

Pine & Eagle Valley News

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severe weather, training on cloud and storm recognition, storm hazards and safety tips, and weather reporting procedures. Flood Fight workshop will cover equipment, procedures, and safety tips when dealing with flood events. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Questions can be directed to Tim Barker (NOAA/NWS) at 208-334-9860 or Jason Yencopal (Baker County Office of Emergency Management) at 541-523-6415.

Your Cheatin' Heart Quilt Class
Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Quilts Plus in Halfway. Class fee is \$20 and you receive a 20 percent discount on class supplies purchased in advance or things purchased the day of the class. Call the shop at 541-742-5040 for more information or to register, and visit their Facebook page for project photos.

Veterans Services Meet & Greet
Saturday, Feb. 20 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Halfway VFW Post and 2 -5 p.m. at the Richland City Hall, Baker County Veteran Services Officer Rick Gloria will be holding informational meetings. He will start with a Powerpoint presentation and follow up with a questions and answer session. Accommodations will be made if anyone needs more time with him. If you need transportation to either of these meetings, contact John Duggan, VFW Post #7847 Commander, at 541-403-4332.

Ending
Have a great week - Lets end with - What I need to live has been given to me by the earth. Why I need to live has been given to me by you. -Author Unknown Thanks for reading!



Photos by Gina Perkins
Freshman Alex Duran had a real battle on his hands against Echo's Kyle Ranger. Alex ended up with the win by a score of 15-14 to advance to the semi-finals. Duran finished with 4th place.

Here we are, it is Valentines week. No new snow to report, we are status quo. Richland and Oxbow however, are getting their lawnmowers ready.

Wrestling
This last weekend in Halfway, was the wrestling tournament. The results are as follows: Blake Butler took first in the 120-pound weight class; Haden Kuta took third in the 152-pound weight class; Moroni Jensen took fifth in the 138-pound weight class. Two freshmen, Red Colnot and Brandon Roe, also wrestled but did not place in the top five. River Colnot is still recovering from an elbow injury sustained three or four weeks ago. District tourney is this Saturday at Grant Union High School in John Day.

Panhandle Snowmobile
This Sunday, Feb. 14, is the Annual Panhandle Snowmobile Poker Run. Lots of effort goes into this event, and the participation is always fun. Even if you don't ride, you can purchase a \$5 card with the chance of winning monies, maybe even \$1600.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. at the Lions Club for sign up, then onto the snow park to unload our sleds. Keep updated with Poker Run plans and snow conditions at these Facebook page links.

Charter School
On Thursday, Feb. 11, starting at 2:30 will be grades K-6 Valentine's Parties.

Friday, Feb. 12, starting at 11 a.m. will be a Jr. High girls home game with Prairie City. Then at 6 p.m. a home basketball game against Nixyaawii.

Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. Jr. high girls basketball at home with Enterprise. This is the last one of this season. Then at 3:15 p.m., a home basketball game with Helix.

High School wrestling is the district competition at Grant/Union.

On Feb. 15, although a holiday, for Pine Eagle it is a school day.

Then believe it or not, February 18, is mid-term (3rd quarter)

Severe Weather Training Workshop-Both Valleys

Thursday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m. Halfway City Hall

Friday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. Richland City Hall

Baker County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service will be offering a Severe Weather Training Workshop and Flood Fight Workshop to all members of the community. Included will be Spotter Training, which includes definitions of



Deputy John Hoopes shown here at right with a four-legged friend, has announced his intent to run against Sheriff Travis Ash. Hoopes spoke at the Rural Lives Matter Rally Saturday in Halfway. He applied to be appointed for Sheriff following the resignation by Mitch Southwick with Commissioners Kerns, Harvey, and Bennett voting unanimously to appoint Ash. Hoopes has been on leave for an unconfirmed amount of time.

How Much Snow is there in Halfway?

Photo by Gina Perkins



Commissioner Mark Bennett who spoke at the rally said he hopes the community does not get divided as has happened in Burns and believes the occupation of the refuge has at least brought national attention to the public lands issues facing those in the West, creating a much needed conversation. He pointed out that one in four members of our community lives in poverty. He also said that while it's good to see the logging trucks, he would much preferred to have them be "green logs" instead of burned.

Letters

Organizers Needed for Baker County Spelling Bee

To the Editor:
Once again, Baker County kids are not able to participate in the Oregon Statewide Spelling Championship! All that is needed is a few volunteers to organize spelling bees at local schools and districts.

