

At Least Seven Months until Safeway/Albertsons Store Moves

By Gina Perkins

On Saturday, I was in the back of about 10 people with shopping carts crammed around the milk case at the Baker City Safeway store staring at shelves which were nearly empty.

The frustration was evident on a lot of shoppers' faces. One woman sent her small child to crawl back into the cooler because her little eye had spied a gallon perched back out of view.

After finally getting the milk I needed (because I happened to be shopping for whole milk and the shop appeared to be on the one and two percent), I passed a friend who was shopping with her son and commented about the bag of small "Halo" oranges she had in her cart.

Her reply?

"You better hurry, there are only a couple of bags left." She was right.

A close family member has been needing Ensure, a nutritional liquid diet supplement, lately. For a month, I have been

unable to purchase her favored strawberry flavor at our local Safeway store.

The store director, checkers, stockers, courtesy clerks, bakery, deli, meat and floral departments are trying to accommodate the hordes of people and while most shoppers try to be patient, people do expect to be able to purchase the basics they need while they're out shopping.

Other smaller stores like York's are hopefully seeing an increase in traffic which certainly is helpful to their business and we're fortunate to have that option. Bi-Mart is another place which carries milk and some grocery items. Communities like Unity, Haines, Richland, Halfway, Huntington, Sumpter and North Powder do have small grocery stores. However, more people than ever are leaving town to do any significant grocery shopping in La Grande, Ontario and beyond. Even those who frequent places like Winco, Costco, and Red Apple, likely have shopped here for products like milk, bread, fruits and vegetables.

Jill McGinnis, a public spokesperson for Albertsons / Safeway said in a Monday telephone call with me that the Baker City Safeway store has seen business triple in the last several months. She confirmed they have purchased the larger building in which Haggen's was briefly and will be relocating there, but indicated many "constraints out of their control including legal proceedings, permits, licensing, and some remodeling keeps them from being able to provide a date certain" when the store will be moving to the larger facility.

"It should be less than a year [before they move]," said McGinnis.

She then stated they have purchased 30 former Haggen stores, and in other communities, the stores are opening more quickly.

"Baker City is not one of them at this time, however," she added.

"We are not even able to get into the building to see what remodeling might need to be done to accommodate shoppers," McGinnis said.

At the conclusion of our telephone call, McGinnis said she would be speaking with the district manager, Lambert Bourgo, and would be sending further in-

formation. Later in the afternoon, McGinnis sent the following in an email:

She said, "We are planning to use the space across the street in a warehouse fashion to aid with maintaining our in-stock conditions on things like stock."

"As we discussed, permits, the FTC [Federal Trade Commission] and items belonging to the previous occupants have not allowed us to do this as soon as we would like," said McGinnis.

"We have, however, added additional deliveries, check stands, holding cases in numerous departments, and employees to our Baker City Safeway in recent months," commented McGinnis.

"Amber [the store director] and her team....have been working extremely hard to maintain our store for the community in Baker City. They are continuing to improve efficiencies to handle the increased business," McGinnis added.

She continued, "It does sound like the opening of the store across the street remains at least seven months away at best. We remain conscientious of our pricing with no plan to increase prices for our customers in Baker City."

When asked what will happen with the existing Safeway building she stated, "I am unable to speak to what that requirement would be."

This suggests that although Safeway will be vacating its current building and opening its current street (as Albertsons) in the larger and newer facility, it will not necessarily mean Baker County residents will have two large grocery stores. Land which is appropriately zoned is also not in abundance which precludes another large store opening in a different location. The only available land appropriately zoned is on the other side of the freeway which does not appear to be the most desirable location at this time.

Many residents miss having Wilson's Market which located on the west side of Baker City where the Baker County YMCA is now located next to D and B Supply. The YMCA opened there following the closure of Wilson's.

Having one large grocery store in Baker County isn't just a matter of convenience, nor is it a matter of not being able to find some gourmet ingredient for an unusual recipe. Right now people aren't able to go grocery shopping at our only large grocery store and know they will be able to come out with a gallon of milk.

Baker County
Announces Board
and Committee
Vacancies

Baker County has vacancies in the following boards/committees:

- Baker County Planning Commission: A representative from the Pine-Eagle area is preferred.
- Natural Resource Advisory Committee
- Transient Lodging Tax Marketing Committee
- Wolf Depredation Compensation Advisory Committee:
- A livestock and business representative is preferred.
- Baker County Cultural Coalition
- Local Mental Health Advisory Board
- Baker County Compensation Board
- Baker County Parks & Recreation Board
- Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
- Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Advisory Committee
- Baker County Weed Board
- Northeast Area Commission on Transportation

Persons interested in volunteering to serve on the above boards are asked to fill out a volunteer form. The form is available www.bakercounty.org or in the Commissioner's Office located at 1995 Third Street, Baker City, OR 97814. Submitted forms will be considered as they are received. Questions may be referred to Heidi Martin at 541-523-8200.

Reminder from
Blue Mountain
Translator
District

Blue Mountain Translator District reminds all members to be sure your membership form from June 2015 has been returned to the District. If you need a replacement be sure to contact the District at 541.963.0196 or 541-406-4900.

Obituary

Drexel "Rex"
Lewis Calhoun

Dec. 1925 - Dec. 2015



Drexel "Rex" Lewis Calhoun, 89, of Baker City died Monday, Dec. 28, 2015 at Beehive Homes Residential Care Facility in Baker City. No services are currently planned.

