

Enjoy the Elkhorn Grange Fall Festival

The 5th Annual Elkhorn Grange Fall Festival will be held Oct. 10 from 9-3 p.m. in Haines at the Elkhorn Grange. They will be serving lunch from 11:30-1 p.m. and the menu will include: Pulled Pork sandwiches, Bierocks, and Veggie Burgers. There will be vendors and delicious apple cider pressed on site. If you are interested in being a vendor, call 541-856-3435 for more information.

Fall Music Events in Oct.

Oct. 22 is the BHS Fall Band Concert, BHS Auditorium at 7 p.m.
Oct. 27 the BMS Fall Band and Choir Concert will be held at the BHS Auditorium at 7 p.m.
Oct. 29 will be the date of the BHS Fall Choir Concert, also at BHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

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October 2 - 8

THE MARTIAN PG-13
An astronaut stranded on Mars is presumed dead and must find a way to signal to Earth that he's alive.
FRI & SAT (3:30) 6:30 9:30
SUNDAY (3:30) 6:30
MON-THURS 6:30

THE INTERN PG-13
70 year old retiree (Robert DeNiro) comes out of retirement to intern for an online fashion site.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:35
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 PG
Dracula and his friends try to bring out the monster in his grandson.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:40
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

Celebrating 75 Years

() = Bargain Matinee

Thanks for Your Service, Airman Borello



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nathan Burke/Released

Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Dillon Borello, from Sumpter, Ore., removes an antenna from an MH-60S Seahawk from the "Golden Falcons" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 using a speed wrench in the hangar bay of the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN) 76. Ronald Reagan and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, provide a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interests of its allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Interested in Knowing How to Benefit from Bicycle Tourism?

The Eastern Oregon Visitors Association is partnering with Travel Oregon to host a free community planning program designed to help local businesses benefit from visiting bicyclists and help make northeastern Oregon a premier bicycling destination. The Bicycle Tourism Studio program will kick off with a region-wide workshop for local businesses and organizations on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Cook Memorial Library located at 2006 Fourth St. La Grande. Follow-up community action planning meetings will take place in Union, Baker and Wallowa counties in November.

Bicycle travelers contribute \$400 million annually to Oregon's economy—that's approximately \$1.1 million per day. Bicycle tourists also tend to spend \$124 more per trip, 20 percent higher than the average visitor (http://www.deanrunyan.com/doc_library/bicyclertravel.pdf).

"The northeastern Oregon region already attracts a diverse bicycle travel market, including out-of-state visitors looking for must-see landscapes and Oregonians who enjoy off-the-beaten-path locales and authentic experiences. The growing interest in destination cycling and the incredible assets our region has create a compelling opportunity to market bicycle tourism," said Alice Trindle, Executive Director, Eastern Oregon Visitors Association.

Anyone interested in capitalizing on the growing bicycle travel trend and looking to increase this market in northeastern Oregon is invited to participate in the Bicycle Tourism Studio program. All lodging establishments, restaurants, cafés, brew pubs, bike shops, tour operators, retail shops and attractions, as well as public land managers, trail advocates, planners, communication specialists, community leaders and cyclists are encouraged to participate. All participants are asked to attend both the region-wide workshop and at least one of the follow-up action planning meetings. Pre-registration is requested online Industry.TravelOregon.com/northeastBTS. There is no cost to participate.

Region-Wide Workshop: Oct. 22, 2015, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Cook Memorial Library
Follow-Up Action Planning Meetings:
Union County - Nov. 17, 2015, 8 a.m. - noon at Cook Memorial Library
Wallowa County - Nov. 18, 2015, 8 a.m. - noon at Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce
Baker County - Nov. 19, 2015, 8 a.m. - noon at Always Welcome Inn

See **BICYCLE** on page 10

Baker Methodist Church to Host Missionaries

By Phyllis Badgley

On Thursday, Oct. 1, at noon, the Baker Methodist Church will host missionaries Bill and Gwen Gibson from Senegal. Bill is the Mission Director from the General Board of Global Missions. Gwen serves as an educational specialist in Senegal. This nation is located on West Coast of Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The couple traveled to Senegal in 2011 with International Mission program.

Oct. 2 is set up day for the All Church Bazaar to be held Oct. 3 from 9-1 p.m.

Oct. 4 is the World Wide Communion Sunday. A special offering to support scholarships for graduate students entering ministry will be taken.

Oct. 6, the United Methodist Women will meet at 1 p.m. at the church.

Also on Oct. 6, the Tuesday Activity Club resumes from 4-5 p.m. for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

New Business Development Fund for Eastern Oregon now Available

Story / photo by Gina Perkins

The Eastern Oregon Business Development Revolving Loan Fund is a brand new option for businesses and economic development purposes in Eastern Oregon. The purpose of the program is to establish new business, expand existing business, create employment opportunities, save existing jobs, and develop community projects.

