

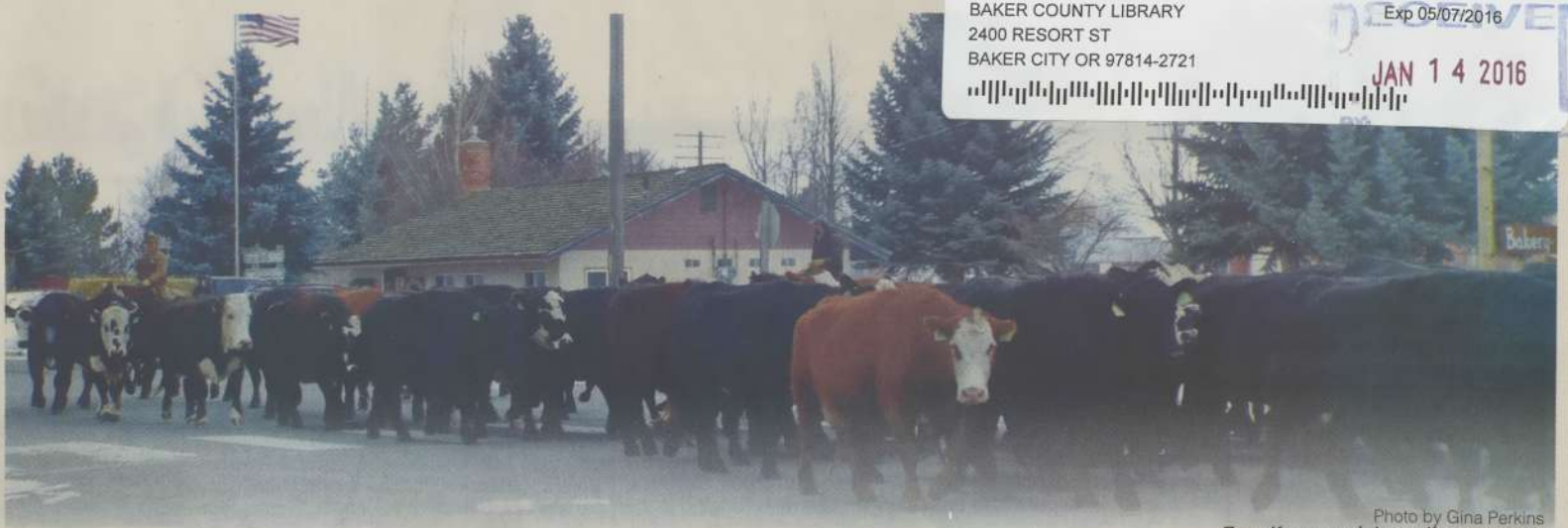


Photo by Gina Perkins
Tom Kerns and two other cowboys moved several cows through Haines on Monday past the Record-Courier office. The red cow near the center looks an ear and looks especially pleased they moooved right on past the Haines Steak House..... instead of becoming the guests of honor for dinner.

Record-Courier

Intensely local news

Positively Baker County

Est. Haines 1901 ~ Haines, Baker County, Oregon

Thursday, January 14, 2016

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Baker High School's Claude Hines

Cary Rush sent us this mid 1920s photograph of Claude Hines who is standing exactly in the center of the photo.

He writes, "Thought you would like this photo, there are very few photos of this Oregon Sports hall of fame member, Claude Hines. Claude and my grandfather, Frank Frey, Jr. were very good friends....My grandmother's, brother, Joseph Eddy is the person directly behind Claude."

