

News of Record

Marriages

June 27 - Samuel Grant Johnson to Katherine Amelia Hagan, both of Baker City.
 July 3 - Charles Eugene Carpenter to Janet Lee Ellen Taylor, both of Baker City.
 July 4 - William Eugene Eric Thompson, Jr. to Lindsey Elane Truscott, both of Halfway.
 July 4 - Clinton Coleman Stockdale to Ramona Elizabeth Harris, both of Homedale, Idaho.
 July 8 - Daniel Jay Smith to Hilary Ray Crouch, both of St. Anthony, Idaho.

Arrests

July 6 - James Hensen arrested for Reckless Driving.
 July 8 - Dustin Palmer arrested for Contempt.
 July 11 - Yuliana Meza arrested on an Out-of-County Warrant.

July 13 - Michael Schulte arrested for DUI, Reckless Driving, and Coercion.
 July 13 - Jeremy Allen Gilda arrested for Violation of Restraining Order.
 July 13 - James Robert Kolacz arrested for Probation Violation.

Baker County Circuit Court

July 1 - State of Ore. v. Roderick Joseph Gagnon regarding Possession of Methamphetamine, felony.
 July 8 - State of Ore. v. James Andrew Ryan regarding Criminal Impersonation of an Officer, felony.
 July 8 - State of Ore. v. Timothy Kelly Slaney regarding DUI, misdemeanor.
 July 10 - State of Ore. v. George Eldon Deardorff regarding Wildlife Violation, misdemeanor.



House Fire in Baker City

Photo by Gina Perkins

On Tuesday mid-day fire and police responded to a house fire on the 1700 block of Valley Avenue in Baker City.

Baker County Parole & Probation Most Wanted



Bates, Clayton D

DOB: 08/23/1983 Sex: Male
 Race: White Hair Color: Brown
 Eye Color: Brown Height: 5'10"
 Weight: 160

Convictions: Tampering with Witness, Possession 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

Red Cross Offers Assistance

Disaster action team volunteers with the American Red Cross this afternoon responded to a disaster that occurred in the 1700 block of Valley Ave. in Baker City. This multi-family fire affected four adults, a child, and multiple pets. Red Cross provided food, clothing, comfort kits, stuffed animals and information about recovery services.

The Red Cross advocates emergency preparedness and offers the installation of free smoke alarms in communities across Oregon and southwest Washington. Residents may call (503) 528-5783 to schedule an appointment.

Know what to do before, during and after a home fire. Take a few moments to review your family's exit plan should there be a fire in your home. This information, and more, is available at www.redcross.org or in a free Prepare! Resource Guide published by the American Red Cross Cascades Region. The guide can be downloaded at <http://rdcrss.org/1zq8XW6>.

Another Sagebrush Rebellion?

To the Editor:

The Baker City Herald (7-10-2015) headlined an article "Harvey not happy with Legislature."

Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey laments legislation the Democratically-controlled Oregon legislature "shoved down our throats" resulting in "an abject failure," so reported the Herald. "I'm sick with what the Legislature has done... when one party holds power." (But I doubt that he laments the fact that since the last national mid-term election, just the reverse is true with the Republicans controlling both houses of Congress.)

Harvey's last complaint--"Three-quarters of the state votes conservative. They get it. Another quarter of the state doesn't get it"--demonstrates that Harvey has a mistaken idea of how our democracy works. He confuses geography with voting rights. Elections are won or lost based on "one man, one vote," not on square miles of Republican Greg Walden's huge 2nd Congressional District. The result of "one man, one vote" is that the majority of voters have elected a Congressional delegation composed of six Democrats and just one Republican.

If Harvey doesn't like the fact that the 2nd District represents only a small fraction of Oregon voters, then he might consider starting another Sagebrush Rebellion and petition the Oregon legislature to secede from Oregon and form the State of Jefferson. It's been tried before and failed. But maybe it'll work this time, if Harvey can find enough 2nd District voters as "sick" as he is with what comes out of Salem.