Rex was born on Dec. 29, 1925 in Pennsboro, West Virginia to Otto Clarence Calhoun and Fannie Francis (Dodd) Calhoun. He received his education in Ohio and later served his country from 1944-1946 in the United States Navy. During his time in the Navy, Rex worked as a machinist 3rd class on the USS Tennessee BB43 in the South Pacific.

Sept. 27, 1952 he married Reva Joy McClure in Vancouver, Washington and together they enjoyed 63 years of marriage.

Rex was a hard worker and loved working. After moving to Baker City in 1963, he worked with his two brothers, Jesse Calhoun and Silvan Calhoun operating the Baker Mill and Grain located in Haines, Ore. He continued to work at the mill until 1975. In 1976 Rex and Reva opened the Ace Nursery which they operated for 29 years.

Rex is survived by his wife Reva Calhoun of Baker City, his brother Silvan Calhoun of Baker City, and his sister-in-law Jackie Calhoun of Baker City. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews as well as many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, six sisters, four brothers, and nine of his sibling's spouses.

Memorial contributions may be made in Rex's honor to the Parkinson's Foundation or to a charity of choice through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Rex, please visit: www.grayswestco.com

Perfume....Your Choice

By Phyllis Badgley

The history of perfume dates back centuries. Recently, recipients may have received perfume as Christmas gifts. Today, some women consider perfume necessary to complete their make-up routine, and feel well dressed by applying a dab of perfume behind her ears. Numerous fragrances are available from exotic heavy scents of true perfume, to subtle light airy cologne. Some popular fragrances are White Shoulders, Tabu, Chanel, and Heaven Sent. Evening in Paris was my mother's choice. She carried a small sample vial in her purse.

During the 1930s Depression years when without money for perfume, attempted to make our own. We crushed flower petals, added water and let steep in sunlight. Sadly, the resulting product was not desirable perfume.

When I attended second grade in old Central school (location now Middle school) I befriended a lonely girl. She gave me a gift of perfume. As I turned the stopper, a faint aroma emitted. I found the bottle had at one time contained perfume, but now contained only water! The friend made no apology, and I reasoned, "it's the thought that counts."

A former acquaintance worked in close proximity to Rexall Drug store. Her daily ritual included trying out the "tester" fragrance at the cosmetic counter. She always wore expensive perfume, but figured out a way to have it, at little cost.

The writer relates an episode of long ago, that leads to a perfume "happening." It was prior to the holiday dance that Jim told a friend he hoped Phyllis would notice the new suit he planned to wear for the occasion. I learned of the conversation, and it sparked me to write a poem, in jest. Although I had not seen the suit, I wrote eight verses extolling its beauty, quality, fabric, attractive lapels, etc. Upon Jim's arrival to escort me to the dance, I gave him the exaggerated poem indicating I did, indeed, notice the new suit! All in fun, of course. Our friendship was built on exchanging little "barbs" that added humor to a number of situations.

Jim didn't forget the suit incident and for my birthday, took opportunity to "get even." My gift was a small bottle of cheap perfume from Woolworth ten-cent store. I wasn't familiar with the Ben Hur label! Upon opening, I sniffed the aroma. I whew! My nostrils rebelled! Nevertheless, using my manners, I thanked him profusely with all the words of gratitude I could think of.

Only THEN, he followed with another nicely wrapped package. I opened the find expensive Chanel # 5 perfume! I was thankful, but had expressed all available adjectives for the earlier cheap gift. Now I searched for words. Stammering, I told of my gratitude for the high quality Chanel # 5. That fragrance became my favorite, a choice that lingered throughout the years.

Recently a friend returning from the Holy Land, brought me a special gift of frankincense and myrrh. Both have alluring fragrance. These aromatic products grow in mid-East as tree sap droplets. Upon harvest they harden into crystallized beads; then in crushed form, are highly prized as incense, used medicinally, and as ingredients in creating perfume. In Biblical times, frankincense and myrrh were an integral part of the Christmas story.



Phyllis Badgley, right, shown with longtime friend Al Durgan during the ribbon cutting of the new Bandstand Pavilion last summer.

Welcome BABY

Saint Alphonsus Baker City
Welcomes First Baby of the New Year

Saint Alphonsus Baker City is pleased to announce the arrival of the hospital's first New Years baby. Sophia Choate was born on Jan. 4 at 3:48 p.m. Weight: 6 lbs, 10 oz and measuring 18 1/2 inches. She was born to Amanda Choate. Sophia is also welcomed by her older sister Cinthia. Both mother and baby are doing well.

To commemorate the hospital's New Year's baby, Saint Alphonsus Baker City presented the family with a basket filled with baby clothes, diapers, blankets and other items parents of newborns need and enjoy.



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January 15-21

THE REVENANT R
Leonardo DiCaprio, Hugh Glass, a frontiersman on a fur trading expedition in the 1820s, is on a quest for survival after being brutally mauled by a bear.
FRI-MON (4:00) 7:20
TUES-THURS 7:20

THE BIG SHORT R
Four guys predict the credit and housing bubble collapse of the mid-2000s, and decide to take on the big banks for their greed and lack of foresight.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:00 9:40
SUN & MON (4:10) 7:00
TUES-THURS 7:00

**STAR WARS:
THE FORCE
AWAKENS**
PG-13
FRI & SAT (3:50) 6:50 9:35
SUN & MON (3:50) 6:50
TUES-THURS 6:50

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