



# The Baker County Press

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## Lighted legacy to relocate

• DISPLAY TO CHANGE LOCATIONS

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER  
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A Baker City winter tradition will change locations next year, as this is the last year Nora Bass will have the Winter Walkthrough at her home on 19th Street.

Her husband, Sam Bass, known to so many in the community, passed away on August 28th.

"Sam was the people person," said Bass. "And I've got to admit, I'm the one who pushed. I'm the one who found all the characters and I did the painting. The first several years, he would draw them using the block system or the grid system and he drew them like that. Then we got an overhead projector, where you put them on transparencies and put them on the board, and then we really got carried away."

SEE SAM BASS PAGE 9



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Sam Bass, pictured above in this tribute, began a legacy of Christmas lights that his family has decided to continue at a new address.

## Sheriff's deputy honored



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Rebecca Monahan was named Deputy of the Year last week by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER  
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On December 6th, Baker City's Rebecca Monahan received the Parole and Probation Deputy of the Year Award at the annual Oregon State Sheriff's Association conference in Bend, held December 3-7th.

According to a press release from Sheriff Travis Ash, "When considering an award recipient, the selection committee refers to the following criteria: 1) Exceptional effort and/or accomplishment in fulfilling the responsibilities of the nominee's assignment and responsibilities; 2) Outstanding accomplishment to public safety and public service and to the Sheriff's Office; and 3) Contributions that are significant to other employees and/or citizens."

"I just want to say that it's really kind of humbling to have been given this award," said Monahan. "Because I don't necessarily think that I do better work than anyone I work with but I think that because of who I work with, I think we all do good work together."

"I think that I'm really lucky in that I work for this agency and I get to be exposed to so much because of the size of our agency and the people that I work with. They're my family. But I bounce things off of them and they bounce things off of me and I think we're better at our jobs because we have each other, because we communicate and we can communicate with each other. This is my second family."

Monahan has been with the Baker City County Sheriff's Office for ten and a half years and works with adult

offenders on felony level supervision with a few cases that are misdemeanors the court assigned to them to supervise. She explained that most misdemeanors are not supervised, but there are special exceptions for sex offenses and domestic violence that are misdemeanors.

Monahan said that parole and probation officers monitor people who are released to the community either on probation through the courts or parole, which is an older term.

When released on probation or parole, there are conditions they have to follow about behaviors and expectations.

Parole officers monitor their conformance to those conditions and report back to the supervising authority, either to the parole board or to the courts and let them know if someone who is on supervision is adhering to those conditions.

"Probation is really for people who made a mistake," explained Monahan. "It's usually one really bad day in a person's life I get to meet them for and they're not necessarily bad people. They've done something bad, maybe they have learned some bad habits for coping. Substance abuse is a way people cope all the time; it's not exactly a healthy way to cope."

"They get caught possessing or selling drugs. Most of the people that you meet that come into this office are really decent people that make bad choices or just didn't feel like they had other options."

SEE MONAHAN PAGE 9

## City adopts new parade safety guidelines

• RATE INCREASES ON THE HORIZON

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
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Tuesday evening the Baker City Council met for the only scheduled meeting in the month of December and for the final time in 2017. Council began at 6:00 p.m. with a work session before they began the regular meeting. The public was notified of the work session and permitted to attend, however no public comment would be heard at the time.

Mayor Mike Downing advised that any person wishing to make comment on the matter would be allowed time in the regular Council meeting directly following the work session.

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 7

## Planning Commission sends decision on Crawford's fate back to County Commissioners

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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On Tuesday, December 12, 2017, by majority vote, the Baker County Planning Commission remanded the compliance case of Commissioner Rob Crawford back to the Baker County Board of Commissioners, with no recommendation as to any action. The Planning Commission also unanimously approved two applications, PA-17-001, and PA-17-002.

Present from the Planning Commission were Chair Alice Trindle, Vice Chair Jim Grove, and Commissioners Suzan Ellis Jones, Tom Van Diepen, Kasey Wright, Tim Kerns, and Rob Crawford. Present from the Baker County Planning Department were Planning Director Holly Kerns, Planner Eva Henes, and Planning Assistant Kevin Berryman. Attendance also included Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff, Ken and Jan Alexander, and Tim Bliss.

Trindle called the public hearing to order. She read a standard hearing statement, and then asked whether there was any challenge to the Commission's jurisdiction to hear the matter; whether there were any conflicts of interest to be declared by any Commissioner; and whether any Commissioner had any ex-parte contacts with the involved parties. All answers were negative.

SEE PLANNING COMMISSION PAGE 8

**Friday** Scattered snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Light accumulations expected. Lows in the mid 20s.

**Saturday** Partly sunny with a few flurries. Highs in the upper 30s. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy. Lows near 20.

**Sunday** Partly sunny and cooler. Highs in the mid 30s. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

### The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:



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### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Keating students place in contest	Page 2
Lane Parry gets forestry award	Page 3
5J receives grant for soccer lighting	Page 3
Dylan Thomas bench installed	Page 5
Man sentenced in DUII accident	Page 5
Sumpter City Council, festivities	Page 7



7 01748 74383 8