



The Baker County Press

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BHS Class of 2017 graduates

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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On Sunday, June 4, students from Baker High School's class of 2017 received their diplomas during a blustery ceremony.

Principal Greg Mitchell gave the welcome address. Kourtney Lehman presented the salutatorian address and Jared Miller, the valedictorian.

Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey's younger brother, Colonel Robert "Bob" Harvey of the U.S. Air Force, flew in from Florida to deliver the commencement address.

Harvey encouraged graduates to set and keep priorities, understand the bigger picture in life and focus on what really matters. He hoped graduates would travel and see the world, surround themselves with good people and be the kind of person they want to be.

Ninety seniors graduated this year. The ceremony was held, as it is yearly, at Bulldog Memorial Stadium.



Colonel Robert "Bob" Harvey speaks to this year's graduates.

Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Burnt River student wins congressional art award



Submitted Photo.

'Farm Alarm' by Burnt River High School student Jin Sue Kim was selected as the regional winner for the 2017 Congressional Art Competition.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) today announced that Jin Sue Kim, a sophomore at Burnt River High School, has been selected as a Regional Winner for the 2017 Congressional Art Competition.

Farm Alarm was ranked highly by a panel of judges, including Eastern Oregon University professor Michael Sell, Treasure Valley Community College professors Ted Fink and Robin Jackson, and Feves Art Gallery Director Lori Sams. Jin Sue Kim's artwork will hang in Walden's La Grande office.

"I want to congratulate Jin Sue Kim on this impressive achievement," said Walden. "Farm Alarm is a testament to his artistic talent, and he should be very proud of this accomplishment."

The overall winner for the Congressional Art Competition, Liberty Rossell, a senior at Grants Pass High School, will travel to Washington, D.C. to see her artwork displayed in the national student art exhibit in the U.S. Capitol and attend a reception in her honor on June 29th, 2017.

"The Congressional Art Competition is a tremendous opportunity for young Oregonians interested in art, and I want to thank all of the students, teachers, and families who made this year's competition a success," Walden said. "I would also like to thank our judges from around

Oregon's Second District for their expertise in judging our talented students' work."

Judges for this year's competition included:

- Kim Hearon, executive director, Rogue Gallery & Art Center, Medford
- Robin Strangfeld, associate professor of art, Southern Oregon University, Ashland
- Cody Bustamante, professor of painting and drawing, South Oregon University, Ashland
- Judy Richardson, director, Art and Soul Gallery, Ashland
- Michael Sell, associate professor of art, Eastern Oregon University, La Grande
- Lori Sams, gallery director, Feves Art Gallery, Pendleton
- Ted Fink, photography instructor, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario
- Robin Jackson, fine arts professor, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

Apartment fire under investigation



Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

The investigation into the cause of the fire began Tuesday morning.

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Just before midnight on Tuesday, the Baker City Fire Department received a call to respond to a fire at the Powder River Terrace Apartments.

The fire, which quickly consumed the entryway, also left half of the eight apartments uninhabitable in one of the three complexes, and had several firefighters and one police officer rescuing residents and putting out the fire into the wee hours of the morning. 21 individuals in total responded, with three hours spent at the site.

According to Interim Baker City Fire Chief Cliff Hall, their first arriving unit had three firefighters, who "initiated a fire attack with one person while remaining personnel executed the rescue of one person from the rear of the structure."

Officer Blake Hawkins assisted in that effort, which resulted in the rescue of one handicapped individual.

Said Hall, two additional civilians were simultaneously rescued by bystanders with ladders at the rear of the structure.

One resident was transported to the emergency room with minor smoke inhalation.

Two additional residents went to the emergency room by private vehicle after being removed from the structure. One civilian had breathing issues and one had an ankle injury after exiting the building from a second story window.

The apartment complex, located at 1490 Resort Street, is now the scene of a Major Crime Team Investigation, said Police Chief Wyn Lohner. An Oregon State Police arson investigator and a Deputy State Fire Marshal were brought on-scene due in part to the number of people involved and the amount of square footage to investigate. The possibility of arson is under investigation.

SEE APARTMENT FIRE PAGE 5

Friday Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low 60s. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Friday Night: Cloudy with rain showers. Lows near 40.

Saturday Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Saturday Night: Cloudy with rain showers. Lows near 40.

Sunday Cloudy w/rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Night: Cloudy with rain showers. Lows in the upper 30s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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