Gary Dielman
 Baker City

Why No Workshops in Baker or Union County?

To the Editor:

"Circumvent", I came across this word recently, and now it sticks in my already cluttered head. (the definition--around, to get the better of or, prevent by craft or ingenuity)

I feel the workshops being facilitated by, High Desert Partnerships, are a platform to circumvent the overwhelming negative response to the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision. Over 1300 comments were received with 95% disapproval of the plan. I find it alarming no workshops are scheduled for Union or Baker County.

Repeatedly Forest Access For All, has requested public meetings with the forest service and voiced our dislike of the workshop scenario. Once again this agency appears to suffer hearing loss. Baker County commission chair, Bill Harvey, is working to arrange a public meeting.

Planning Commission to Conduct Hearing on Vacation of Street

The Baker City Planning Commission will be conducting a hearing on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 7 pm to hear the following request:

VAC-15-046 Donald & Roberta Fink have petitioned for the City to vacate a dead-end portion of 'E' Street, located in Section 16 of Township 09 South, Range 40 East, W.M., Baker County, Ore., between Tax Lots 1300 and 1400.

Two properties abut the proposed street vacation: Tax Lot 1300 (Ref. 470) owned by Donald & Roberta Fink of 2960 East Street, Baker City and Tax Lot 1400 (Ref. 471) owned by Kenton & Shirley McPherson of 990 Park Street, Baker City. Both properties and the portion of 'E' Street proposed for vacation are located within the General Industrial (I) Zone. As included in the petition, the vacated portion of 'E' Street is proposed to become a part of Tax Lots 1300 and 1400, in equal parts. The request will need to comply with the Baker City Development Code, Section 4.3.200 and 4.3.190, and Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 271. The City Council will make the final decision on the request, and will conduct hearings on Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, August 11, at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Planner Eva Ceder at 541-523-8219. A copy of the applications, all documents and evidence submitted by

Last year FAFA spent thousands of dollars, presenting meetings and encouraging people to speak and write concerns on the proposed Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision. FAFA members traveled across eastern Oregon throughout the summer months. The efforts of dedicated members combined with others generated over 1300 comments. Finally late in the fall, 11 counties, made the right move and rejected the proposed forest plan. Something worked.

Be aware when you attend these workshops. It is imperative you stick to your message. A piece of information came out of the John Day, meeting, which to me was very alarming. The forest supervisor responded to the crowd with the insinuation, when it comes to push and shove the forest service doesn't need to respond to any of our concerns. Once again engagement with the forest service would indicate we are dickering over a preconceived conclusion with the illusion public concerns have been addressed.

At the very least we need language in the Blue Mountain Forest Plan, that preserves and protects our present level of access. That would be a fair beginning for dialog. Road closures through the backdoor of projects needs to stop.

To date 14 workshops have been scheduled, none in Union or Baker Co. I want endless meetings and comments to end, but request 2 more. One in Union and one in Baker Co.. Preferably at a time and date working people can attempt to attend the meetings.

Wanda Ballard
 Baker City

Editor's note: Peter Fargo, Public Affairs Officer with the U.S. Forest Service stated, "We definitely plan to announce more public workshops soon, including in Baker County and Union County. We are in touch with local partners and still working out the details for those events."

Home-Grown Treasures

To the Editor:

Despite unseasonable downpours, the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally this past weekend was a success. (Kudos to Kurt Miller and his crew.) During Saturday's exhibitions, we had the distinct privilege and outstanding pleasure of hearing the Baker Elks' Drum & Bugle Corps play to rousing applause. These fellas are truly home-grown treasures. Nothing can get you on your feet and swaying to the beat, like the Drum & Bugle Corps. For over five decades, they have been putting Baker City on the map. They've played in every state of the Union, yet always return home to us to play in the Miners Jubilee parade, the Shrine parade, and a host of other special events such as the Motorcycle Rally. "Thank you" doesn't even begin to express our deep appreciation.

