

Baker City Scouts to Pick up Christmas Trees



It is time once again for the annual Baker City Scouting Christmas tree pickup.

People desiring tree pickup can leave their tree near the curb on the morning of Jan. 3. Trees will be delivered to Baker Sanitary to be turned into mulch.

Giving of donations is encouraged (but not required). Donations may be placed in an envelope attached to the front door of the residence. Contributions go toward supplies, camping and other activities as needed by the Scout units. The money remains with the local Scouting unit that picks up the tree.

We would like to express our thanks to Baker Sanitary Service, Cashway Lumber, local radio and newspapers, and other contributors which make this fundraiser for Scouting in our area such a success each year.

Call Ed Hibbard with any questions, 541-519-6806.

Application Deadline Approaches for U.S. High School Students Seeking YES Abroad Scholarships

The application deadline for the 2015-2016 Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad scholarship program is Jan. 7, 2015. The program provides full scholarships to American high school students to experience overseas communities and cultures, preparing students to collaborate on today's global challenges such as human rights, community development, workforce development, climate change, and global health.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the YES Abroad program enables students to study for one academic year in countries that may include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, South Africa, India, Indonesia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Thailand, and Turkey. The merit-based scholarship covers domestic and international travel; applicable visa fees; medical benefits; room and board; tuition at the local high school; orientations; and fees for educational and cultural activities.

Participants in the program fully immerse themselves in the culture of their host family while attending local high school.

Interested students should visit www.yes-abroad.org to learn more the program and to apply. Contact the YES Abroad program at yesabroad@afsusa.org or 800-237-4636 x2151 if you have questions about the program or application process.

Baker County Public Library Lists Hours

Baker County Public Library will close early for New Year's Eve at 5 p.m., is closed for New Year's Day and will reopen on Friday, Jan. 2, 2015 for regular hours 9-6 p.m.

New Year's Eve – Open 9-5 p.m.
New Year's Day – Closed
Jan 2, 2015 – Open 9-6 p.m.

Oregon Minimum Wage Inches Up in New Year as Momentum Builds for Bigger Raise

Oregon's minimum wage will inch up 15 cents to \$9.25 an hour in the new year. The increase arrives on the eve of a legislative session expected to include debate on whether to raise the state's minimum wage even higher.

The Jan. 1 increase is the result of a ballot measure enacted by voters in 2002 tying the minimum wage to inflation. The change means an extra \$26 per month for a full-time worker earning the minimum.

"Though the 15 cent increase will help, the minimum wage remains too low for working families to make ends meet," said Tyler Mac Innis, a policy analyst with the Oregon Center for Public Policy. "A parent who works full time should be able to cover his or her family's basic needs."

The Center's research shows that seven out of ten Oregon families living in poverty in 2013 had at least one parent who worked. One in five families with children had at least one parent who worked full time.

"Too many working families are poor, even with the poverty line set too low," said Mac Innis. "There are plenty of families above the poverty line also struggling to make end meet."

The Center expects the Oregon legislature to consider raising the minimum wage during the 2015 session. Already, at least 10 lawmakers have come out in favor of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Contrary to the claims of critics, increases to the minimum wage over the years have had little or no impact on job growth, Mac Innis said.

"The minimum wage has been well studied by economists, and most have found little or no effect on job growth," the analyst said. "The facts speak loudly on this point."

Mac Innis cited the example of the Oregon restaurant industry, which employs a large share of Oregon's minimum wage workers. In 2013, restaurants and bars employed more Oregonians than any other industry in the private sector, while paying less than all but one other industry.

Though Oregon's minimum wage is one of the highest in the nation, the restaurant industry's own national association projected healthy employment growth in Oregon this year.

A higher minimum wage can benefit local businesses because workers are also consumers, Mac Innis said. He explained that low-wage working families typically spend their earnings immediately to meet their basic needs -- rent, food, car repairs and the like.

"In the upcoming session Oregon lawmakers will have a chance to make the economy work better for everyone, not just for those at the top," said Mac Innis. "Oregonians will be looking for their legislators to raise the minimum wage so work enables families to make ends meet."

The Oregon Center for Public Policy is a non-partisan, non-profit institute that does in-depth research and analysis on budget, tax and economic issues. The Center's goal is to improve decision making and generate more opportunities for all Oregonians.

News of Record

Marriages

Dec. 13 - Christopher Guy Dixon to Alison Kaye Guyer, both of Baker City.

Dec. 13 - Lance Craig Siddoway to Rachel Marie Williams, both of North Powder.

Dec. 20 - Clay Otis Winton of Cordova, Alaska to Maria Eve Shambaugh of Emmett, Idaho.

Dec. 20 - Christian Joel Moak of Pullman, Wash. to Haley Brooke Adams of Baker City.

Dec. 20 - Robby Dean Bench to Tracie Rae Arnold, both of Provo, Utah.

Dec. 23 - Joseph Ernest Stocker to Sharon Kaye Ritchey, both of Sumpter.

Baker County Circuit Court

Dec. 22 - State of Ore. v. Yesenia Lopez regarding Dom. Rel. Fin. Resp.

