burn. Do nothing again." He said good stewardship is about creating jobs in the woods and logging the trees while they still have value.

Walden said he would love to have a Republican senator from Oregon who could pick up the work done in the House and carry it over into the Senate. "I don't have that partner now," he said.



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Senate candidate Dan Laschober hopes to defeat incumbent Ron Wyden.



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Senate candidate Mark Callahan also hopes to challenge Wyden in the fall.



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Baker County Commissioner candidate Kody Justus.



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Baker County Commissioner candidate Jeff Nelson.

## Local police investigate stabbing

According to Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner Wednesday, his department is investigating an altercation between two adult males and one juvenile male, which occurred at 3305 1/2 14th Street in Baker City on March 19th at about 11:30 p.m.

This incident resulted in one of the adult males being transported to St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City for an apparent knife wound. That individual was treated and released.

An adult female and a juvenile female were also present during this incident and are cooperating with the investigation.

Due to the active investigation and involvement of juveniles, any additional information will only be released through the District Attorney's Office at a future date.

## Cemetery maintenance planned

The City's maintenance contractor, Grass Master, will soon be doing spring cleanup and grounds maintenance work at the Mt. Hope Cemetery, including removal of deteriorated decorations, flowers, floral designs, thatching, edging, fertilizing, and weed spraying, weather permitting.

This work is scheduled for April 5 through April 29, 2016.

The City asks families to remove any decorative items, flowers, etc. prior to April 6, 2015.

Please note that decorative items not removed from graves and headstones by that date will be collected by the contractor beginning on that date.

Collected items, other than perishable or deteriorated items, will be stored until claimed or until November 1, 2016. Items conforming to the cemetery rules may be placed on or returned to the graves beginning on April 30, 2015.

A copy of the Mt. Hope Cemetery Rules is available on the city's website, [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com).

## Fatal shooting on Umatilla Reservation

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, at approximately 5:30 am, Umatilla Tribal Police received a report that there had been a shooting on the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation. They found a 27-year old man, Anthony Jimenez of Pendleton, had been shot. He was transported to a regional hospital, but died of his injuries. Jimenez is a non-tribal member.

A second adult man was also shot and transported to a regional hospital where he is listed in serious condition. This man is a tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Shortly after the incident, the Umatilla Tribal Police detained a California man, Victor Contreras, age 23. Following an investigation by the Umatilla Tribal Police and the FBI, agents made a probable cause arrest of Contreras and lodged him in the Umatilla County Jail. Contreras will be transported to Portland on Monday, March 21, 2016, to make an initial appearance before a federal magistrate. Contreras is a non-tribal member.

The investigation is continuing.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Assistant United States Attorney Scott Kerin is prosecuting this case.

## Quit smoking for free

Baker City is excited to offer Baker County residents a free tobacco cessation program. This is a four day course Monday April 11th – Thursday April 14th, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This will be held at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center – Baker City in the Powder River Conference Room. To register call today 208-367-5864. Space is limited so register now.

Nancy Caspersen is a Registered Nurse, Tobacco Cessation Specialist and ex-smoker. She has been studying tobacco and educating tobacco users for over 20 years. Nancy has helped and educated over 10,000 smokers and tobacco chewers in her live class. Her new DVD program has been getting rave reviews from the medical profession as well as smokers and chewers who have been given the knowledge and the inspiration they need to quit.

When participants complete the live four-evening program they will receive the Quit with Nancy DVD program for free. This DVD program sells for \$350 on Amazon.