

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

■ **Baker City Farmers Market:** 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Court Avenue Plaza between Main and Resort streets.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 18

■ **Baker Rural Fire Protection District Board:** 5:30 p.m. at the Pochontas Fire Station.

■ **Baker School Board:** 6 p.m., City Council chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 19

■ **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 23

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St.

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24

■ **Baker City Farmers Market:** Last market of the season, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Court Avenue Plaza between Main and Resort streets.

### FRIDAY, NOV. 2

■ **First Friday Art Shows:** Baker City art galleries are open late to showcase the month's new artwork; opening times vary between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald Oct. 15, 1968

Photo: Harve prepares to leave — Getting ready to hit the trail, actor Harve Presnell puts the finishing touches on his packing and loading of the family station wagon just before he and his wife left Baker yesterday afternoon for their home in California.

"We've loved every minute of it here," said Presnell. "It's been a great place for my kids this summer."

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald Oct. 15, 1993

Rainwater leaking through a roof that is being repaired at the Baker County Education Service District building caused an unknown amount of damage Tuesday night.

ESD Superintendent Ruth Whitnah said employees arrived at the building, at 2100 Main St., Wednesday morning to find about one-third of the tiles in the suspended ceiling on the floor, saturated with water.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald Oct. 15, 2008

When the going gets tough, the tough move to Baker City, where a new manufacturing plant is under construction by Cutters Edge, makers of the toughest saws in the world for cutting steel and concrete.

"Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of November and we'll begin moving in the first week of December," said Tom Ruzich, who founded Cutters Edge in Julian, California, in 1987 during one of the nation's previous recessions.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald Oct. 16, 2017

A state law that automatically registers as voters many people who visit a DMV has continued to boost Baker County's voter rolls to record totals.

Due largely to the "motor voter" law that took effect Jan. 1, 2016, Baker County had 11,470 registered voters as of Sept. 30, 2017.

That's the most voters ever registered in the county's 155-year history.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Oct. 13

13 — 30 — 38 — 44 — 45 — 47  
Next jackpot: \$8.3 million

### POWERBALL, Oct. 13

11 — 14 — 32 — 43 — 65 PB 15  
Next jackpot: \$345 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Oct. 13

13 — 45 — 56 — 58

### PICK 4, Oct. 14

• 1 p.m.: 9 — 4 — 5 — 3  
• 4 p.m.: 8 — 7 — 1 — 7  
• 7 p.m.: 1 — 1 — 8 — 3  
• 10 p.m.: 7 — 0 — 1 — 4

### LUCKY LINES, Oct. 14

2-5-12-13-18-24-25-29  
Next jackpot: \$56,000

## SENIOR MENUS

■ **TUESDAY:** Chicken-broccoli Alfredo over fettuccine, mixed veggies, biscuit, fruit cup, sherbet

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Pork filet mignon, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, cake

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

1668 Resort St.

Open Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673  
Fax: 541-523-6426

Karrine Brogoitti, regional publisher  
kbrogioitti@lagrandeobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor  
jjjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email  
ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email  
classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email  
circ@bakercityherald.com

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## BAKER COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION

	OCT. '18	APRIL '18	OCT. '16	OCT. '12	OCT. '08	OCT. '04
TOTAL VOTERS	11,838	11,633	11,146	10,376	10,497	10,566
REPUBLICAN	5,410	5,351	5,453	4,812	4,835	5,060
DEMOCRAT	2,091	2,106	2,148	2,626	3,187	3,281
NON-AFFILIATED	3,543	3,414	2,810	2,282	2,103	2,060

## VOTERS

Continued from Page 1A

This upward trend does not mirror the county's population — at least not according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

According to that agency, the county's population has declined slightly since the last census, in 2010, from 16,134 to an estimated 16,054 as of July 1, 2017.

The county's population as of the 2000 census was 16,741.

(Only the once-per-decade results reflect an actual attempt to count every resident. The figures in all other years are estimates.)

The other official source of population estimates is the Population Research Center at Portland State University, and its numbers are quite

**Tuesday, Oct. 16 is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 6 election.**

different from the Census Bureau's.

Portland State's demographers estimate Baker County's population as of July 1, 2017, at 16,750 — almost 700 more, a difference of 4.2 percent.

The two sources also differ, albeit not as much, in their estimates for Baker City's population. Portland State pegs the number at 9,890, while the Census Bureau estimates 9,783.

Officials from the two sources have attributed dif-

ferences in estimates for city populations to differences in methodology — most notably, that the Census Bureau includes births and deaths in its yearly estimates for cities, while Portland State does not.

However, both agencies include births and deaths in their county population estimates.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, between 2010 and 2016 there were 1,435 deaths in Baker County, and 1,151 births. That's a net decline of 284.

Population trends aside, one factor that has beyond any doubt boosted the county's voter rolls is the "motor voter" law that took effect Jan. 1, 2016.

That law requires the state to mail a notice to people who

are eligible to vote, but who aren't registered, after they visit a DMV to apply for or renew their driver's license.

People who don't respond within 21 days are automatically registered as non-affiliated voters.

The law had its intended effect.

In its first year, the law resulted in 283,000 Oregonians being registered to vote, according to the Oregon Elections Division.