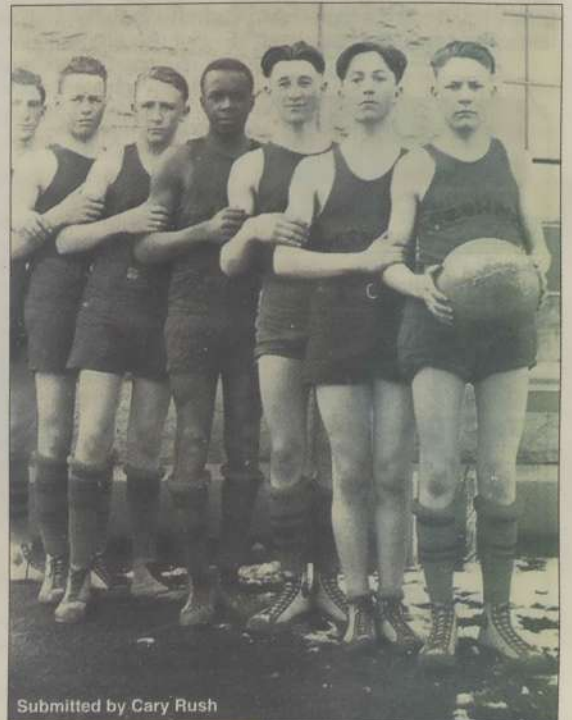
Hines was Baker High School's very first African American athlete and went on to play at Southern Oregon University. Hines, who died in Baker City on April 7, 1985, was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. He coached youth at the YMCA and in an article published in the *Record-Courier* by Mike Doherty in 2015 about Dick Ballantyne and Tom Holman, the only two BHS athletes to ever play on a final four team, he said, "Tom's days in Baker continued to shape his work ethic and his character. At age 12, he became involved in school year and summer activities led by Claude Hines who worked for the YMCA. Claude had been an outstanding 1920's athlete at BHS and later at Southern Oregon College. He was overlooked by the state's west-side media who rarely paid attention to Eastern Oregon athletes."

Claude became a mentor to Tom and taught him basic fundamentals, sportsmanship, how to win and lose and how to respect others. Claude had a tremendous influ-

ence on Baker athletes and teams of that era, inspiring Tom to dream of a career as a teacher and coach. The players of the 1938 BHS basketball state champs credited him for much of their success, and BHS went on a ten-year run at the state tournament, four of which featured Tom Holman as a starter. Tom was the first Oregon player to play in four consecutive state tournaments, and as a sophomore in 1926, Claude had been the first black athlete to appear in Oregon's state tournament."

Doherty also wrote in a separate piece that, "Hines was born in Portland, Oregon on February 14, 1909.... He moved to Baker with his grandparents who emigrated there from Philadelphia in 1885. Eastern and Southern Oregon, during Hine's childhood, was a very difficult area for African-Americans because of racial prejudice. However, the great personality and athletic ability of Claude Hines won over many in the area and he became a very popular individual and great high school and college multi-sport athlete."

"In 1928, Baker High School elected him Class President, and whenever his teams traveled in high school or college his coaches and teammates would not frequent restaurants or hotels that would not accept Hines as a patron because of his race. Many considered Hines to be the top all-around high school athlete in eastern Oregon. His high school career was highlighted by many athletic achievements..." wrote Doherty.



Submitted by Cary Rush

New Chamber Director Off to a Great Start

By Gina Perkins

Shelly Cutler, the newly hired Executive Director for the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, officially began her duties Jan. 4. Her first big event is this Saturday, Jan. 16 with the Annual Chamber Banquet.



Shelly Cutler
Executive Director

The wheels for this event were set in motion well before she was hired including the theme, "Wine and Roses" with a spin on Dean Martin. She reports ticket sales are strong and has received several membership renewals just in this short time.

Cutler emphasizes, "I am working very hard to make sure that it is a very upscale, nice event." The event will be held at the Sunridge this Saturday, and tickets are \$35. Some are still available. The menu features beef tenderloin, green salad medley, potatoes mousseline, seasonal vegetables, and raspberry-chocolate tiramisu.

"Things are going to be significantly different," Cutler said referring to her leadership at the Chamber. "Right after the banquet I will be out meeting with business owners and finding out what their expectations are of me and of the Chamber," she added.

Her first few days were spent cleaning out and rearranging the office. Her desk is now just inside the main door and she intends to make herself very available to the public and visitors.

Cutler says she grew up in the Ontario area and then moved to Boise. Before coming to Baker City about five years ago, she was in Pendleton. Cutler worked at Saint Alphonsus and is now owns Tropical Sun in addition to being the Chamber Director.

Cutler was hired to replace Debi Bainter and may be reached by calling 541-523-5855.

