



# The Baker County Press

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## Downing is new Baker City Mayor

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN THIS WEEK

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
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The first regular Council meeting of 2017 was called to order by City Recorder/Human Resource Manager Julie Smith.

The sole returning Councilor, Jim Thomas, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Smith then administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilor Jamie Ostrander and returning Councilors Loran Joseph, Rosemary Abell, Daniel Lowe, and Mike Downing.

Once sworn in the Council took their seats. Smith then called roll. All Councilors were present except for Arvid Andersen, who was ill.

Smith guided the group through the nomination process and election of a new Mayor by asking, "Do I have any nominations for Mayor?"

Councilor Lowe moved to appoint Councilor Mike Downing as Mayor. A second to that motion was made by Councilor Thomas.

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Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

L-R: Loran Joseph, Jamie Ostrander, Rosemary Abell, Daniel Lowe and Mike Downing. Julie Smith at far right administers the Oath of Office.

## Crossroads Carnegie Art Center gets a touch-up



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

A new coat of paint and light retrofitting are among the projects currently giving a new shine inside Crossroads Carnegie Art Center on Auburn.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER  
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Crossroads Carnegie Art Center's interior is being repainted and all the lights will be LED light retrofitted, except for the lights in the gallery which were already retrofitted in 2012.

These changes will be made throughout January and February.

Executive Director Ginger Savage started the grant writing for this project in January 2016 and the last of the grants came in from the Leo Adler Foundation in December.

The organizations that supported the project are the Oregon Community Foundation, Kinsman Foundation, Ford Family Foundation, Buerkel-Zoellner Foundation, Leo Adler Foundation and OTECC.

Savage explained that the interior of Crossroads has between eight and twelve different paints in the building. Scrivner Painting and Outpost Electric will be working on this project in seven phases.

"This is not just like rolling on some paint," explained Savage. "This is them keeping everything to the historic detail of the building. That is why this takes us two months."

They will also be adding blinds on the windows to the front of the building to help with energy efficiency and

UV protection blinds to protect the 108-year-old floor. Crossroads was the community's library from 1909 to 1971.

"This is a historic treasure," said Savage. "And, so, we just have to care for her and make sure she continues to be around for another 108 years."

Savage asks for everyone's patience and understanding as the project continues.

Due to this, several programs have been affected and delayed.

Savage explained that First Friday will occur in January and February, and the January student show will be during the week of January 16.

Tiny Tots Ballet and Hip Hop will begin on January 20, Beginning Ballet will begin January 24, and Advanced Ballet will begin January 26.

Beginning Wheel Throwing and Advanced Hand Building will begin the week of February 13.

Open Studio with Mary Sue will begin on January 31, take off February 7, and continue on the 14.

Classes in the big classroom will be located upstairs for most classes.

Other classes will be held in a different studio or in another location as their studios are being painted.

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center is located next to City Hall. Visit the Center online at [www.crossroads-arts.org](http://www.crossroads-arts.org) for more information on classes.

## New Year's baby born



Photo courtesy of St. Alphonsus.

Parents Dewi and Marcella Roberts of Baker City say hello to baby Arthur Owain Roberts.

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center—Baker City is pleased to announce the arrival of the first baby born in 2017.

Arthur Owain Roberts was born at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center—Baker City on January 10, weighing 6 lbs., 5 oz. and measuring 21 inches. He was born to Dewi and Marcella Roberts of Baker City. Both mother and baby are doing well. This is the couple's first child.

To commemorate the hospital's Christmas baby, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center—Baker City presented the family with a basket filled with baby clothes, diapers, blankets, and other items parents of newborns need and enjoy.

## Burnt River forms new Initial Attack organization

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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A newly formed resource in the fight to combat range fires early on is Burnt River Initial Attack (BRIA), an expanding group of volunteers with a mission that includes a communications and response coverage area that spans the 30J School District, in an effort to assist state and federal agencies during the wildfire season.

The group, a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated on May 25, 2016, by Hereford area rancher Pat Sullivan, was spearheaded last year by Pat, his daughter, Cassie, and numerous other landowners and other individuals in the Burnt River area, who have shown a vested interest in preventing and controlling the spread of range fires as much as possible, on both private and public ground.

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	<b>Friday</b>	Mostly sunny and cool. Highs near 20. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog. Fog may freeze on contact with surface. Lows in the mid single digits.
	<b>Saturday</b>	Partly sunny after some morning fog. Highs near 20. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy and cold. Lows in the mid single digits.
	<b>Sunday</b>	Partly sunny with continued cold. Lows near 20. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy and not as cold. Lows near 10.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



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