

# STUDENTS

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“Some of the history of the town had a lot to do with the decision,” said Mike Ferguson, director of the Public Lands Foundation and the student congress organizer.

Though past host cities have been bigger, this year’s congress is bigger than all the others with 29 college students compared with 25 attending the past events. “These kids are scary smart and have done a lot of things and we were just so impressed we couldn’t figure out how to limit it to 25,” Ferguson said.

The Public Lands Foundation received almost 70 applications. Students don’t need to be studying any specific field but they must have an interest in the outdoors and public land issues.

When applying, students write a letter about what the outdoors and public land mean to the them. They also must get an endorsement from a teacher at their school.

They are then evaluated by a committee of four former Bureau of Land Management employees, who chose the final participants.

The Congress is advertised to almost 200 colleges

and universities around the country.

This year’s event has attracted students from 15 states and Canada.

Jessy Stevenson grew up in Swan Valley, Montana, a area with a population of only around 200 people. She is a senior studying Environmental Studies and Resource Conservation at the University of Montana.

“I’m really interested in the relationship between people and the land and particularly collaboration,” Stevenson said.

After finishing her bachelor’s degree Stevenson plans to attend graduate school.

“I think this is an awesome opportunity, any time a federal agency makes an effort to get young people involved,” Stevenson said.

Chris Torres had a much different background, growing up in San Diego.

Torres, who is Latino, said his culture does not emphasize outdoor activities such as camping.

In fact, in Spanish there isn’t even a word for camping.

“The same kind of cultural idea of like camping that exists in American sensibility doesn’t exist for Mexican culture, and growing up there wasn’t this sort of desire to go

“I would like to give the rancher’s point of view to contrast a lot of the other people.”

— Clara Miller, fourth-generation Arizona rancher who is attending the Public Lands Foundation Student Congress, which started Wednesday in Baker City

into wilderness,” Torres said.

Torres, a first-generation Mexican-American, earned master’s degrees in environmental studies and philosophy, and is pursuing a doctoral degree at Boise State University in public policy and administration.

“There is different ways of appreciating public lands and they are all equally valid,” said Torres.

Clara Miller is a fourth-generation Arizona rancher and the only student with a ranching background attending this year’s Congress. She and her sister will be the fourth generation of ranchers in her family.

“I would like to give the rancher’s point of view to contrast a lot of the other people,” said Miller, whose family’s ranch is near Tucson.

The Congress began with a visit to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center where students heard from speakers about the history of Oregon and the plans for this week-long event. One of the guest speakers was former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts, who served from 1991 to 1995.

On Thursday, the students took a field trip to Minam

where the students participated in a service project building fences and picnic tables, as well as discussing resource values and conflicts.

Friday and Saturday were the main work sessions where students discussed the future of public land management. After the conclusion of the event the students will present their ideas to officials from the BLM and the Public Lands Foundation.

This year’s theme for the Congress celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails Act.

Ferguson says that the first time the students presented their ideas to BLM and the Public Lands Foundation, officials were surprised. Since then they have been much more prepared and now the BLM has a work group that looks through all the propositions that the students bring to them.

“Every time we do it we get a little more traction out of it,” Ferguson said.

Some past recommendations have made it into the budget formulation for the BLM, he said.

# LOCAL BRIEFING

## Discounts for camping at state parks

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering discounts for RV campsites at several state parks during September and October, including two in Eastern Oregon.

The pilot program is for electrical and full-hookup campsites. Campers can apply a special online code to receive a \$7 discount off the nightly RV campsite rate, bringing the current rate from \$24-33 down to \$17-26.

From Sept. 4-30, the discount can apply to reservations made for Sunday through and including Thursday nights. From Oct. 1-31, the discount is valid all days of the week.

Campers must use a special code at checkout — FallFun7 — to receive the discount. For more information and to start the reservation process, campers can go online to <http://bit.ly/fall4fun>.

The discount is available in September at Farewell Bend State Park near Huntington, and in October at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area near Meacham.

## Rep. Findley plans coffee hour in Baker

State Rep. Lynn Findley, the Vale Republican whose district includes Baker County, has scheduled a public “coffee hour” event to meet constituents in Baker City on Friday, Sept. 14.

The event is set for 9 a.m. at Mad Matilda’s Coffee House, 1931 Court Ave.

## SUMMER

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Last year the high temperature on Aug. 26 was a much more seasonable 88.

As for rain, at 9:30 a.m. the automated station at the airport was still reporting a trace of rain, which is not officially measurable.

But two nearby rain gauges, including one at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center just a mile or so from the airport, both measured about one-tenth of an inch of rain as of 9 a.m.

Also, the airport station

was reporting rain falling for three straight hours, between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m., including a period of moderate rain.

Although a heavy thunderstorm doused parts of Baker City on Aug. 4, that storm skirted the airport. No measurable rain has been reported there since June 20. The stretch of 67 days, as of Sunday, is the fourth-longest ever at the airport, where records date to 1943.

Drier and warmer weather is forecast the rest of the week, but temperatures likely won’t rise higher than the mid 80s.

# SCHOOLS

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The new roofs are made of plywood in a staggered pattern, which is more stable than the old roof deising with straight boards, said Vicente Coria of contractor ZCS Engineering Architecture.