Federal Overreach Point has been Lost in the Conversation

By Gina Perkins

Many ranchers, including several in Baker County, feel the most important point has been lost in the coverage of the situation occurring in Harney County. For them, what has happened to the Hammonds is a symptom of years of federal agency overreach and they are glad Ammon Bundy and his group have brought national attention.

These same individuals are also happy the FBI has not handled the situation in Harney County the same way as the Cliven Bundy situation in Nevada. Some have expressed frustration with the actions and words of the Harney County Sheriff and questioned the need for closing the school.

"They're not going to hurt those kids," said one Baker County rancher who also expressed appreciation to Ammon Bundy for traveling all the way up here from Arizona to take a stand. Local rancher, Kody Justus recently delivered donations to Ammon Bundy and those occupying the wildlife refuge. Justus was interviewed on video by a member of a patriot group called Three Percent.

Last week the local BLM office saw its own protester. Sheriff Ash said, "I talked with him and he felt with the events in Malheur county, he needed to protest. He was very friendly and I left him to exercise his rights."

What Do you Think of a Minimum Wage Hike?

By Gina Perkins

Last week, Representative Cliff Bentz held a Town Hall event at the Sunridge and heard from a variety of business owners and individuals about the impact of a proposed minimum wage hike to \$13.50-\$15.

During the discussion, Bob Brady, owner of Burger Bob's which first opened in 1960, said his family's business has employed right at 1,000 people over the years. Many of these employees have been high school aged students. Paying an entry level wage of \$13.50-\$15 will have an extraordinarily detrimental impact on a business like this resulting in much fewer opportunities and fewer hours in order to maintain the same level of profitability.

Similar concerns were heard by others in the audience including Kurt Miller of the Baker Truck Corral. Richard Chaves of Chaves Consulting noted that many of his employees are more interested in the benefits than the hourly wage and with increased costs and requirements there, would likely be forced to reduce or eliminate benefits with employees left to purchase their own.

Rep. Bentz also heard from leaders throughout the county including Leland Myers mayor of Sumpter who said businesses there could simply not afford it. Haines mayor, Jim Brown, said he believed Baker County ought to be able to set their own wages. Sheila Farwell, mayor of Halfway said she highly values her two skilled employees and believes it would not be fair to pay an entry level person the same wages they currently earn. She says the City of Halfway simply does not have the resources to adjust their wages accordingly should such a law pass.

Watch Dateline Show about Bingham Family Sunday



The Jason and Stacy Bingham family will be featured for a second time on Dateline. The show about the local family will air this Sunday, Jan. 17 at 10 p.m. Pacific, 9 p.m. Mountain, and 7 p.m. Central and Eastern according to Jason Bingham. The reason for the late airing is because of a political debate.

Upcoming Events

Annual Chamber Banquet This Saturday

The Baker County Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Sunridge Inn in Baker City. Call 541-523-5855 for more information.

South Baker Spaghetti Feed

All you can eat Spaghetti Feed at South Baker Intermediate School. Thursday, Jan. 28 from 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$6, 12 & Under \$3 There will also be a silent auction of exciting themed baskets as well as a Book Fair in the entry way from 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Brooklyn Book Fair and Taco Feed Feb. 4

This annual fundraising event will be held at the Baker County Event Center on Thursday, Feb. 4 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Raffle tickets are on sale for a variety of prizes that will be awarded in drawings during the evening. Tickets are available from students or at the school. For more information, or tickets, call the school at 54-523-2450.

National Wild Turkey Federation / Baker County Longbeards

will hold their annual Banquet and Fundraiser on Feb. 6, 2016 at the Baker Elks Lodge. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information contact Bob Reedy at 541-403-1352.



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Radon Action Month in January

Test Your House
Learn more:
www.healthoregon.org/radon

Ski Safety Seminar

by Baker County YMCA
Jan. 19, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
FREE - Please RSVP
541-523-9622

Fight Like a Girl

Be Scared with a Plan
Free Class
Jan. 21 6:30 p.m.
and Jan. 23 11 a.m.
Baker Co. YMCA
Fitness Center



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