

Walden names La Grande man as Energy and Commerce Committee staff director

La Grande Observer

WASHINGTON — La Grande native Ray Baum has found a place on U.S. Rep. Greg Walden's staff.

Walden, R-Oregon, appointed Baum as the staff director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Last week, Walden was elected by his colleagues as chairman of that committee, which has broad jurisdiction over health care, energy and telecommunications policy. Baum will replace Gary Andres.

"Ray Baum is a gifted policy leader and a true pro who will bring nearly three decades of policy experience to the committee's top staff role," Walden said. "As a long-time energy and commerce staffer, state regulatory board chairman and Oregon House Majority Leader, Ray has put into place common-sense policies to help consumers and grow jobs in America. We're fortunate to have him on our team."

Walden and Baum were both elected to the Oregon House of Representatives

in 1988. Baum served in the Legislature for eight years, the last two as House Majority Leader. He holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and a Juris Doctor degree from Willamette University.

Baum joined the staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee in 2011, serving as senior policy advisor and chief strategist on state initiatives, cybersecurity, telecommunications, and technology. Prior to that, he served as the chairman of the Oregon Public Utility

Commission, as well as the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Telecommunications committee. He has chaired the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council, served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and was state chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.

"I'd like to thank outgoing staff director Gary Andres for his long record of dedicated service to the committee," Walden said.

BRIEFLY

Library announces youth holiday parties

HERMISTON — 'Tis the season for holiday parties — and the Hermiston Public Library has a pair planned for area youths.

The first one, which is open to kids in fifth grade and younger, is Friday from 4:30-6 p.m. The Candy Land Holiday Party features craft projects, cookie decorating (and eating), games and activity booths. There is no admission charge.

For grades 6-12, the Teen Advisory Council will meet Monday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. Those attending should bring a present valued at \$5 and be prepared to "steal" a gift when it's their turn. Also, bring your inner artist for cookie decorating. And an ornament hunt is planned Wednesday, Dec. 21 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for finding all 10 ornaments.

The library is located at 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. For more information, call 541-567-2882.

AARP offers driving classes

A pair of AARP driving courses will be offered in Pendleton and one in Milton-Freewater in the coming months.

The class, which is designed for people over 50 but open to all drivers, provides information about defensive driving skills and safety strategies. In addition, information about how to manage common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time is presented. Participants may be eligible for insurance discounts.

The upcoming classes are:

- Saturday, Dec. 10 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. (541-861-0024).

- Saturday, Jan. 14 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. (541-861-0024).

- Friday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Blue Mountain Community College, 311 N. Columbia St., Milton-Freewater (541-938-7176).

The course costs \$15 for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. Those planning to attend need to register, and provide your own lunch.

Babe Ruth steps up to the plate

PENDLETON

— Batter up. People interested in volunteering for the 2017 Pendleton Babe Ruth baseball season are invited to attend the organization's annual meeting.

Those interested in more information or applying for a position on the board of directors should attend. Open to the public, the meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. in the banquet room at Hodgen Distributing, located off the lower parking lot at 4340 Westgate, Pendleton.

For more information, contact Pam Duso at 541-276-0121, 541-969-9060 or pduso@trustime.com.

Fair board to meet in Boardman

BOARDMAN — The upcoming Morrow County Fair board meeting will be held in Boardman.

The gathering is open to all interested citizens. The meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

For more information, contact Ann Jones at 541-676-9474 or mcfair@co.morrow.or.us.

Bookminders to discuss bestseller

HERMISTON — A feel-good story about the angry man next door is featured during the upcoming Bookminders meeting.

The Hermiston Public Library's book club will discuss "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. The meeting, which is open to the public, is Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m. at The Pheasant Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston.

A *New York Times* bestseller, the story unfolds after new neighbors flatten an old man's mailbox. It leads to a warm and comical tale of crazy cats, unexpected friendship and the art of backing up a U-Haul.

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 541-567-2882.

ECHO

Season brings bazaars and holiday concerts

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Holiday fun is spread all over Echo — from this weekend's Christmas in Echo/Bazaar/Business Hop to encouraging residents to light up the season with decorations. Also, the annual holiday concerts of the Inland Northwest Musicians are Dec. 16-17.

People are invited to pick up a Bazaar Hop card Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Echo Parent Teacher Organization Holiday Bazaar, set up in the commons at the Echo School District, 600 Gerone St. Then, be sure to get it stamped when out and about Saturday at the Echo Community Church Bazaar, Sno Road Winery, Echo Station, Gathered Over Time, His Design Gift & Thrift and H & P Cafe. Turn in cards by 2 p.m. at the school commons for a chance to win a gift box filled with items donated by vendors, participating businesses and the city of Echo.

Also, for vendor space at the Echo PTO Bazaar, contact Ashley Harwood at 541-240-1656 or ashley.harwood5@gmail.com.

The Echo Boosters invite residents to light up the town for the Christmas season. The annual Christmas Lighting Contest features a \$75 grand prize and \$50 for the runner-up.

To encourage newcomers to illuminate the holiday season, the Echo Boosters will give a free string of Christmas lights to new homeowners or businesses. Also, the first 10 households who stop by city hall and ask will be given free lights.

