

# Local

## Historic Homes Parlor Tour scheduled for this weekend

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Saturday, December 12 from noon until 5 p.m., Historic Baker City will present the 30th annual Parlour Tour.

The event is being co-sponsored by The Sunridge and Old West Federal Credit Union.

New additions to the tour this year include St. Francis De Sales Cathedral and the Sheppard House on Main Street.

Tickets for the Tour are available for \$15, \$12 for seniors and students, and can be purchased at BELLA Main Street Market, Betty's Books, The Chamber of Commerce or The Historic Baker City Office in the Pythian Castle prior to the tour day.

Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets for only \$10 apiece.

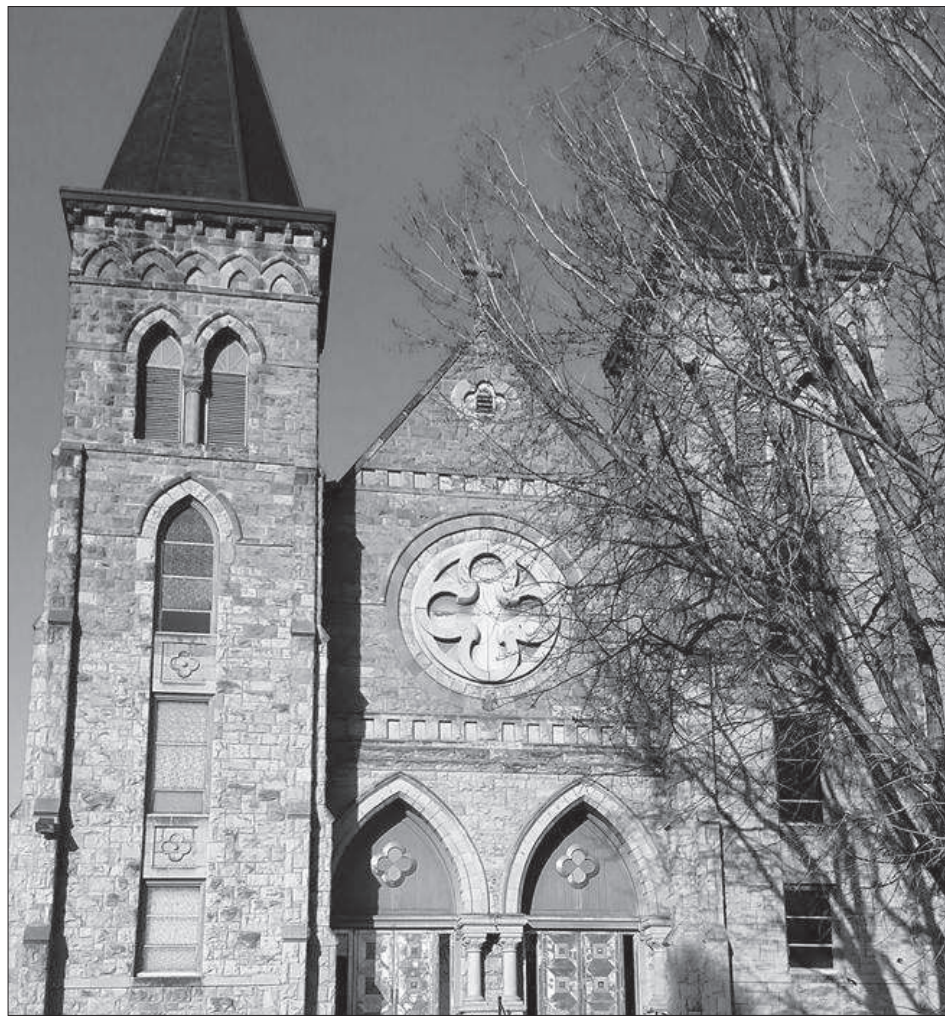
Tickets will also be available the day of the event at Baker Heritage Museum.

The tour is self-guided and begins at the Museum.

The tour proudly presents 10 other stops that include Crossroads – Carnegie Library, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, The Leo Adler House and several other notable properties throughout our beautiful Historic Community such as The Wisdom House and the Shoemaker House.

