

# 2016: A Year in Review

## January

### Lieutenant accepted into FBI training academy

For the first time at the Baker City Police Department (BCPD), one of its officers has been accepted into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Lt. Dustin Newman will travel east to attend the 10-week training program this summer.

### High-speed chase leads to crash across from OSP

“It was apparent the suspect did not slow down when he went through the 10th Street intersection and we are extremely fortunate that cross traffic was not struck as well,” said Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner.

On December 23, last Wednesday, a high-speed chase that led the Oregon State Police (OSP) in pursuit of a vehicle on I-84, ended with that same vehicle crashing into two other vehicles and coming to rest right across the street from the OSP office on Pocahontas Road in Baker City.

### A \$15 minimum wage?

\$9.25 per hour. That’s the current minimum wage in Oregon. That translates to around \$20,000 per year.

Tuesday evening Representative Cliff Bentz hosted a town hall meeting at the Sunridge Inn to discuss proposals to hike Oregon’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour over the next three years.

Bentz is against this

proposal.

### Hammonds Imprisoned

On Monday, Harney County ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond, ages 73 and 46, turned themselves in to Federal authorities and were transported to prison in California. The father and son were required to purchase their own airline tickets, but have been allowed to share the same cell.

### Lawsuit filed against gray wolf delisting

On November 9, 2015, the Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Commission, with a vote of 4-2, removed the Gray Wolf from the List of Endangered Species, under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

In response, on December 30, 2015, Cascadia Wildlands, the Center For Biological Diversity, and Oregon Wild collectively filed a legal challenge to that decision.

### New Council Member

Daniel Lowe was unanimously appointed to fill a vacancy on Baker City Council.

### Lohner elected to OACP position

Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner was elected Tuesday morning to the District 15 Director position for the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), serving the northeast Oregon area.

### Cradle to Career Event



Submitted Photo.

Hammonds: A row of flags adorning the route of the support rally.

### held

Over 100 people from Baker, Union, Grant, Harney, Umatilla and Malheur counties as well as OSBA (Oregon School Board Association) representatives Jim Green and Morgan Allen, gathered together with legislators or staff representatives of legislators at a 5J-hosted event Tuesday.

### Justus runs for Commissioner

Baker County rancher Kody Justus announced today that he will file with the Baker County Clerk by Friday afternoon for a run at the open County Commissioner seat vacated by Tim Kerns.

### X-Drive gets new gig

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.

### Blood shed in Harney County

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.

## February

### Hoopes challenges Ash for Sheriff’s position

On Wednesday, long-time Sheriff’s Deputy John Hoopes announced that he will be filing this week, challenging Sheriff Travis Ash for that position in the upcoming May election.

### New 911 Call Center director hired

Baker County announced this week that Hope Lindsey has been named Director of the Baker County 911 Consolidated Dispatch Center.

### 70 mph speed limit coming in March

With the passing of House Bill 3402, parts of Oregon will see a speed limit increase. There will be an increase from 65 to 70 on Interstate 84 from The Dalles to the Idaho border and the limit will bump up to 65 on several secondary highways in Central and Eastern Oregon, including portions of U.S. 20, U.S. 26, U.S. 95, U.S. 97, U.S. 197, U.S. 395, OR 31, OR 78 and OR 205.

### Three charged in pathway assault

Jason David Brown of Baker City and out-of-state friends, Christopher Wade Wymbs and Bryan William Morris have all been formally indicted on two counts each of Assault in the Fourth Degree for their involvement in an assault that happened November 14, 2015, on the Leo Adler Pathway behind Ace Hardware.

### Two arrested for robbery at knife point

Last Friday afternoon, Brandy Lee-Ann Winston, 20, and John (Tucker)

Scott Urlacher, 20, were arrested at their apartment on Indiana Avenue in connection with an armed robbery that occurred the previous night at the Baker Truck Corral.

According to Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, at least one of the suspects held an adult female victim at knife point in the Truck Corral ladies restroom.

### Love of country at center of Rural Lives Matter rally

The temperature was just above freezing, and the venue had been redefined at the last minute—but those obstacles didn’t stop a group of just over 80 individuals from attending the Rural Lives Matter Rally a couple miles outside Halfway.

### Bike chop shop busted

Sunday morning was an eventful one for neighbors on Kirkway Drive, who at 7:45 a.m., looked out their windows to see the police descend on the residence of Justin Bruce and his mother.

The scene as described by Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner that brisk morning, was that of a “bicycle chop shop.”

### Three to run for Commissioner seat

Local rancher and Natural Resources Advisory Committee member Kody Justus filed first, followed by local CPA Bruce Nichols. Retired Bureau of Land Management employee David Hunsaker also picked up his paperwork to file, but withdrew from the race last week, citing a pending double knee surgery.

On Wednesday, Jeff

Nelson of Historic Baker City and Blue Mountain Community College’s economic development program became the latest candidate to file.

All three candidates are running on the Republican ticket this May.

### Merrill leaves BHS principal position

Baker High School Principal Benjamin Merrill is moving to a new position within the Baker 5J School District. Merrill will take on a new principal position at Eagle Cap effective the first of July.

### ‘Gold Rush’ to film in Baker County

After a year of rumors and speculation, it’s official—the Discovery Channel’s mega-hit “Gold Rush” has finally “panned out” for Baker County.

The show’s star, Todd Hoffman, said in an interview Tuesday evening, “This is the answer to a prayer for us, coming back

to Oregon.”

### Gubernatorial candidate comes to Baker City

Last week at the Quail Ridge Golf Course Clubhouse, a dozen or so Baker County citizens, including Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett and physicians Charles Hoffman, Neal Jacobson and Nancy Hutnak, gathered to meet and listen to William C. “Bud” Pierce.

### Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally hot topic at Council

A large crowd gathered in Council chambers as Tuesday evening’s meeting commenced, including several who waited in anticipation of joining in on the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally discussion, which had been well-publicized prior to the meeting via Facebook and other outlets. Many feared several in the community were against holding the rally locally again.

## — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, December 23, 2016 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. The recent snows slowed movement as trucks couldn’t get to the farms to get loaded.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square	Good/Premium	
30	140.00-140.00	140.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square	Premium	
15	165.00-165.00	165.00
Timothy Grass — Large Square	Fair	
35	100.00-100.00	100.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

## — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, December 21, 2016  
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 456

### Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	126.00 - 154.00	Top	155.00
400-500#	Bulk	137.00 - 151.00	Top	152.00
500-600#	Bulk	132.00 - 146.00	Top	147.00

### Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	119.00 - 132.00	Top	134.00
400-500#	Bulk	104.00 - 126.00	Top	128.00
500-600#	Bulk	115.00 - 123.00	Top	124.00

### Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	121.00 - 131.00	Top	133.00
700-800#	Bulk	107.00 - 116.00	Top	117.75
800-900#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

### Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	115.00 - 123.00	Top	124.00
700-800#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A
800-900#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	39.00 - 49.00
Butcher Cows	51.00 - 58.00
Butcher Bulls	53.00 - 66.00
Pairs Young	975.00 - 1375.00
Hfretts.	62.00 - 79.00
Stock Cows Old	N/A
<b>ProducersLivestock.com</b>	
<b>541-473-3136</b>	

## — LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir-\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

*Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting*

## — PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,142.50

Silver: \$16.08

Platinum: \$899.25

Palladium: \$667.25

Bloomberg.com

## — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$348.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$401.50/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1016.50/bu/USD

Oats: \$227.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.51/cwt/USD

Canola: \$508.75 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$117.38/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$126.85/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$65.10/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com



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