

# 2016: A Year in Review

## August

**Fire season flares up**  
On Sunday afternoon, the biggest fire of the season so far in Baker County ignited. Located about 10 miles southwest of Unity, the Rail Fire was quickly visible as a fast-spreading smoke plume that covered the southern half of the county.

**Halfway grade gets new camera**  
During the week of July 18, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) installed a new camera along Highway 86 at the Halfway Summit.

**BLM criticized**  
The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) juniper eradication project in southern Baker County is drawing criticism from forestry experts and neighboring property owners who say the project has created a firetrap for landowners. The problems? Piles of dried juniper have been left as new fuel near private property boundaries—and the fact that the trees were cut and left to lay in the months immediately preceding fire season.

**Fire Dept. gets new hire.**  
In June the Baker City



Submitted Photo.

Mary Collard (at left) poses with the host of the show, Kelly Ripa.

Fire Department (BCFD), through the creation of a new full-time position approved by the City Budget Board, hired volunteer firefighter Jeremy Yerrick.

**Sunridge hearing held**  
A hearing was held last Thursday morning in the matter of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of Townridge, Inc., aka the Best Western Sunridge Inn, during which Judge Trish M. Brown voiced frustration and criticism as she spoke with the associated parties about the case.

**Local woman on ‘Live with Kelly’**

Mary Collard, a local from Baker City, appeared on ‘Live with Kelly’ in New York July 28.

**‘Gold Rush’ crew to leave?**  
Just last week the two mining claims—one near Hereford and one up Clark’s Creek by Bridgeport—that served as the Baker County production sites for the hit Discovery Channel show, “Gold Rush” were filled with pricey Volvo heavy equipment, a large wash plant—and prior to that, a bustling camera crew. This week, not so much.

## October



Submitted Photo

Kristina Koontz poses with the cougar she downed with one shot as it stalked her during a hunting trip.

**Gubernatorial candidate flies into Baker City**  
Republican gubernatorial candidate Bud Pierce decided to spend his 60th birthday at a campaign meeting with natural resource representatives in both Baker and Harney counties Monday morning, October 3.

**Hayes arraigned on multiple sex abuse charges**  
On September 29, 2016 at about 2:50 p.m., Baker City Police Detective Jay Lohner arrested 69 year-old David Hayes (01/20/47), of 1310 C Street in Baker City, for multiple sexual assault related charges to include:

- 2 counts of Rape 1
- 2 counts of Sodomy 1
- 2 counts of Sex Abuse 1
- 2 counts of Unlawful Sexual Penetration 1

**Ferrioli blasts local non-partisan movement**  
State Senator Ted Ferrioli met with the Baker County Republican Party at their general meeting last week.

**Suspect flees on foot**  
On Tuesday, October 11, at 2:55 p.m., officers from the Baker City Police Department (BCPD) were attempting to serve an arrest warrant on Joseph William Dial, age 25 of Lakeview, at 211 Bridge Street in Baker City. Officers arrived at the location and discovered Dial was a passenger in a vehicle driven by Chanae Hartmann, age 24 of La Pine, preparing to leave the mentioned location. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but Hartmann failed to obey their commands. As Hartmann left the parking lot, she almost struck two BCPD Officers as she sped from the location.

tion. At 3:07 p.m. Hartmann was located on 5th Street near Myrtle Street and taken into custody without further incident. Officers learned at that time Dial had fled on foot from the vehicle before it was located.

**Anti-patriot meeting results in police call**  
On Saturday, October 8, at the Baker County Library, members of the Rural Organizing Project (ROP)—hosted and sponsored by two local left-leaning groups, Baker County People For Human Dignity (BCPFHD) and the Pandhandle Community Alliance (PCA)—presented controversial claims about perceived threats to rural Oregon and its citizens, as claimed in the ROP/Political Research Associates (PRA) co-published, 100-plus page anti-patriot-movement book, titled “Up In Arms: A Guide to Oregon’s Patriot Movement.” The ROP and PRA are based in western Oregon and in Massachusetts respectively.

**MayDay holds vigil**  
Tuesday, October 18, MayDay Inc. hosted their annual celebration of the human spirit and candle-light vigil in observation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**‘Gold Rush’ airs**  
The season debut of the Discovery Channel’s ‘Gold Rush’ aired last Friday, October 14, featuring several shots of southern Baker County where the Hoffman crew arrived last summer for filming on the High Bar Mine, owned by the Wirth family, in Hereford. The crew also mined—utilizing the famed Monster Red

wash plant—at a separate location up Clark’s Creek near Bridgeport.