"We are going to have a good showing," said HBC Program Manager Jeff Nelson. "The Wisdom house is on the tour for the first time. Veronica Johnson has turned it into a vacation rental home, it was one of the first houses ever built in Baker City. The Catholic Church will be on the tour for the first time as is the Sheppard House on Main and Campbell where Amy Briels has her Real Estate Company."

Briels wrote an email



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

The St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City is but one new stop on the tour.

to Nelson regarding some history on her property that she received from Nanci Sheppard.

In that email she stated that Nanci Sheppard had told her the house was built in 1890 by Frederick Eppinger for his mother and sisters. The home was kept in that family until 1960. Frederick Eppinger, a well-respected citizen, was a cabinet maker who also made caskets. His home was located almost next door at 2411 Main Street.

St. Francis de Sales Cathedral also new to the tour this year boasts a great deal of history in the community. The Cathedral was dedicated April 9, 1908 with the groundbreaking for the Church May 24,

1905.

The building is built entirely of local stone—Pleasant Valley stone known as volcanic tuff. Eight stained glass windows were installed by mid-May 1923 with the first major renovation in 1944 and another in 1958.

As part of that renovation, two additional stained glass windows were installed by June 1959 and a smaller window under the choir loft installed in 1965. Cathedral Doors crafted in 1975 by Oregon metal sculptor Lee Kelly were installed with another major renovation occurring in the winter of 1980 and 1981.

In 1994 an elevator allowing access to four levels in the Church was incorporated.

It should be noted that in all renovations the gothic integrity of the building was not encroached upon.

Nelson wishes to thank local members that helped make this possible, *Baker City Herald*, Baker City Lions, Baker City Realty, *The Baker County Press*, Baker Food Co-Op, Bella Main Street Market, Best Western Sunridge Inn, Betty's Books, Bridge Street Inn, Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, J. Tabor Jewelry, Old West Federal Credit Union, Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op, Veteran's Memorial Club, Amy and Eric Friedman and JoAnn and Gary Marlette.

This year's tour looks to be rich in history and beauty and should not be missed.

## Chamber director

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According to a press release from Chamber Board President Cheryl Martin, Cutler is excited to facilitate activities that encourage economic development and advance the prosperity of Baker County while creating ways to heighten tourism and focus on infrastructure efforts.

The same press release states that the Chamber board members are excited for the future opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead.

The Chamber of Commerce Board will be hosting a Christmas Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the chamber office on east Campbell. Please come meet the new director, visit with the board and snack on Christmas goodies.

## Diocesan events ahead

Bishop Cary will be at the Cathedral this coming week to perform the Rite for the The Rite of Opening the Door of Mercy and Mass on December 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City.

As explained by Pope Francis: "The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year...to reach the Holy Door ... everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us."

More information can be found at [www.dioceseof-baker.org/yom.htm](http://www.dioceseof-baker.org/yom.htm)

## Man arrested for bomb-making

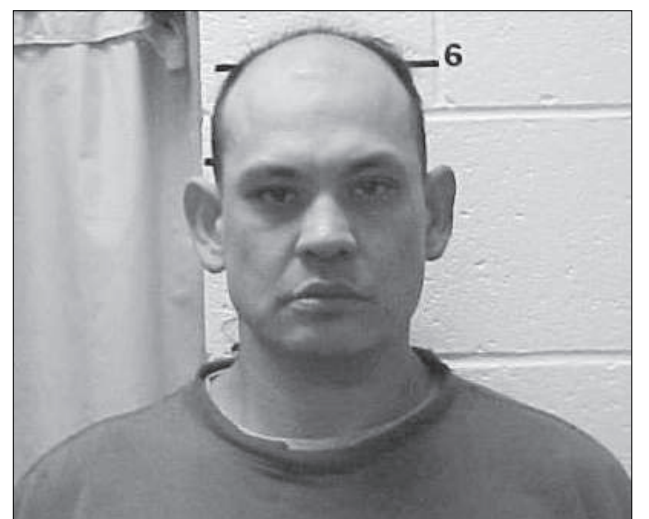


Photo Courtesy of the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Jonathon Romine.

