



# The Baker County Press

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## Chamber awards given

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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Saturday, January 21, the Baker County Chamber of Commerce held its 87th Annual Awards Banquet, beginning the New Year with a silent auction, an outstanding awards ceremony, and a live auction.

The banquet was held in the Baker County Event Center with several tables decorated by local businesses such as John J. Howard and Associates Real Estate, D&B Supply, Commercial Tire, US

Bank, and many others. The banquet dinner was catered by the Baker Truck Corral.

"We are here to recognize and honor some of our best and brightest citizens in Baker County," Chamber Board of Directors President Cheryl Martin stated. "These are the folks who have given selflessly of their time and resources to help make our county the beautiful Camelot, or snowy Camelot, that we are able to love and enjoy."

Board member Cindy Endicott presented the 2016 Legacy Woman of

the Year award to Lynette Perry.

Hal Huntington presented the 2016 Legacy Man of the Year award to John Hardwick.

Amy Hughes and Jane Barrett presented the 2016 Woman of the Year award to Susan Castles and Carmen Ott.

Lenny Spooner presented the 2016 Man of the Year award to Cliff Cole.

Chamber Vice President Jeff Nelson presented the Organization of the Year award to Soroptimist International of Baker County. Cheryl Martin presented

the 2016 Excellence in Agriculture award to Deryl Leggett.

Jo Hinrichsen and Michelle Paoletti presented the 2016 Business of the Year award to Oregon Trail Restaurant.

This year, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center Executive Director Ginger Savage presented a video made by the school district staff called Celebrate Baker.

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Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

L-R: Cindy Endicott and Lynette Perry, Legacy Woman of the Year.

## Local, ORP chair attend Trump inauguration, ball

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
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Former Baker 5J School Board member Kyle Knight traveled quite literally through snow, ice and dark of night in order to make it from Idaho back through Oregon to Portland to catch his flight to Washington D.C.

In the end, Knight succeeded in attending the Presidential Inauguration and the subsequent ball last Friday—and even came face to face with hostile protestors.

"I had to reschedule the flight three times," Knight said, due to weather.

Also attending, Oregon Republican Party (ORP) Chair Bill Currier had left a couple days earlier than Knight and had an easier time traveling, not having to pass through the ice storm that shut freeways, highways and back roads.

All in all, about 200 Oregonians traveled to attend the inauguration.

Currier was there early to take care of business first.

He said, "I arrived on Tuesday and attended several receptions to honor Reince Priebus, Sharon Day, President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Pence before attending the RNC meeting on Thursday to elect the new RNC chair and co-chair, Ronna McDaniel and Bob Paduchik. I had spoken with them prior to their election about Oregon and they were both very positive about Oregon following in the footsteps of Michigan in turning red. After their election I spoke with them again and they committed to supporting Oregon in the 2018 election cycle. They promised to help us financially with our operations and by sending speakers for fundraisers. I



Submitted Photo.

Kyle Knight traveled through a blizzard to get to Washington D.C. in time to witness President Donald Trump take the Oath of Office.

was impressed with their keen interest in the states that are not yet red, like Oregon. I foresee big gains in 2018 for Republicans across the country."

Knight said due to weather and rerouting of flights, he "barely made it."

The staff for Congressman Greg Walden (R) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D) had inauguration tickets available for constituents

that were required to be picked up by Thursday—the day before the ceremony.

Knight guessed that Republicans would swarm Walden's office for tickets due to Trump's party affiliation, so he targeted the Merkley tickets first—which paid off.

In section 9, Knight's ticket was "probably 25 feet from the podium—one section away from the VIP

section," he said.

Meanwhile, Currier and wife, Becky, ORP staff, and some friends attended the welcome concert at the Lincoln Memorial.

Currier said, "There were a variety of performers, including Lee Greenwood and Toby Keith. I was especially moved by Greenwood's singing of 'God Bless the USA.'"

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## Deer feeding creates Hwy. 86 hazard

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Justin Primus and Wildlife Technician Phillip Perrine, of the Baker District office, recently elaborated on their message, regarding the feeding of hay to deer along Highway 86 by members of the public: as well-intentioned as it is, it may be doing more harm than good.

Primus said that he, Perrine, and others have seen alfalfa hay sporadically along both sides of Highway 86, from around the area of Sparta, clear to Oxbow, a distance of over 40 miles. "There are a lot of deer down in the Powder River drainage, so, they're down low to start with. They're feeding, in some cases, from me to you (he was sitting less than five feet away from this reporter during the interview) off the traffic lane. So you've got deer standing in knee-deep to belly-deep snow with cars coming by."

Both said that there have been vehicle collisions with deer, but Perrine said they couldn't determine accurately the number of feeding-related collisions. Some carcasses were seen off the side of the road, but they couldn't always tell what the causes were.

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## Doe poached in City Limits

BY SUNNY WERNER  
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At 11:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, January 19th, Christina Witham, of South Bridge Street, was woken by Baker City Police officers knocking on her door asking permission to enter her property. Witham is the owner of The Oregon Sign Company. The officers were on the trail of a badly wounded deer, and witnesses had seen the deer run into her backyard. Witham gave permission to the officers.

Witnesses, who had contacted Baker City Police earlier about seeing an injured doe, also informed the officers that they had seen a blue van driving very slowly with two individuals inside.

When the officers arrived on scene they found a heavy blood trail leading through Witham's yard. They tracked the deer, and finally found a fatally injured doe. The deer had been shot with an arrow.

SEE POACHING PAGE 10

**Friday** Patchy fog, otherwise partly sunny skies. Highs near 20. Friday Night: Widespread foggy conditions, fog will freeze on surfaces. Lows in the mid single digits.

**Saturday** Patchy fog, otherwise mostly sunny. Highs in the upper teens. Saturday Night: Widespread foggy conditions, fog will freeze on surfaces. Lows near 0.

**Sunday** Patchy fog, otherwise mostly sunny and cold. Highs in the mid teens. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy and cold. Lows in the mid single digits.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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