

# Local

## Second K9 fundraiser a hit



Photographs courtesy of Wyn Lohner

Top: City Manager Fred Warner, Jr. serves as auctioneer. Bottom left: A youth-sized ATV, valued at about \$3,200 was generously donated by Cliffs Saws and Cycles. Bottom right: The Vanderwieles, owners of Triple C Redi-Mix, were among the event's "gold" sponsors this year and have supported the K9 program since before these fundraiser banquets began.

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The Baker City Police Department's second annual fundraiser banquet to raise funds for their K9 program was held last Saturday afternoon and evening at the Event Center off East Street in Baker

City.

The money raised during the event broke down this way:

Sponsorships and tickets: \$5,860; live auction, \$19,800; silent auction, \$4,734; raffles, \$4,091; and donations, \$460.

That puts total gross proceeds at \$34,945.

Chief Wyn Lohner, who

emceed the event again this year, said he thinks expenses, when totalled, will run just over \$5,000, meaning the event will net about \$30,000 toward the next year's care, feeding, and maintaining training for drug dog Capa and training and travel expenses for his handler Sgt. Wayne Chastain.

Chastain showed the audience a demonstration of Capa's skills, much like last year, and guests ate dinner, bought raffle tickets and bid on auction items.

The event is organized by volunteers within the community and office staff.

"It was a tremendous success," concluded Lohner on Sunday.

## Bench installed in memory of young Dylan Thomas

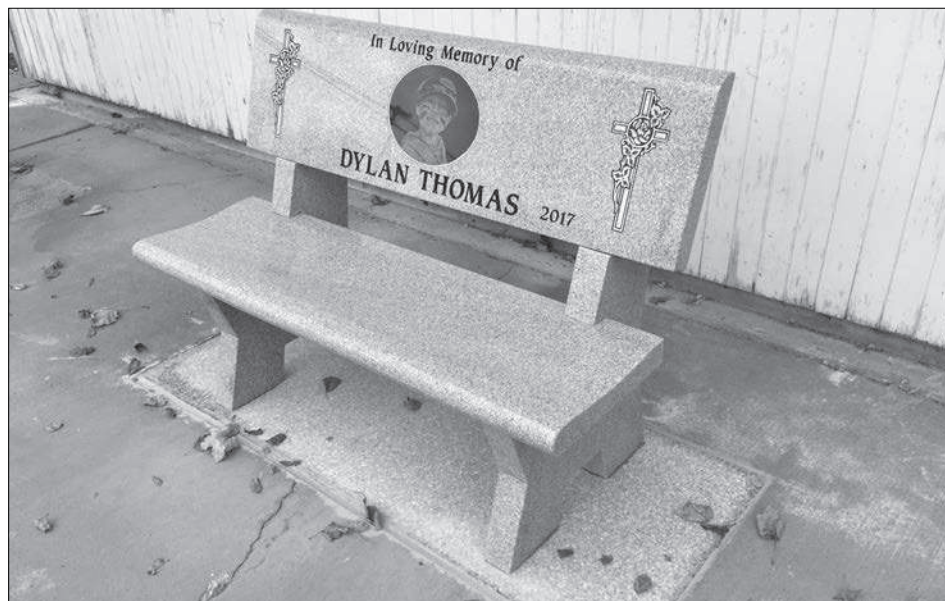
BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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On Saturday, November 25th, a bench honoring Dylan Thomas was placed outside the Elks Lodge. Thomas passed away after a tragic accident in the Miners Jubilee parade.

According to Creg Talbott, an Elks Lodge member, Thomas's mother, Megan, had asked him if something more permanent could be put outside of the lodge.

The bench is located where the community-made memorial marker of flowers and stuffed animals was located.

"Our entire family greatly appreciates the community's continual support in this incredibly difficult time. Dylan was a very special boy who could make everyone smile," said Megan Thomas. "A special thanks to all the



Samantha O'Connor / The Baker County Press

This bench sits outside the Elks Lodge in memory of Dylan Thomas.

Elks Club and donors for this beautiful bench."

There is also a photo hung on the side of the lodge behind the bench and they will leave the picture where it is.

The bench cost \$2,241 and the money was do-

nated by the community.

Talbott had the amount raised in four to five days, and there were many people who wanted to donate money to help.

He explained that it was very much appreciated that more people wanted to

donate but he had already raised the amount needed. Memorial Monuments Retail in La Grande made the bench out of Georgia Granite and Thomas's mother provided the photo that is etched into the back of the bench.

