



BHS's FFA group over 70 strong —Page 3



Historic Baker City plans big for 2015 —Page 5



Sumpter chili feed and bonfire —Page 10

The Baker County Press

Friday, January 9, 2015 • Volume 2, Issue 2

TheBakerCountyPress.com • Your local weekly news source!

75¢

LOCAL NEWS: HEADLINE STORIES • LOCAL ARTICLES • OUTDOORS • AGRICULTURE • CLASSIFIEDS

SUMPTER'S CONTINUING TV CONNECTIONS

'Gold Rush' cast hits the snow



Photo courtesy of The Depot Inn

L-R: Members of the 'Gold Rush' cast Jim Thurber, Jack Hoffman, Kathy Reedy (The Depot Inn), and Todd Hoffman.

By Meghan Andersch
Meghan@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Sumpter hosted some famous visitors last weekend when part of the crew from TV's "Gold Rush" drove in for a snowmobiling trip.

"Dozer Dave" Turin, Jim Thurber, Andy Spinks, Jack Hoffman, and Todd Hoffman stayed with

Weldon and Kathy Reedy at The Depot Inn.

Kathy Reedy said the crew were good guests and "great people to talk to." She said they don't think of themselves as anything special. Reedy explained that they invited her husband to go riding with them, telling him when he declined (not wanting to bug them), "Hey, we're

just normal people."

"Gold Rush" is a television show that focuses on the trials, tribulations and ultimate rewards of placer mining, so far in Alaska and the Yukon Territory in Canada. Later seasons focused on mining operations in Guyana, South America.

The fifth season began airing last October.

Reedy said the party had nine snowmobiles in their group and reported that they all had a great time.

While rumors have been flying for weeks about the possibility of a new season of the show being filmed in various corners of Baker County, there has thus far been nothing to corroborate that notion.

See **GOLD RUSH** / Page 10

Brooklyn school alarm system suspended



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Brooklyn School on Washington has experienced three false alarms in just over four months.

By Kerry McQuisten

News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

After three false alarms in just over four months, Brooklyn School's panic button system will be temporarily suspended until some upgrades can be made to the plastic around the trigger apparatus.

Monday morning, police and other responders were once again called to the school after one of the alarm devices—a fob that is designed to hang around the necks of school staff and teachers—was accidentally pressed.

After this third false alarm, many parents expressed extreme frustration, stating they and their children no longer knew when to take an alarm seriously.

5J Superintendent Walt Wegener acknowledged, "We are sensitive to the multiple alarms and feel that we must do better for children, families and first responders."

See **BROOKLYN ALARMS** / Page 5

Cascade Natural Gas plans January move into new center

By Brian Addison
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Cascade Natural Gas Corp has a newly constructed operations center in Baker City and plans to move in by the end of January. The new center sits on a lot near the intersection of Broadway Street and 13th Street and includes a 5,400 square-foot shop complete with welding bay, inventory room, and space to store equipment and park vehicles.

The office area expands another 1,300 square-feet with three separate offices, six work spaces, and a meeting/training room.

"The new building offers a better training facility for our employees. We'll also have a shop for our equipment and ve-



Brian Addison / The Baker County Press

Cascade Natural Gas hopes to move into its new operations center this month.

hicles," said Mark Hanson, spokesman for Cascade.

"We are making a commitment in the community to continue to provide safe and reliable service to our

customers."

Cascade Natural Gas Corp's Baker City office moves from the previous location in a leased building on 10th Street.

Cascade made the investment and now owns the local office and shop facility.

See **CASCADE GAS** / Page 5

New Year's baby arrives



Submitted Photo.

Saint Alphonsus Baker City is pleased to announce the arrival of the hospital's first New Year's baby. Remington Gallegos was born on January 1st at 1:17 a.m. Weight: 7 lbs., 15 oz. and measuring 20 inches. He was born to Shannara McGuire and Anthony Gallegos. Remington is also welcomed by his older brother Mason McGuire. Both mother and baby are doing well. To commemorate the hospital's New Year's baby, Saint Alphonsus Baker City presented the family with a basket filled with baby clothes, diapers, blankets, Alphonzo the bear and other items parents of newborns need and enjoy.

Friday Mostly sunny with a high around 38. Areas of fog in the morning, mostly sunny skies afterward. Low around 26.

Saturday Mostly cloudy with a high of 38. 30% of afternoon showers. Lows in the lower 20s at night.

Sunday Mostly sunny with a high of 36. Cloudy with a chance of flurries overnight. Chance of precipitation is 30%, lows in the upper 20s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

LGDWS
A division of La Grande Ride, Inc.
Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC CO-OP

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Thomas Angus makes top 100 list	Page 3
Mining Association meets	Page 7
COPS program expands services	Page 8
Feds to focus on sagebrush	Page 8
Wrestlers perform best yet	Page 9
Ore-Ida load lost in semi crash	Page 10

7 01748 74383 8