

Welcome State  
Basketball Teams!



# Record-Courier

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## Firefighters Raise Money to *Climb, Conquer, Cure*

Story and photo by Gina Perkins

Ben Decker and Brandon Hargous, firefighters and paramedics with the Baker City Fire Department were busy bagging groceries at Albertsons on Friday to raise money for the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle this Sunday, March 8. They, along with Mike Downing, who is a volunteer firefighter and member of the Baker City Council, will comprise the team representing Baker City.

The men will join 1900 other firefighters from across the country to climb 788 vertical feet in the Columbia Center which is located in downtown Seattle and is the second tallest building this side of the Mississippi. They will climb 69 flights of stairs in full gear. The event raises money to support the mission of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Money is raised by individual firefighters, departments and entry fees. The Baker City team pays for their own travel and lodging expenses, according to Downing.

According to the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb website, the 2014 event "featured 1,800 firefighters from over 300 different departments and brought in a record \$1.97 million for blood-cancer research and patient services."

Those interested in donating to the cause can either do so by visiting the website [www.llswa.org](http://www.llswa.org) or by stopping by the Baker City Fire Department.



Ben Decker and Brandon Hargous

## Three Local Events Presented Ovation Awards

Story and photo by Gina Perkins

The Oregon Festival and Events Conference held in Seaside this week selected three Baker County events for Ovation Awards. The East-West Shrine All Star Football Game earned Best Fundraising Event honors with Dick Kirby of Baker City representing the organization and accepting the award.

The Powder River Music Review represented by Lynette Perry received the Best Music Event and the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally won honors for being the Best Event Under a \$150,000 Budget. Kurt Miller accepted this award.



Dick Kirby of Baker City represented the East-West Shrine Game accepting the award on their behalf

Remember Daylight Savings Time starts this Sunday, March 8 Spring Forward!

## Local Men Successful in Getting Bill Introduced to Crack Down on Online Impersonation Here's Why it Matters

By Gina Perkins

Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) announced in a press release that on Feb. 19 he introduced House Bill 3092, which creates the crime of online impersonation and allows those who have been harmed the right to sue for damages from the impersonator.

Rep. Bentz was asked to draft legislation on behalf of constituents in Baker County, Mike Rudi and Kevin Cassidy, who were among several people targeted by someone posing as outspoken Baker City resident and historian, Gary Dielman.

### When Did the Dielman Impersonation Begin?

It appears the impersonator began targeting individuals for the purpose of gleaning specific information during the time of the failed and contentious 2012 school board recall. Mark Henderson and Lynne Burroughs were the subject of the recall. Dielman publicly opposed the recall effort and spoke against those behind it.

Henderson was one of the first people contacted by the impostor. Because the "real life" Dielman showed strong support for Henderson, the impostor was successful in deceiving Henderson and gaining his trust online. As a result of the deception, Henderson engaged in lengthy written conversations through private Facebook messaging for over a year up until the time it was discovered in June of 2014 that Dielman had been impersonated.

### Who was Targeted?

In addition to Rudi (who was the treasurer for the Fred Warner Campaign at the time of the Dielman impersonation) and Cassidy, current Vice Chair of the 5J School Board, names of some of the other people targeted by the impersonator included: Nanette Lehmen, Oregon Teacher of the Year from Haines Elementary School who was also a strong supporter of Henderson and Burroughs during the recall; Courtney Warner Crowell,

Deputy Communications Director for U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D) and daughter of Fred Warner, Jr., former County Commission

Chair; Debi Bainter, Executive Director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce; Daniel McQuisten, owner of Eitrym Theater; Ma'Lena Wirth 2012 5J District Employee of the Year and current OSEA Vice President; and Kathy Spence, Baker City Postmaster. Rosemary Abell, two neighbors of Dielman, a staff member of the *Baker City Herald* and the author of this article (Gina Perkins) were also among the individuals targeted by the online impersonation.

Not all received or responded to the questions posed by the impostor.

### Crime or Prank?

Rep. Bentz's bill would make any online communication made with the intent to deceive the recipient into thinking that the sender is someone else a crime. Currently, it is not a crime in Oregon but several states have adopted legislation which has made it a crime.

### Random or Specific? In my opinion.....

The selection of "Facebook friends" by the impostor did not seem to be random. Many were either 5J School Board members or staff members. Other victims were closely associated with the Fred Warner Jr., campaign. Some it appears were simply people the impostor may have considered to have access to information which might be useful in some way. There were probably a few who stumbled across the "Dielman profile" and sent their own friend request to the impostor.

Many of the questions asked were regarding the 2012 school board recall, school board election matters, or the May primary election between Bill Harvey and Fred Warner, Jr. Some were asked questions pertaining to the anonymous postcard which was mailed to voters during the primary regarding Warner. Questions asked by the impersonator were very specific in nature and were posed by sending private Facebook messages.

### Who Knows What's in a Facebook Message?

Like a letter that is mailed, only the sender(s) or recipient(s) are aware either of the existence of the message sent or the contents unless 1) the information is shared by either with a third party or 2) someone is given access to the "post office box," which in the case of a Facebook message would mean the electronic

device on which the message(s) are stored and/or the username and the password to access the account.

That's why it puzzled Henderson how information he had shared privately with the person he believed to be Dielman became known to others. Henderson said at one point he believed his computer had been hacked, but never once considered that the person he believed was Dielman might be an impostor.

### Did the Impersonator Share the Information Gleaned?

Based on Henderson's experience and evidence he provided, it is clear the impostor shared at least some of the information contained within the private Facebook messages with others.

Henderson stated specifically that he had received an "angry message" from Jason Smith, former BHS teacher who publicly supported the recall, specifically referencing language contained in a private message exchange between Henderson and the Dielman impostor. Smith also sent Henderson what appears to be a screen shot or a photograph of that original exchange.

### How Did a Third Party Obtain that Information?

The *Record-Courier* asked Smith that very question in Oct. of 2014 in the form of a text message. A text was sent because an email address was not known and for reasons of accuracy because the information exchanged would be in writing. The *Record-Courier* clearly was identified as the party sending the message and requesting the information.

Smith's response when asked who had provided him information was, "As for my source, it was given to me in confidence.....Therefore, I must respectfully decline the request for said information."

Smith also said that he had no idea that Dielman had been impersonated online with a fake Facebook account and that his "qualm was with Mark's comments, not the supposed impostor."

On Nov. 21, 2014, Smith wrote an Op-Ed in the *Baker County Press* and stated that he considered the matter of what he referred to as a 'supposed fake Facebook account' as nothing more than a high school prank. Smith also said in that piece that he believed in accountability. See **IMPERSONATION** on pg 2



Dark Side of the Horse

THIS IS MY PRIVATE CLUB. IT'S VERY PRIVATE. I'M SO ALONE.

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