

LOCAL: Mayors gather at luncheon to discuss cities across Baker County. PAGE 7



LOCAL: Hawk rescued on the ice at local truck stop. PAGE 8



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## Nine snow slides block areas around County

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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This winter's snow loads and above-freezing temperatures combined to cause nine slides so far, on Thursday and Friday, January 19 and 20, the two biggest ones in the Rye and Burnt River valleys, according to Baker County Road Master Jeff Smith.

On Thursday, January 19, Smith said, there were six snow slides—he said

the Road Department uses the term, rather than avalanches, because of their relative size—five along Snake River Road, and one on Rye Valley Lane—the biggest one at fifteen to eighteen feet deep, the full width of the road, and fifty yards long.

There were three more slides on Friday, January 20, including two along Snake River Road, and the second biggest one, in Burnt River Canyon,

at eight feet deep, and twenty-five feet wide.

"Typically, they'll happen that way, because the (rise in) temperature is what really turns them loose... The snow load on those steep slopes, that we haven't had for a while..." Smith said, speaking about the surge of snow slides that week.

Smith said, "The one at Rye Valley, it just came down with such a force, that it just landed in the

middle of the road, and there was enough of it, it just filled the whole road."

The Rye Valley slide was the only one of the nine that was cleared with a backhoe, the rest having been cleared with graders.

All of the slides were cleared on Friday, after about thirteen hours of effort total, he said.

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Photo submitted by Pam Haney.

This avalanche near Dark Canyon Road in Burnt River Canyon was 8' deep by 25' across.

## New Council undergoes orientation, budget concerns loom



Gina Swartz / The Baker County Press

At left, Fire Chief Tom Wells explains the workings of the Baker City Fire Department.

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
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A special City Council meeting was held Tuesday January 31, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

The purpose of this meeting was for new Councilors to have an opportunity to meet department heads and hear a brief overview of each department from which they would likely hear throughout their tenure. The meeting was an orientation of sorts.

With the looming budget season approaching, each department in the City will be appealing to the Budget Board, which is composed of Council and several volunteer citizens, for funding of their departments.

Having Council familiarize themselves with the departments and their functions will aid in decision-making when the time comes.

After Mayor Downing called the meeting to order and before each department took its respective turn speaking to Council, the three candidates who have applied for the two open Council seats each were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and address Council.

First to speak was Dan McQuisten, a lifelong Baker City resident and owner of the Eltrym. McQuisten has also served on the Baker City Budget Board and the Historic District Design Review Commission.

Next to speak was Daniel Buck. Buck has lived in Baker City for two years. He has a legal background in criminal defense and family ties to the timber industry.

His grandfather was a local millwright. He expressed an enthusiastic interest in learning about City government.

Last to speak was Adam Nilsson. Nilsson introduced himself to Council at the last meeting saying he also had lived in Baker City for two years and was eager to serve his new community.

Council then began hearing from department heads.

As the department heads began addressing Council it was apparent that they should prepare to hear at Budget time each department asking for additional funding and or additional personnel.

A definite theme was formed as each department described how they have been operating on a "more with less" budget and each would like to see that change.

Fire Chief Tom Wells spoke first, giving an outline of his department. He also advised that the Fire Department responded to 1,933 calls in the last year and looking back at the history of call volume, their calls were increasing 3.2% annually.

He advised Council that he was working on obtaining a Federal Grant to fund more positions but was unsure if that would happen and they needed more staff.

Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner spoke next.

He also advised Council of his need to staff more officers providing statistics of how much of an increase in service calls there has been since 2010 when he lost a position and overtime budget for his department.

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## MayDay Inc. speaks out about abused men

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), "One in four men is a victim of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetimes" in the United States. 24% of intimate partner physical violence victims are male and one in eight men is severely injured by an intimate partner. This total does not include the high number of emotional abuse cases.

"The abuser makes a choice to be abusive," explained Cassie Martin, a Victim's Advocate at MayDay Inc. "And a lot of people think that substance abuse, like drinking or using drugs, makes the abuser be violent. But that is not the case because even when an abuser gets clean and sober, they often resort to their abusive behavior. So it's absolutely a choice that they make."

According to Martin, abusers have lived in situations where settling disputes and abusive interaction have physically been modeled to them as what women or men are supposed to do.

"I think that most physical abuse is always led on and nurtured from emotional abuse to financial abuse to spiritual abuse," explained Martin. "And then they isolate their victims and then they have them completely under their control. Often times, men who are abused are not just abused by women. A lot of the clients that have come through our office lately are being abused by their father physically as an adult. It's not just a female abusing the man; it is often times coming from relatives who are being abusers."

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## County discusses zoning change in Sumpter

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its first, regular session of the month, on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, including an extended public hearing regarding a zoning change request in the Sumpter area.

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

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	<b>Friday</b>	Snow showers. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Light accumulations expected. Highs near 30. Friday Night: Scattered snow showers.
	<b>Saturday</b>	Rain and snow showers likely otherwise mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Saturday Night: Scattered rain and snow showers, otherwise mostly cloudy.
	<b>Sunday</b>	Scattered rain and snow showers, otherwise mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Sunday Night: Scattered rain and snow showers.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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