Brooklyn’s old roof had at least four layers, with the first one being the original roof when the school was built in 1954-55. Replacement of the roof included removing all the old roof layers.

In addition to making the school safer in case of earth-

quakes the new roof will help prevent water leaks, district officials said.

At Brooklyn, almost every room in the second- and third-grade wings had their walls reinforced and windows replaced. In total 14 rooms received new windows including the school’s library.

Crews also added stitch ties to the brick walls at Brooklyn, which anchor the brick to the wall. The work was done on all interior brick walls, as well as near entrances.

Brooklyn Principal Phil Anderson said the upgrades make the school, which

houses students from kindergarten through third grade, make the school safer and more efficient.

At BHS the most visible changes include new windows on the west and north sides of the gymnasium. These replace the original glass blocks, which could have cracked and fallen during an earthquake, said Mark Aleksich, field superintendent for Griffin Construction.

Inside BHS, workers added cables to trusses to make them compliant with current codes. In the locker and boiler rooms, crews added seismic

bracing to pipes and secured several walls with metal brackets.

“If an earthquake hits it has stabilization,” Aleksich said.

The project started in early June.

# HEART TO HEART

## Short film festival is a treasure for Baker City

We have called Baker our home for four years (still “newbies”). We knew of (had heard and seen things pertaining to) the “We Like ‘Em Short” film festival. We are huge fans of animation and short film (seems as we grow older our attention spans gets shorter) but for reasons of life we had always been out of town — until this year.

We thought we knew all about Baker City, it couldn’t possibly be any more diverse or “cool.” We were wrong. It took us four years to discover Baker is home to an incredible, one-of-a-kind, film festival. Many larger cities have none, which makes ours all the more astounding. We were enthralled over a period of four days, viewing more than 90 short films created by professionals, amateurs and students from around the world. The excellence and quality of these films rivaled anything Hollywood could concoct. We daresay a “world class” event. Innovative, thought-provoking, emotional, experimental, ridiculous... We laughed a whole bunch, thought about crying and did a lot of awestruck staring at what was unfolding before us on the big screen.

Included in this incredibly affordable adventure was a “free” family friendly Thursday night screening of 13 entries, Other selected screenings during the four-day event, were also deemed “kid worthy.” We got to meet, and ask questions of, award-winning directors and animators. We listened to the thoughts and visions of a student filmmaker — but to our dismay we encountered few

children and an overall lack of attendees. We had trouble wrapping our heads around this, felt sorry for those that were unaware and worried it might not always be here. I guess what we are trying to say is “Baker City is a treasure full of treasures” and we can’t afford to let those four magical days of popcorn,

air conditioning and “Wow!!” ever go away! We understand that next year will be the 10th anniversary! Hope to see you all there! Thank you Brian Vegter, Derek Hosler, Teresa and Dan McQuisten and everyone involved. Peace to all.

Barb and Mike Meyer  
Baker City

**Weekly Specials Aug 27-Sept 3**

Monday	Ground Round w/Mushrooms.....	\$8.95
Tuesday	Teriyaki Chicken.....	\$8.95
Wednesday	Liver & Onions.....	\$8.95
Thursday	Chicken Fried Steak.....	\$9.95
Friday	All You Can Eat Mini Shrimp.....	\$9.95
	Steak & Shrimp.....	\$10.95
	Pan Fried Oysters.....	\$10.50
Saturday	NY Steak.....	\$13.95
Sunday	Pork Loin.....	\$9.50/8.95 sr

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Sunday 8 AM - 11 AM  
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**2018 Baker County Fair & Panhandle Rodeo**  
Welcome to the 97th Baker County Fair & Rodeo in Halfway, OR  
**September 1, 2 & 3, 2018**  
Tickets \$10, 6-12 \$6, 5 & under FREE • Free Fairground Entrance  
Bring your exhibits to the Exhibit Hall 7:30-10 a.m. Saturday  
ICA & Pro West Rodeo Sat & Sun Pre Rodeo starts 6:30 PM  
Mon Pre Rodeo 1:30 PM  
Enter Jackpot events open Aug. 22  
Call: 541-540-6114  
Mule Races during each rodeo performance  
Faith Riders perform all 3 days  
Saturday 10 a.m. Ride In Team Roping  
“Pack Horse Race” enters fairgrounds along with Little Muttin Busters before Saturday Night Rodeo performance

**Entertainment on the midway:**  
Saturday Fair & Rodeo & Hells Canyon Court Tryouts 3 p.m.  
Safeway sponsored Breakfast FREE to all 7-10 a.m.  
Pie Auction Saturday 3:30 p.m.  
Monday Wild Cow Milking, Ribbon & Team Roping (call 541-540-6144 to enter)  
Sunday Music by Frank Carlson 3-6 p.m.  
Entertainment on stage Sunday 5 p.m.  
Dog Show on leash Sunday 3 p.m.  
Cowboy Church Sunday 10 a.m. on the stage

**Downtown Halfway Parade Monday at 12:30 p.m.**  
Line up starts at noon  
Grand Marshals Jim Myers & Agnes Bird

**Grand Champion Round Robin Sunday 5 p.m. in the pavilion**  
Youth Livestock Auction starts Monday 9 a.m.  
Special \$25 Monday entrance to the Rodeo  
Purchase 5 tickets for \$25

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