Jonathon Romine, 35, who was residing at 627 David Eccles in Baker City, has been charged with manufacturing an improvised explosive device (IED), and unlawful possession of an IED.

Romine was not directly renting the home at which he was staying, but residing with its renter. He is from Halfway.

After receiving a tip and photograph from the property's owner, according to Police Chief Wyn Lohner, Baker City Police obtained a search warrant for the outbuilding behind the residence where the device was subsequently located Monday afternoon.

The IED charges were added on Tuesday to other charges for which Romine was already incarcerated earlier in the month.

Lohner said that the piece required to ignite the device was lacking, and that the overall destructive potential of the device was unknown.

Homeland Security referred law enforcement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation who have in turn referred them to the ATF, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.

The investigation is ongoing.

## Sumpter City Council

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Julie McKinney stated she made an executive decision after Dick and Rella Brown spent 1 1/2 hours in the Fire Hall sweeping up maggots.

Mike Bainter with Baker Pest Control came out. He said they have a major infestation and it will take a while, but he is confident he can get the situation under control and prevent further problems with proper maintenance.

Cary Clarke said the real problem is with the hose tower. There was discussion about the incredible length of time the fly problem has been an issue. Kurt Clarke stated this is the first thing he was told when he started, to cover his boots with his turnouts so they would not get full of flies.

Myers stated he would recommend, based on Clarke's suggestion, taking down the hose tower as it is no longer needed. He explained they used to hang and dry hoses whenever they were wet, but that new hoses don't require that. Myers said it was a volunteer job to

put the tower up and they would propose it being a volunteer job to take it down.

Julie McKinney reported Blacks is coming to pump water out of the heating fuel tank. Jeff McKinney asked what is the next step as there is no heat in the City Hall building. He mentioned that Scott's Heating and Air Conditioning came out previously and suggested abandoning the current system and putting in an above-ground tank. A motion to do this was approved and Myers asked Julie McKinney to move forward.

Jeff McKinney stated he wanted to thank Clarke Construction for "pulling the snowplow out of difficult position it slid into" and saving the City a tow bill. He also said, "I am very happy to see Council moving forward and accomplishing what needs to be done in such an effective manner. Thank you, all of you. It's refreshing to see problems being addressed and taken care of."

Myrna stated she agreed with Jeff that Council was doing great getting things done.

Jeff McKinney led a round of applause.

Kurt Clarke stated he was leaving to see if he could get the bathroom lights on.

Executive Session Myers announced the meeting was adjourned to be reopened with an Executive Session. He explained the session was open, but that those present could observe only and offer no input. He stated the matter was in regard to an employee complaint of harassment. Myers said he has been trying to get in touch with the City's attorney, but has not been able to do so.

Council discussed the matter, giving the employee a chance to voice input as well. Clarke stated that it's fine to have an opinion, but keep it to yourself. Esposito said, "Treat people like you want to be treated."

She said any employee issues should be taken to Clarke as he is now the supervisor. Myers said what has been recommended is that everyone volunteer to behave in the future. There is currently no process in place to follow once it is determined that someone has done wrong.

Myers addressed the individual in question and

said, "I hope that you can see fit not to pester our City employees. I don't know what else to do at this time. It can get very serious."

He then asked Council for any final input before closing the session. Oakley read a definition of harassment, including systematic and ongoing actions. She stated one incident does meet the definition of harassment. Esposito stated they need to put this behind them and move forward. Oakley agreed that the incident is now in the past and to put it there.

Clarke asked the employee if that was suitable. The employee replied, "Yes, I can work with everybody here."

Myers adjourned the Executive Session and reopened the Council meeting to allow for public input. After hearing some brief remarks and promising that if the individual in question steps out of line "one iota," Council will act swiftly, the meeting was adjourned.

Kurt Clarke announced he had found and reset the appropriate GFI and the bathroom lights were back on.