Joyce Badgley Hunsaker
 Hometown Girl

Greg Walden Supports Bipartisan Wildfire Prevention, Forestry Reform Bill Passed by U.S. House

Walden: "I urge the Senate to quickly consider and pass this bill. Our forested communities have already waited too long. Now is the time to act."

As another busy fire season is already well underway in Oregon, U.S. Representative Greg Walden (R-Hood River) strongly supported a bipartisan bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives today to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire in national forests. The Resilient Federal Forests Act (H.R. 2647), which passed by a vote of 262-167, would bring much needed reforms to federal forest policy and help bring active management back to our forests. Speaking on the House floor in support of the bill, Walden explained the need for meaningful action on fixing broken federal forest policy.

"The House's consideration of the bill is timely. As we speak brave firefighters are still trying to contain the Corner Creek fire, which has already burned nearly 29,000 acres of forest land near Dayville, Ore. Unfortunately, this fire season is only getting started," Walden said. "One look at the fires around the West makes clear the status quo isn't working for our forests, and it certainly doesn't work for our rural communities. The Resilient Federal Forests Act will help strengthen the health of our communities and our forests. I urge the Senate to quickly consider and pass this bill. Our forested communities have already waited too long. Now is the time to act."

Walden further explained some of the benefits the bill would bring to Oregon's rural forested communities and the people who live there.

"Among the many strong provisions in this bill to streamline planning, reduce frivolous lawsuits, and speed up the pace of forest management, several in particular are helpful for Oregon's federal forests. For national forests in eastern Oregon, this legislation repeals the prohibition on harvesting trees over 21 inches in diameter -- a measure temporarily implemented in 1997 that still hasn't been removed nearly 20 years later. This flawed one-size-fits-all rule illustrates just how broken federal forest management has become. It greatly limits the flexibility forest managers have to address site specific needs of the forest on the ground and has only become a source of frequent appeals and litigation," Walden said.

Walden also explained that the bill brings much needed reforms to O&C lands in southern and western Oregon.

"This bill also includes legislation I wrote working with my colleagues from Oregon, Representatives Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader pertaining to Oregon's unique O&C Lands, cutting costs, and increasing timber harvest and revenue to local counties. The BLM is also directed to revise their flawed management plan proposals to consider the clear statutory mandate to manage these lands for sustainable timber production and revenue to the counties," Walden said.

The bill also helps solve the long-standing "fire borrowing" problem by allowing the Forest Service to request FEMA disaster funds for fire suppression without having to continually rob their internal fire prevention accounts.

During the last session of Congress, the U.S. House twice passed bipartisan legislation coauthored by Walden to help reform federal forest policy. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to take meaningful action on forestry legislation.

Passage of this bill continues Walden's mission to make forest policy work for Oregonians. He has been a leader in writing other bipartisan forestry plans, including the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the Forest Emergency Research and Recovery Act, and the FLAME Act.

Look what's new at Scorpio!

New shipment of assorted fancy parakeets

Hardy aquarium plants

scorpiointl@centurylink.net
 2628 10th Street, Baker City
 541-523-3156

Join Baker County Cattlewomen & Cattlemen and Support the Shriners Hospital for Children Saturday, August 1st Cowboy Breakfast!

6:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Geiser-Pollman Park in Baker City
 Steak, eggs, pancakes & coffee only \$10 • No steak? \$7

New This Year, "GRIDIRON" Tailgate & Grill-Off with Auction.
 Tailgate 12-6 p.m. • Auction 2 p.m.
 Prior to football game - watch for more details.

To pre-order tickets: www.eastwestshrinefootball.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Proceeds from both events help purchase the Shrine Steer which is auctioned off during half time of the E-W Shrine game; Those funds go directly to the Shriners Hospital for Children