



The Baker County Press

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Three interview for City Manager

• INTERVIEWS, MEET AND GREET HELD THIS WEEK

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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After some of the final candidates for the City Manager position, soon to be vacated by retiring Mike Kee, either dropped out of the running or accepted other positions, three remaining candidates interviewed in front of City Council early in the week.

The three finalists also attended a meet and greet Monday afternoon, which was open to the public.

Only one member of the public who was unaffiliated with the City or a candidate attended, as did various City staff and department heads.

Interviewed were:

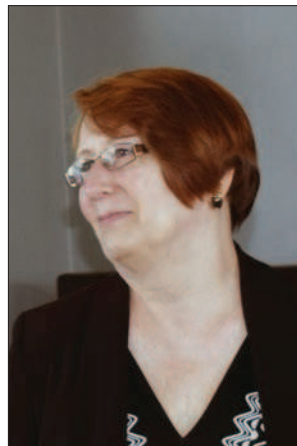
• Cheryl Beatty—Currently the Assistant City Manager/Finance Director of the City of Junction City, Kansas. She has held several other City Administrator positions since 1997. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

• Jim Nichols—Formerly the County Manager of Douglas County, Nevada. He has held several Manager and Assistant Manager positions dating back to

2005. He has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering as well as a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

• Fred Warner Jr.—Currently employed by Nelson Real Estate, Baker City. He held the position of Baker County Chair from 2003-2014. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Though not confirmed by any member of City Council, speculation has quickly spread through town that one of these candidates has already been selected as the top candidate, and the hiring process may have already entered the negotiation phase.



Kerry McQuisten/
The Baker County Press
Cheryl Beatty.

Regardless, outgoing City Manager Mike Kee stated he anticipates a contract could appear on an agenda as soon as the May



Kerry McQuisten/
The Baker County Press
Jim Nichols.

24th Council meeting. On Wednesday afternoon, the City announced in a press release that it has an executive session



Kerry McQuisten/
The Baker County Press
Fred Warner, Jr.

scheduled for Thursday at 5:45 p.m. "to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent."

Greater Bowen Valley Rural Fire holds open house



Meghan Andersch/ The Baker County Press

Future firefighter Gabriel Jensen says goodbye to his mom before heading out to the scene of a fire.

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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The Greater Bowen Valley Rural Fire Prevention District hosted an open house on Saturday, May 7th. Besides grilled burgers and dogs, drinks, and sides, the event featured information on fire alarm installation and fire safety, and offered giveaways for kids and adults.

Beautiful blue skies and warm temperatures had the kids running outside, flinging flying discs, and clambering over the fire trucks. Tables set up inside the building gave ample space for the adults to sit and visit.

A sign-up for smoke alarms was available. These are provided and installed free of charge to community residents. Anyone in need of smoke alarms can contact their local Fire Department or the Red Cross. Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years.

Many of the Department members mentioned the need for more volunteers. Tabitha Jensen said she lives on the far side of Baker City, so has a 20 or more minute response time to a call out. Volunteers for the Department live locally and throughout the district. Jensen said it would be nice to have more volunteers in the local area to cut down the response time for emergencies. The department has been providing services to the Bowen Valley area from Baker City to Phillips Lake since 2001.

SEE GREATER BOWEN VALLEY PAGE 5



Meghan Andersch/ The Baker County Press

Tabitha Jensen explains the free fire alarm program.

911 calls not being recorded

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held an emergency, regular session on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 10 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, in order to address the critical issue of Baker County 911 Consolidated Dispatch Center's failed Stencil Recorder, which has been inoperable since Monday, according to newly hired Center Director, Hope Lindsey.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Tim Kerns, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Lindsey passed out copies of a staff report she prepared, and proceeded to explain the emergency situation: all incoming 911 calls, administrative calls, and radio traffic could not be recorded with the Center's equipment. Since Lindsey began work as Director in February, she said that the recorder has been experiencing issues, and had completely failed to function on Monday evening.

SEE 911 PAGE 8

Water rates go up 11.2%

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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• CITIZEN RECOMMENDS AXING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO SAVE \$500K

It wasn't the 17.5%, 19% or even the 25% water rate increase that had been tossed around over the past month, but in the end, City Council still voted to increase Baker City water rates by 11.2% total. The increase means a 10% jump in base and usage rates, with an additional 1.2% increase to adjust for inflation.

Councilor Richard Langrell presented the lone vote against the rate hike.

Councilors Lewis and Lowe were absent for the vote. The idea of a water rate increase is consistently unpopular among Baker City residents, many of whom are on a limited budget and fixed income. The councilors who were present at Tuesday's meeting, and Mayor Kim Mosier, indicated many of those citizens had called or emailed to express their concerns.

SEE WATER RATES PAGE 5

Friday Sunny and warm. Highs in the mid 80s. Mostly cloudy with a chance for showers. Chance of precipitation is 20%. Lows in the upper 40s.

Saturday Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and storms. Highs in the upper 70s. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Sunday Mostly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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