## Drunk driver sentenced after accident

On December 7, 2017 in Baker County Circuit Court, Jacob Grammon (dob 10-22-1995) of 440 Foothill Drive, Baker City, Oregon was sentenced to 27 months with the Oregon Department of Corrections. He pled guilty to one count of Assault in the Third Degree a class C felony and Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants a class A misdemeanor. Three

other misdemeanor counts were dismissed as part of a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office.

On November 3, 2017, Grammon was driving a vehicle on Griffin Gulch Road, while under the influence of alcohol and crashed the vehicle.

Alisha Gagnon was a passenger in the vehicle and received serious physical injuries as a result of

the crash. She had three broken ribs, a punctured lung, and a dislocated knee, in addition to other abrasions.

Grammon was sentenced on the felony assault charge, which alleged that he recklessly caused serious physical injury to his passenger by operating a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicants. Grammon was sentenced

pursuant to the Oregon Sentencing guidelines. As part of his sentence, Grammon's drivers license was suspended for five years and he will be on post-prison supervision for three years following his release from prison. Grammon will receive drug and alcohol treatment in prison if it is available and treatment is also a requirement of his post prison supervision.

## OTEC's capital credits to be returned soon

At its November 16 board meeting, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved the return of \$2.95 million to the cooperative's member-owners in December.

The money is being returned to members in the form of capital credits, also known as members' equity or margins. Because OTEC is a nonprofit utility, margins earned during the year are invested in capital projects that keep the cooperative's infrastructure in good working order so power is available when it is needed. On an annual basis, part of the margins earned from past years is returned to members served by the cooperative.

This December capital credits will be distributed to members by a credit on their electric bill or a check. Capital credits less than \$15 will be applied as a billing credit to the member's account. Members with capital credit balances \$15 or greater will receive a check through the mail.

"Capital credits are an important part of being a cooperative, said OTEC General Manager and CEO Les Penning. Because we are a nonprofit cooperative, OTEC is returning excess revenues generated during the harsh winter season last year in addition to capital credits already scheduled for retirement."

Since 1995, OTEC has returned \$33 million in capital credits to members. This year's distribution is the largest return of capital credits in the history of the cooperative. Anyone with questions about their capital credit account should call their local OTEC office.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is a member-owned electric utility serving 25,000 member-owners in Baker, Union, Grant and Harney counties. For more information visit us on the web at [www.otecc.com](http://www.otecc.com) or follow us on Facebook.

## Grant deadline is today

The Baker County Cultural Coalition is welcoming grant applications for the current round of Cultural Participation Grants with funding made possible by the Oregon Cultural Trust. The deadline to submit grant applications is December 15, 2017.

The Baker County Cultural Coalition is a nine-member planning committee appointed by the Baker County Commission to serve the goals of the Oregon Cultural Trust. A primary purpose of the coalition is to re-grant funds it receives from the Cultural Trust to local arts, humanities and heritage projects, which is done twice annually in mid-December and May. Applicants may only receive grant awards once during the year. New grant applications will not be considered if grant reports from prior awards have not been received. All recipients must submit a grant report indicating how funds were used by October 30.

The Oregon Cultural Trust designates approximately one third of the funds it distributes annually as Cultural Participation Grants to cultural coalitions in Oregon's 36 counties and nine federally recognized tribes. These funds are to be used for cultural activities and priorities, and local programs that increase access to cultural resources and opportunities.

To obtain a grant application, visit the Baker County Cultural Coalition website at:

[http://www.bakercounty.org/cultural\\_plan/grants.html](http://www.bakercounty.org/cultural_plan/grants.html).

Forms must be completed, hand delivered to a Coalition Board Member or e-mailed (preferred) to [bccc@bakercounty.org](mailto:bccc@bakercounty.org) by December 15th. More information is available at the website.

To learn more about how you can benefit by helping to support cultural programs like this, visit the Oregon Cultural Trust website: [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org).

## Opera returns to Baker City

The young musical troupe, Opera Elect, with emerging opera singers from southwest Idaho is returning to Baker City to entertain the community.

This Tuesday, December 19, they'll be belting out holiday tunes under the stained glass ceiling at the Geiser Grand Hotel.

From *Ave Maria* to *Winter Wonderland*, the soaring voices are quite moving.

"The acoustic qualities of the Palm Court are amazing, and allow these singer to work their magic without microphones or any amplification," said Barbara Sidway, music fan and Geiser Grand owner. "We're grateful for the opportunity to share this special experience with our friends, neighbors and guests in Baker City Downtown." Reservations are a must—call 541.523.1889.

## Flu sweeps through 5J

On Monday, South Baker reported just over 17% illness-related student absences; Brooklyn Primary absence rates were just under 11%. Staff absences were noted in both buildings as well. Building secretaries confirmed absences were due to flu-like symptoms. Other schools, including Haines and Keating, appears to be normal for this time of year.