



The Baker County Press

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Three move toward empty Senate seat

• COMMISSIONERS HAVE 10 DAYS TO MAKE SELECTION

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Last Saturday the 2nd, a large group of elected, volunteer Precinct Committee People (PCPs), the most grassroots tier of the Republican party, met to start the selection process

to fill exiting Senator Ted Ferrioli's position. 87 PCPs within Senate District 30, out of the possible 169, traveled across snow and ice to the Grant County Airport in John Day. The turnout was the largest in recent memory for any Oregon nominating convention. Six candidates tossed their hats into the ring: Rep. Cliff Bentz, Malheur County; Mae Huston, Jefferson County; Suzan Ellis

Jones, Baker County; Robert (Bob) Perry, Deschutes County; Ralph (Mike) Shirtcliff, Deschutes County; and Eric Wattenburg, Deschutes County. The convention was coordinated in large part by Chris Barreto, Vice Chair of the Oregon Republican Party (ORP) with the assistance of more volunteers. The meeting opened with the Flag Salute and prayer. **SEE SENATE SEAT PAGE 5**



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

L-R: Bob Perry, Suzan Ellis Jones, Mae Huston, Eric Wattenburg, Mike Shirtcliff, Cliff Bentz.

Make it and take it!



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Morgan Stone and Koedi Birmingham work on their projects at this year's Make it and Take it event.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Crossroads Carnegie Art Center proudly held its annual "Make It and Take It" event held alongside the Saint Alphonsus Festival of Trees on Family Day, December 2nd. Ginger Savage, Executive Director of Crossroads, explained the "Make it and Take it" event started at the old Crossroads on Main Street. This year, there were eight stations with different crafts designed by local artist Andrea Stone for children to make. This year's projects were yarn stars, animal collages, copper stars, the "Mustached Santa" where the children used their fingerprints to make Santa's cheeks but then designed his mustache and beard. They also made luminaries, metal ornaments they colored, white angel animals, and beaded candy canes. Baker High School art students were among the volunteers for the event, helping children with their crafts. There were over 30 volunteers who helped with the event. "Crossroads tries to do lots of things to help out the High School Art Program and so this is one of their ways they can help us out," explained Executive Director Ginger Savage. "For many of these kids it's really special that they get to help because they remember doing this when they were kids." "It is probably one of the most beloved programs we do

at Crossroads," stated Savage. "Because it is just a great way to engage kids and families in making crafts and being artistic at their dining room table, and so that is why we love this program. We moved it over to Festival of Trees about eight years ago and this has been an amazing partnership because every family in the valley comes here today and we can serve more kids this way." Savage explained that they received a lot of donations for the event. One of the donations was wood based ornaments that were made by Ella Stepp, who passed away, and donated by her niece. They were able to utilize her gift for three or four projects. The projects done at the event depend on what supplies Crossroads has that year. "We try to do something different every year," explained Savage. "But, also, many of the kids when I started this and they were four or five are now fourteen. So, we can occasionally roll some very fun projects back around because the kids grow up really fast on us." Savage explained that they have a great partnership with Head Start, saying thanks to an anonymous, generous benefactor they make it possible for every child in the Head Start program to get a coupon not just for them to participate at no charge, but them and their siblings. There were around 30 children with their siblings who attended with the coupons.

SEE MAKE IT, TAKE IT PAGE 7

Aglow on Main Street



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Santa Claus and his elf make an appearance.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Last Saturday, the Baker County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Christmas Parade. This year's theme was Silver Screen and participants were encouraged to style their floats after their favorite Christmas Movies. Diane Wroe, the Office Manager for the Chamber of Commerce and Shelly Cutler, the Executive Director, are the organizers of the parade.

SEE PARADE PAGE 4

Man threatens wife with shotgun

On December 5, 2017 Baker County Dispatch received a report of a disturbance at a residence in Huntington. The reporting party, Elizabeth Severe, stated that her husband, Billy Severe, was out of control and was in possession of a shotgun. Baker County Sheriff's Deputies, along with Oregon State Troopers, responded to the residence. Upon arrival, Deputies contacted Elizabeth Severe at a neighbor's residence where she had fled with her small child. She stated that she had attempted to wake her husband up, and he became enraged. He grabbed a shotgun, and she was able to lock herself and her small child in the bathroom. After a period of time, he gained access to the bathroom. When he entered the bathroom she was able to take her child and run out of the residence. After being interviewed by law enforcement, it was determined that Billy Severe's statements were inconsistent with evidence at the scene. He was taken into custody and lodged at the Baker County Jail. Severe was charged with Assault IV, Menacing, and two counts of Reckless Endangering.

	Friday Mostly cloudy and seasonable. Highs in the mid 30s. Friday Night: Developing fog with lows in the upper singles digits.
	Saturday Mostly cloudy and seasonable. Highs in the mid 30s. Saturday Night: Developing fog with lows in the upper singles digits.
	Sunday Mostly cloudy and seasonable. Highs in the mid 30s. Sunday Night: Developing fog with lows in the upper singles digits.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:

Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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