Oregon Spellers is looking for volunteers to organize spelling competitions at the school, district and county levels in Baker County. Oregon Spellers, which runs the Oregon Statewide Spelling Championship, is looking for volunteers in Baker County to organize written spelling contests.

The top speller in each division (elementary, middle, and high school) of the county level contest is invited to proceed to the Oregon Statewide Spelling Championship which is held at the Oregon State Fair in Salem on Labor Day weekend. Local contest organizers can be school administrators, teachers, parent volunteers, or even community service organizations.

More information about how to organize a spelling contest can be found at www.oregon-spellers.org or contact Oregon Spellers at 541-401-9780 or oregonspellers@kaynor.net.

Kaynor Heineck
Lebanon, Ore.

What if I told you I'm Jewish?

To the Editor:
In a recent letter to the editor, Rocky Morris writes, "I don't think he (meaning me) truly realizes what he is doing." Morris is referring to my complaint that for the past year Baker County Commission meetings always begin with Christian prayers.

Mr. Morris, I know exactly what I'm doing. Do you? Did you call me to ask me about my religious beliefs? No,

you did not. What if I told you I'm Jewish? Would you still think it's all right that Commission prayers always end "in Jesus' name I pray?" Do you know that the Commission does so without knowing how many Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and persons of no religious beliefs, might be in the audience? The Commission, under Commissioner Harvey's leadership, seemingly doesn't believe that religious minorities deserve acknowledgment or representation.

Do you know, Mr. Morris, that for 160+ years Baker County Commission meetings did not mix government and religion? So why now, Commissioner Harvey? So why now, Commissioner Kerns? So why now, Commissioner Bennett?

Do you know, Mr. Morris, that during the eight years that local Jewish merchant Hans Neuberger was a Baker City councilor, the Baker City Council asked everyone attending its meetings to stand while a Christian prayer was said?

Mr. Morris suggests that if I have an objection to the Commission's Christian prayers, I just wait outside Commission chambers until the invocation is finished. How ironic that the Baker City Herald's headline to your letter proclaims "Meeting Prayer Issue Need Not Divide Us."

Gary Dielman
Former Baker County employee for 16 years

Constitution vs. Admiralty

To the Editor:
This letter is intended to clarify the essence of the recent dispute at the Wild Life Refuge near Burns, Oregon. The underlying contest is over whether these United States should be governed by Admiralty Law (the law of the sea) or Constitutional Law. Bundy's organization believes so strongly in the U.S. Constitution that

they are willing to buck the existing federal government, even to the point of death.

One indication of the system of law under which you and I live is the flag that is being used. If the national flag is displayed decorated by a golden fringe and tassel, like that displayed in our court rooms, that is Admiralty. Under that flag there is no obligation to honor the Constitution. And under Admiralty law a person has no enforceable rights, the same as aboard ship at sea. The Captain is in complete control.

Another indication of which law you live under is how your name is printed on government legal documents, such as licenses. That is the government's indication of your legal status. If your full name is all in capital letters you are no longer a person, but chattel, property of the government.

News accounts of the subject event in this area all appear to state the federal governments position, that the Bundy group is an outlaw organization. Then took action similar to that used at Waco and Ruby Ridge: violence where violence was not necessary. No government officials were held accountable in those atrocious events and you can expect the same here.

This nation's government would never have become a Constitutional Republic if it were not for people of courage such as shown by the Bundy organization. It has gradually been converted to admiralty law at the hands of government officials and others in power who prefer the authority

available under Admiralty law.

These are the facts as I understand them. Please don't condemn Bundy until you have satisfied yourself as to whether he deserves condemnation or a high level of praise, as I do, for his courage and willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of the people of this once great nation.

Jasper Coombes
Haines

A Decision not Easily Made

To the Editor:
I will be retiring after 40+ years in the practice of pharmacy on Feb. 18, 2016.

I have not only had the opportunity (blessing) to serve friends (some places call them customers) but also work with some pretty wonderful people-Glenn, Dawn, Shari, Jordan, Hollis and Donna lately, but there have been a number more over the years.

Unfortunately, my retirement will result in the closing of Baker City Pharmacy. A decision not easily made.

I want to thank you for allowing me to be your pharmacist, giving me the opportunity to know you, your sons and daughters and grand kids (told ya I was getting old).

I don't believe I could have picked a better place than Baker City. I'm thankful God made that choice for me.

"Bless your hearts" and thank you.

Jerry Yencopal, RPH
Baker City

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