**Woman kills stalking cougar**  
“I’ll never forget it,” said local hunter Kristina Koontz, as she spoke about the harrowing experience of being surprised by a hovering, 150-pound male cougar in the Ukiah Wildlife Management Unit—which she dropped, with one shot from eight yards away using a Remington Model 700 rifle in .270 caliber.

**Drug lab shows off-the-charts contamination**  
A site assessment of a former local drug lab at 301 Second Street in Baker City has shown extremely high levels of methamphetamine contamination, according to a report by A Best Environmental LLC. In fact, all samples were at least five times higher than the State of Oregon Cleanup Standard.

**Quilting grannies make up to four quilts per week**  
Returning from summer vacation, the Grannies in Baker City are hard at work again. Led by Colleen Brooks, the group of ladies is working together making and donating baby quilts for newborns in Baker County through Building Healthy Families. Brooks explained that Florastine Landreth started the Grannies around 1984.

**Hoopes back on duty**  
Sheriff’s candidate, Deputy John Hoopes, went back to work at the Baker County Sheriff’s Office this week after a lengthy healing process associated with an on-the-job injury to his shoulder.

## September

**USFS proposed purchase meets with opposition**  
The Baker County Board of Commissioners held another agency-to-agency coordination meeting with representatives of the United States Forest Service (USFS), on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse. A Hells Canyon Snake River fee proposal, and an Eagle Creek land purchase proposal received significant opposition and concern, from both the public, and the Board.

**Six candidates file for City Council**  
A total of six candidates have filed to fill the six open positions on Baker City Council this week. There are seven total seats on the Council, and the deadline to file for placement on the ballot was August 30.

**Small earthquake hits**  
On Thursday, August 25, a tiny earthquake measuring 2.8 on the Richter Scale struck. The quake happened at 10:45 a.m., at 44.854°N 117.895°W, which is 10 kilometers to the north of Baker City.

**Granite Schoolhouse becomes new museum**  
Granite’s Allen Hall, also known as the Granite School House, has served in many capacities during the town’s history.

**Infant’s death investigated**  
On September 3, 2016, Tracin Givens (DOB 7-29-2016) was found deceased at his home at 1695 Auburn St. #3, Baker City, Oregon. He was five weeks old. Both parents Joshua Givens and Beth Speelman were present in the home at the time of the death.

**Car show sparkles**  
The Snake River Car Show was held on Sat-



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Amber Krantz (in blue) cuts the ribbon Wednesday morning, opening an Albertsons store once again in Baker City once again.

urday, September 3 at Lion’s Park in downtown Huntington from 10 am to 4 p.m.

**Albertsons reopens**  
On Wednesday morning, Albertsons Store Director Amber Krantz cut the ribbon in front of the company’s extensively revamped former home.

**‘Ghost Mine’ star talks about angels**  
Stacie Overman, an ordained minister, says these celestial beings are very real, present among us, guiding and helping—and she is able to help get their messages across to those in need.

**Lead found in school water**  
On September 9, the Baker County Health Department issued a press release stating it had been notified by the Baker 5J School District that water test levels containing lead have been reported at schools across the area.

**Suit settled against newspaper owners**  
On September 13, the lawsuit filed by Kerry McQuisten, individually and as owner of Black Lyon Publishing, LLC, of which *The Baker County Press*

is part, against defendants Gina Perkins and Lynn Perkins, former owners of *The Record-Courier*, came to a close in a settlement. Perkins agree to leave newspaper business for five years, and that they don’t own the rights to the newspaper.

**GOP candidates forum held**  
The Baker County Republican Central Committee and *The Baker County Press* co-sponsored a Republican candidate and initiatives open house Wednesday evening at the Sunridge Inn. The event drew an audience mixed with Democrats, Republicans and non-affiliated voters alike.

**Residents talk drugs**  
On Tuesday evening, Deputy Jeff Spencer, a drug recognition expert and eastern Oregon Coordinator for that program, and Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, held an informational community event in Unity with the purpose of explaining the characteristics of drugs found locally—and their effects on the human body as seen from a law enforcement perspective.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF BURLEIGH	IN DISTRICT COURT SOUTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT
State of North Dakota by Workforce Safety & Insurance,	) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) <b>SUMMONS</b> ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) Employer Account No. 1303509
Plaintiff,	
v.	
Martin Davis, Individually,	
Defendant.	
THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:	
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the attached complaint which is herewith served upon you, by serving upon the plaintiff an answer within twenty-one (21) days after the service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the date of service. If you fail to serve an answer, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.	
Dated this 21st day of November, 2016.	
BY: Anne Jorgenson Green Special Assistant Attorney General State Bar ID No. 05691 Workforce Safety & Insurance PO Box 5585, Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5585 (701) 328-3800 / <a href="mailto:agreen@nd.gov">agreen@nd.gov</a> Attorney for Plaintiff	