



115 years in Baker County



FEB 11 2016

Photo by Gina Perkins
Ranch horses in Keating valley

Positively Baker County

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The of Halfway

Story / photos by Gina Perkins

For quite some time, the community of Halfway has been hanging hearts during February with special messages. Some are to individual sweethearts, or a beloved grandparent, and others have messages to recognize groups like the Lions Club or First Responders. Businesses even join the fun. According to Ralph Smead of Halfway, the Halfway Chamber of Commerce has been using the hearts as a very successful fundraiser for about 10 years.

On Friday and Saturday, the large annual wrestling tournament was held at the school in Halfway, hosting 16 schools throughout the region. The school was packed and families from all over enjoyed supporting the youth. The annual Fireman's Breakfast was also held with funds benefiting those who suffer losses from fire.

The Baker/Powder Valley wrestling team, coached by Brandon Young, won the championship honors at the Pine-Eagle Tournament with a combined score of 178 points. Pine-Eagle placed 10th.

Also on Saturday, outside of town, a Rural Lives Matter rally was held and attended according to varying accounts by up to 100 people, many not from the Halfway community. Commissioners Bill Harvey, Mark Bennett, and candidates for Commissioner and Sheriff, Kody Justus and John Hoopes, respectively, spoke at the event. Other individuals including two of the rally organizers, Tom Huff and Terrie

Whipples Simons also spoke.

Sheriff Travis Ash said that he decided not to attend or speak at the event because the intent of the rally changed from when he was originally contacted and when the event flyer was circulated. The rally was first scheduled to be held at the Halfway Lions Club, however, the rally organizer's rent money was returned and they were told they would have to find a different location. Many locals expressed fear that the rally, which was promised to be peaceful, could be taken over by outsiders as had happened in Harney County when a group broke off and the Malheur County Wildlife Refuge occupation began.



Haines Elementary Chili Feed Raises Over \$11,000



Payton Peppers, 7 and her little brother, Taylor, 5 were excited to help draw names during the raffle portion of the evening.

As of Tuesday morning, Haines Elementary School had raised \$11,156.02 at their Annual Chili Feed which took place last Friday. Reportedly, funds will help with playground improvements at the school.

Congratulations on another very successful event and thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. Very generous community members help support kids and local schools.

Hunsaker Drops out of Race

Dave Hunsaker has announced that he is suspending his campaign for Baker County Commissioner.

"I recently learned that the double knee replacement I knew was coming in the future is now required in late March or early April. Having this surgery in the most active part of the campaign will not allow me to focus my best efforts at a crucial time," Hunsaker said.

"I appreciate the support I have received from all parts of Baker County; nearly 200 of you signed my petition and I am both humbled and grateful. I will continue to be involved in the community when I get back on my feet," he added.

Republican Bruce Nichols, CPA turned in the required number of signatures on Friday of last week. They were verified by the County Clerk's office this week, making his candidacy official as a Republican filing for County Commissioner Position #1. With the suspension of Hunsaker's campaign Nichols will be facing off against Kody Justus unless someone else files by the March 8 deadline. To date, there are no Democratic or Independent candidates who have filed for this position.

To vote in the primary election for County Commissioner, a person must be registered as a Republican.

Goodwin Named to Play in Shrine Game

Willy Goodwin of Baker High School, a Center and Defensive Tackle, is the only football player from Baker County named to the 2016 East West Shrine Game. Isaiah Cranford of La Grande, Cole Hafer from Wallowa, and Tyler Tandy of Imbler have also been named.

Huntington Museum Annual Candy Sale

The Huntington Museum is having their Annual Candy Sale on Friday, February 12, 2016 from 10-3. It will be held in Howell's Cafe in Huntington. They will have lots of good candy, cookies and etc. Please plan to come and see what we have to give your sweetheart!

Baker County Longbeards Raise Over \$30,000

By Gina Perkins

The annual banquet and fundraiser for the National Wild Turkey Federation / Baker County Longbeard's held last Saturday night at the Elk's Club raised just under \$34,000 according to Bob Reedy.

"Phil O'Connell won the gun safe," Reedy shared. They served 134 people at the dinner and while they'd hoped to raise more, Reedy said he felt the auction and event were very successful.

Proceeds raised go to the National Wild Turkey Federation to help maintain and support habitat and other projects.



Upcoming Events

Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Poker Run Feb. 13

It's not too early to start making plans for the President Day weekend for Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club Annual Poker Run. There is a \$3,000 purse guaranteed. Snowmobiles, Cars or Walk - All are welcome. Ticket Sales - Friday at Schoolhouse, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. - \$10 and from 7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Sat. Tickets must be turned in by no later than 3:30 p.m. Event starts at 7 a.m. and closes at 2:30 p.m. Pay-out and door prizes at 6 p.m. Call 541-894-2217 for more information.

"LOVE IS IN THE AIR"

Valentine Dinner
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
1640 Campbell St., Baker City
SATURDAY, FEB. 13

6:30 p.m.

NO CHARGE R.S.V.P.
LIMITED SPACE

Cassy.....541-519-5667

Kandi.....541-406-9806

John.....541-519-4814

"It's All About Love"

Halfway Panhandle Snowmobile Poker Run Feb. 14

Sign up at 9 a.m. at the Lions Club in Halfway to buy your poker hands. The poker run is 40 miles round trip. Leave your hands at the last station or turn your hands in at the Lions Hall. Raffle items will be awarded and winner will be announced at 6 p.m. Total of \$4,000 in payouts. For more information call the Blooms at (541)-742-7277.

1A District Basketball Tournament Feb. 18-20

Held at Baker High School each day. If you need more information call 541-403-0769.

Casino Night at Baker Heritage Museum Feb. 27

"A Night at Old Auburn" Casino Style Fundraiser to benefit Baker Heritage Museum is scheduled for Feb. 27 from 6-10 p.m. The event starts with live entertainment by Bruno Dunes Trio, a no host bar and dinner buffet featuring Premium Angus Roast Beef and Asian chicken skewers catered by Kurt Miller Catering follows. The casino is professionally coordinated by Team Casino and is open from 7-10 p.m. Baker Heritage Museum is located on the corner of Grove and Campbell Streets in Baker City.



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Wildland Fire Refresher Class Feb. 26 at 8 a.m.

5J School District Building
2090 Fourth Street in Baker
541-403-0907
or 541-519-6213

Sweetheart Dinner

Wolf Creek Grange
Sunday,
Feb. 14
Call
541-786-3927

Change of Date for Annual Halibut Feed April 23, 2016

Tickets go on sale end of Feb.
North Powder School



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