The vast majority of those — 248,000, or almost 88 percent — did not choose a political party and were as a result registered as non-affiliated.

During 2016 Baker County added 1,096 voters as a result of the law — 984 of them automatically registered as non-affiliated.

## DANCING

Continued from Page 1A

In addition to public performances, RDT produces community-based programs that focus on arts-in-education.

With the senior citizens at Meadowbrook, Perry and Johansen first lead everyone in a warm up from head to toe. They moved their head from side to side, shrugged shoulders, twisted their torso, moved arms up and down in a painting motion and tapped toes.

Then came the participation.

The dancers turned up the music and took residents through a dance routine — all from the security of their chair or wheelchair.

For the second song, Perry

encouraged everyone to simply move to the music.

"Whatever feels good," she said.

When that song ended, Johansen grinned at her audience.

"I love your improvisation," she said.

At that, Maybelle Baird gave out a laugh.

"My circles have square corners but who's watching?" she said, sharing a smile with her neighbor Mary Basche.

The point, Perry reminded them, was simply to move.

"It's kind of fun to just move your body with the music, right?" she said.

Next came the name game.

To meet everyone, Perry asked each person to create a move to coordinate with the syllables in his or her name.

These ranged from simple — a nod for "Fred" — to a bit more energetic.

"I've always yearned for applause, so just three claps," Baird said, clapping to punctuate three syllables.

To end their time at Meadowbrook, Johansen told the residents that dances tell stories. She then demonstrated a few routines and shared the stories behind the movements.

Then it was participation time again. When asked for a story, Norma Barnett shared a tale that soon had everyone in laughter.

She'd been driving a car full of children when her daughter felt sick. She pulled over, her daughter threw up, and then she discovered she'd lost her keys after exiting the car.

So she started digging in the roadside mud and soon was joined in the messy search by a state trooper.

Then she discovered the keys had been in her pocket the entire time.

She quickly tossed them in the mud and the trooper soon stood up with the prized keys in his hand.

Full of smiles, Perry and Johansen created the story through movement.

"Movement helps you not forget. I'll remember this story always," Perry said.

Before leaving, the dancers encouraged the residents to keep moving.

"We encourage you to do everything we did today, every day," Perry said. "Remember, movement is fun. I saw smiles on faces, I saw joy, I saw discovery."

## LOHNER

Continued from Page 1A

Lakeview, population 2,300, is 95 miles east of Klamath Falls.

Lohner said he had been talking with Lakeview Town Manager Roberta Vanderwall prior to beginning the job, which he was scheduled to start on Oct. 1.

He said the attacks against him were mainly based on a pending civil lawsuit filed against him and Baker City by former Baker City journalist Brian Addison.

The lawsuit was scheduled to have gone to trial in April, but has been postponed awaiting a decision on an appeal filed by Lohner. He is seeking the overturn of a District Court ruling in which the judge found that he was not entitled to qualified immunity in his role as police chief. A

three-judge panel from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals considered the matter in July.

Lohner, 54, claims the social media attacks from Lakeview residents have presented only Addison's side of the lawsuit in which Addison contends that Lohner and his staff retaliated against and harassed him for six years because of an editorial he wrote in 2008 criticizing the Baker City Police. It was written while Addison was employed by The Record-Courier, a former weekly newspaper in Baker City.

The Lakeview group against Lohner also has maintained that Lohner did not have a good working relationship with other agencies while employed by Baker City.

Lohner said personality conflicts, when they did exist, never affected the job of serving the community.

"When we had an incident, we had to work together," he said. "We worked side by side and never had any issues."

Lohner said he accepted Vanderwall's job offer because he had felt called by God to help the town of Lakeview rebuild its police department, which has had three police chiefs since February 2018.

But since the personal attacks against him began, he no longer believes it would be in his best interest or in the best interest of his family to take the job.

"I was at a point where I was just done with politics and that kind of nonsense," Lohner said.

He said he had begun losing sleep over the personal attacks being made on him and felt much of the same distress that had led up to his May retirement from his position with Baker City where he

served as police chief for 12 years.

"My intent was, I felt like God was leading me down there to help the community," he said. "I hope nothing but the best for that community, but it wasn't worth it to me."

There is just one officer left in the department, Lohner said. The city's budget includes funding for four officers and a police chief.

Lohner said he has advised the town manager to contract with the Lake County Sheriff's Department for the immediate future. He also has recommended that Vanderwall gather community stakeholders to decide whether Lakeview should retain its own police force.

"If these stakeholders can determine that, get community buy-in and potentially select your chief of the future, it will be the community fighting this group as opposed to just you and the applicant," Lohner wrote in his letter to the town manager in which he turned down the job offer.

Lohner has returned to construction work, which he had been involved in during the summer. A commitment to that job and a previously planned hunting trip with his nephew delayed his start at Lakeview, which was derailed when the personal attacks against him began.

"Ultimately, it wasn't worth it to me to put myself in that position," he said.

Lohner wrote in his letter to Vanderwall: "What I didn't envision in Lakeview was having to battle evil forces controlled by a group of misguided citizens, whose hateful, one-sided approach has left the community in turmoil."

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