Dec. 22 - Portfolio Recovery Associates v. Michel L. Cole regarding Civil Money Action.

Dec. 22 - Emily Munsell v. Dustin Colton-Mayer regarding Dom. Rel. Pet Custody.

Dec. 24 - State of Ore. v. Donnie A. Bonneville regarding Dom. Rel. Fin. Resp.

Dec. 24 - State of Ore. v. Jacob Walker regarding Dom. Rel. Fin. Resp.

Arrests

Dec. 24 - Kimberly Bell for Theft II.

Dec. 26 - Carrie Jean Ricci of an unknown address on an out-of-county detainer.

Dec. 26 - Carmon Deon Hendrickson of Baker City on a Baker County Justice Court Cite and Release warrant.

Dec. 26 - Emily Alicia Munsell of Baker City for Conspiracy to Commit a Crime.

Dec. 27 - Ida Rose Elkshoulder of Baker City on a Baker County Parole Board warrant for Post-Prison Violation.

Dec. 27 - Jason Lee Darnell of Baker City on a Baker County detainer for Probation Violation.

Dec. 28 - Forrest Lee Entermille of Baker City for Harassment.

Dec. 28 - Casey John Campbell of an unknown address on a Baker County Circuit Court Warrant for Probation Violation.

Dec. 29 - Kristopher Michael Cook of Boise, Idaho for UUMV.

Woman Arraigned to Have Ex-Boyfriend Murdered

On Dec. 29, 2014 Emily Munsell born Aug. 17, 1990 of 1357 Dewey Street in Baker City, Ore., was arraigned in Baker County Circuit Court on one count of Solicitation to Commit Murder. Munsell is alleged to have solicited an undercover Baker City Police Detective to have her ex-boyfriend murdered. The case is being investigated by the Baker City Police Department. Munsell was arrested Friday evening following an undercover sting conducted by detectives who had received a tip earlier in the day that Munsell was seeking to have her ex-boyfriend murdered. The case will be presented to the Baker County Grand Jury next week and additional charges may be submitted at that time.

Saturday Mail Delivery Continues but Congress Leaves Postal Service in Limbo

The National Newspaper Association this week celebrated the continuation of Saturday mail delivery through the federal fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but lamented the passage of another congressional session without postal reform. NNA President John Edgecombe Jr. called on publishers to attend NNA's Leadership Summit March 19 in Washington to urge quick action in the next Congress.

"If common sense had prevailed, a reform bill would have been completed. We had a solid proposal that provided USPS with financial relief, preserved service and implemented health cost reforms. It should have been accepted," said Edgecombe, publisher of The Nebraska Signal in Geneva, Neb.

But disputes among Senate leaders stalled the progress. Congress finally adopted a government funding resolution for 2015 that included a continued mandate for Saturday home delivery. Other reform provisions, including preservation of service standards and reasonable guidelines on USPS' use of negotiated service agreements to market its advertising mail, never reached the Senate floor.

Edgecombe said NNA was disappointed, but he applauded President Obama's signature of the funding resolution that continued six-day delivery.

He said NNA would highlight declining rural mail service in 2015. USPS is on track to close more than 80 mail processing plants in smaller U.S. cities. It has said it wants to concentrate mail sorting in urban areas, where declining mail volume has left urban plants with idle time.

NNA Postal Committee Chair Max Heath said the changes in mail processing ahead would be the next wave in shrinking rural service and focusing processing in urban areas.

"Although USPS has a genuine problem keeping its plants busy, the error was in overbuilding during the fat times. Trying to fix it by carrying the mail further and further down the highways so those big plants can stay busy is simply going to accelerate the problems we have already seen. There is only so much you can do to improve efficiency when you are faced with reality of miles of asphalt."

"Sadly, we are looking at two different visions of the Postal Service," Edgecombe said. "USPS management believes it must focus on urban areas in the hope of improving its revenue. "But that pits the Postal Service against private-sector competition in over-served areas. It abandons the essential needs in smaller towns and under-served rural areas where the service is most critical. Reports of declining mail service in NNA-member towns continue, and I frankly see little change on the horizon unless Congress acts."

Edgecombe said he was gratified that key senators supported universal service and had tried to broker a bill in the final days of Congress. He thanked Sens. Roy Blunt, R-MO; Jon Tester, D-MT; Tammy Baldwin, D-WI; and Bernard Sanders, D-VT, in particular for leading the effort to wrap up a bill.

"The 114th Congress will be our fourth Congress where we fight for universal service," Edgecombe said. "We'll be back. We will go armed with our concerns, including service problems. We have faith that legislation can be passed that preserves mail delivery and sustains the Postal Service."




Bates, Clayton D Height: 5'10"
DOB: 08/23/1983 Weight: 160 lbs
Sex: Male Convictions:
Race: White Tampering with
Hair Color: Brown Witness, Posses-
Eye Color: Brown sion of Meth

The person above has criminal warrants. If you see this person, do not attempt to apprehend them yourself. If you know where this person may be, contact Parole and Probation at 541-523-8217 or your nearest police department. You may also e-mail parole@bakercounty.org



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