Baker County is among twelve other eastern Oregon counties eligible to apply for funding and includes: Wallowa, Union, Grant, Morrow, Gilliam, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Sherman, Umatilla, Wasco and Wheeler counties. Up to \$500,000 can be borrowed and this amount must be less than 75 percent of the total project cost.

Loans may be used (among other things) for business acquisition, construction conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, and development costs; purchasing and development of land, easements, right-of-way, building facilities, leases or material; purchasing of equipment, supplies, leasehold improvements, or machinery; pollution control and abatement; transportation services; refinancing of debt; start-up costs and working capital; and feasibility studies, including any reasonable fees and charges.

This new business development fund was among many other topics discussed at the Economic Development Council meeting held on Sept. 24. Greg Smith, Economic Development Director for Baker County presented the information on the RLF Fund. He also reported on the commercial booth at the State Fair as well as briefed Commissioner Harvey and the board on business activity.

He stated that he is assisting a major employer with building expansion, and is reviewing Enterprise Zone expansion which would potentially result in five additional family wage jobs. Smith also shared information regarding the addition of a potential new distillery tasting room and has been working with the Unity and Portland School Districts to identify students who would benefit from and be an asset to the Unity School District. Portland school officials will be traveling to Unity at a future date.

Following the meeting, Smith stated that he is proactively speaking with suitable retailers in the event the Haggen store should close.

Blue Mountain Small Business Development Center also presented information and invites everyone to attend their Oct. 14 Pub Talk which will be held at the Powder River Correctional Facility. SBDC also requested \$1000 to continue funding of the Pub Talks which Bob Savage and Jeff Nelson believe are very beneficial to the community and attendees. The talks lose about \$100 each time. EDC voted unanimously to grant an additional \$1000 which will pay for two year's worth of talks on a variety of topics. On average, 40 individuals attend, according to Savage.

Jeff Nelson touted the new Hatch Center and program offered through a partnership with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and Northeast Oregon Economic Development. A brand new law was passed allowing community public offerings to qualified businesses.

Out-going Chamber Executive Director, Debi Bainter, asked the EDC for partial funding to pay for the back cover ad in the Baker County Living Guide. It is used as part of a business recruitment and relocation package. The board voted unanimously to contribute \$500.

Bill Harvey who is the Chairman of the EDC board provided his update. He stated that he is aggressively working with the Forest Service regarding the brief window of time for salvage logging which he explained is one year maximum for Pine trees and two year for Fir. He said his first priority will be to log 100-200 feet on each side of every road affected by the fire. "This will create jobs. We've had several meetings with the Forest Service," Harvey stated.

Former Baker City mayor, Dennis Dorrah, provided a proposal regarding the production of a documentary on the notorious McCarty gang which was located in the North Powder area. Dorrah provided history and information on the gang as well as information on the grants for which the group (which includes grant writer Liz Burton and three gentlemen from Union County who perform the bank robberies during the summer at the Sumpter Valley Railroad), are applying.

In addition to the film, Dorrah hopes to see re-enactments in the streets during events. The group approached Wallowa County which provided them with \$1000 in challenge money. They were told they would match any additional funds given them by either Baker or Union County. The proposed timeline for completion is the end of 2016. Dorrah and the group will be working with Eastern Oregon University on the filming and technical aspects of production.

Bill Harvey made a motion for EDC to make a donation of \$2500 and board member Richard Langrell seconded it. It passed unanimously.

Dorrah and others believe the project will honor the history and heritage of our tri-county area in which the McCarty gang was active and the result will be positive for the local economy.



(from front to back) Baker County Economic Development Director, Greg Smith, Jeff Nelson BMCC Business Adviser and Art Hill BMCC Vice President of Economic Development, SBDC Director at recent EDC meeting.



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Blankenship-Chronister Begin Their Life Together



Macey Lynn Chronister of Klamath Falls and Derek James Blankenship of Baker City wed Aug. 1, 2015 in Ashland, Ore., at the Box R Ranch. Macey is the daughter of Steve and Sherri Chronister of Klamath Falls and Derek is the son of Dan and Sheryl Blankenship of Baker City, and grandson of Jim and Sharon Karman and Buck Blankenship of Baker City. The maid of honor was Kyla Chronister, the brides sister, and her bridesmaids were life long friends Marian Packer, JB Shaw, Carly Bigby, Taylor Thompson, Emily Goode and Brittney Moore. The best man was Dillon Blankenship, brother of the groom, and his groomsmen included best friend from Baker City, Trace Richardson, George Fox friends, Matthew Zeller, Ian Skiles, Mark Smith and Zach Hegelmeyer and Optometry School friends, John Hanstad and Elliot Olerud. The flower girl was Brooklyn Chronister, the bride's niece, and the ring bearer was Jaxson Blankenship, the groom's cousin.

The bride completed Cornerstone School of Ministry in 2013 and is part of the management team at Dutch Bros Coffee in Glendale, Ariz., and Derek is a graduate of George Fox University and is now in Optometry School at Midwestern University in Glendale. The couple honeymooned in Greece.

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