People can vote for their favorite lighting displays by dropping off a note of their top three choices through



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Decorations fill a yard during a past holiday season in Echo. The Echo Boosters encourage people to illuminate the holiday spirit by giving out a free string of Christmas lights to new residents.



Contributed photo

Myrna Van Cleave of Pendleton accompanies a past Inland Northwest Musicians holiday concert. This year's performances are Dec. 16-17 in Echo and Dec. 18 in Connell, Washington.

Friday, Dec. 30 at Echo City Hall, 20 Bonanza St. The name, address or description of the display should be listed.

This season's popular holiday concerts of Inland Northwest Musicians will feature the orchestra and

chorale performing Part I of Handel's "The Messiah." Under the direction of R. Lee Friese, the performances will include the "Amen" and the "Hallelujah" choruses with a few members of the Hermiston High School choir

joining in.

The orchestra will feature seven violins, two violas, three cellos, one bass and a harpsichord. Among the choral soloists are basses Bryan Bates of Lone, Gene Wright of Athena and Harvey Foreman of Pendleton; tenor Phil Ruud of Pendleton; altos Mary Finney and Denise Null-Whaley, both of Pendleton; and sopranos RaNiel Dunn and Salli Ketchersid, both of Hermiston.

The concerts are Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. in the Echo Community Center, 20 S. Bonanza St. Although the performances are free, space is limited. People are encouraged to reserve a seat by contacting 541-289-4696 or inwm@machmedia.net.

For more information about happenings in Echo, contact 541-376-8411, ecp@centurytel.net or visit www.echo-oregon.com.

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only. (541-276-8100)

CHRISTMAS BAKE AND CRAFT SALE, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center pharmacy lobby, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Proceeds support medical field scholarships and medical equipment on the hospital wish list.

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

BABY BOOGIE & TAPPIN' TODDLERS, 10-10:45 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

STORY TIME, 11:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

STANFIELD SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt, Stanfield. Cost is \$3.50 for seniors, \$6 for others. (541-449-1332)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool,

puzzles, crafts, snacks. Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ADULT BEGINNERS' COMPUTERS, 3-4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Registration is required. Classes tailored to the needs of the attendees. (541-966-0380)

HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN HOUSE, 3-6 p.m., Boardman Public Library, 200 S. Main St., Boardman. Apply or renew for the Oregon Health Plan or get assistance shopping the federal insurance marketplace. Free; Spanish translation available. (Sarah Nunez 541-481-7212 ext. 210)

ADULT & TEEN COLOR CLUB, 5:30 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Bring something to work on. (541-966-0380)

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM", 6:30 p.m., Pendleton High School auditorium, 1800 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Shakespeare's romantic comedy performed in 1980s costume. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for students with ID.

VEGAN/SUSTAINABLE LIVING POTLUCK SUPPER, 7 p.m., location varies, location varies, Pendleton. Bring a veg-

an dish and recipe. Gluten-free friendly group. Call to RSVP and for driving directions. (541-969-3057)

THURSDAY, DEC. 8
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only. (541-276-8100)

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:15-11 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Stories and activities for young children. (541-966-0380)

PRE-SCHOOL STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 10:30 a.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (Lili Schmidt 541-938-8247)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Hermiston

Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Costs \$3.50 for seniors over 50, \$4 for adults under 50, \$1 for children 10 and over, \$3 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Transportation arranged by donation. Thrift Store open 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (541-567-3582)

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

SENSORY STORY TIME, 12:30 p.m., Boardman Public Library, 200 S. Main St., Boardman. For children from birth to age 4. (541-481-2665)

SKILLS FOR LIFE, 3-5 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Gym activities and life skills for middle and high school students. Registration requested. (Danny Bane 541-379-4250)

THE ARC UMATILLA COUNTY BINGO, 6-10 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., seats may be held until 6:30 p.m., then all seats first come, first served; games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Umatilla County citizens with developmental disabilities. 18 years or older, must have proof of age

and photo I.D. Basic pot \$20, prizes range from \$20-\$750. (541-567-7615)

PAJAMA STORY TIME, 6 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Wear your pajamas, bring a favorite stuffed friend and enjoy a fun bedtime craft and story. Free; all ages. (541-966-0380)

FIDDLERS NIGHT, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brookedale Assisted Living, 980 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Enjoy light refreshments, listen to some favorite oldies or join in the jam session. All ages welcome. (541-567-3141)

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM", 6:30 p.m., Pendleton High School auditorium, 1800

N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Shakespeare's romantic comedy performed in 1980s costume. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for students with ID.

WILLIAMS AND REE (THE INDIAN AND THE WHITE GUY), 7 p.m., Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 46510 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Politically incorrect and proud of it, one of the longest-running and successful comedy-music duos will perform their signature act. Tickets on sale Nov. 18; premium "Stick A Fork In Me" seats \$29, includes barbecue gift, regular seating \$19, all seats at round tables, reserved on purchase. 21 and older only, no-host bar available.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Jonathan Shaw
Griswold High School

Griswold High School would like to honor Senior Jonathan Shaw as its Outstanding Student of the Week. Jonathan has lettered in cross-country, basketball, track and tennis, while maintaining a 3.92 cumulative G.P.A. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Future Business Leaders of America. Jonathan has participated in Eastern Promise dual credit classes throughout his high school career and plans to major in Engineering in college.

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SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

Wine Tasting

Wednesday, Dec. 7 • 5-7p

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