

TWO COMPANIES OPEN ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF FIRST STREET

Baker City’s new mortgage row?

■ One current firm moves into a new office, while the other opens a Baker City branch

By Casey Crowley
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Two mortgage companies have moved to the 1900 block of First Street, between Washington and Court avenues.

One is opening a new branch in Baker City, while the other is an existing firm that moved to a new location.

The new company is Pacific Residential Mortgage.

It’s been operating in Baker City since July but had its grand opening on Thursday at 1934 Main St.

The business is on the east side of First Street, across the street from Pacific Intermountain Mortgage Company, which moved into its newly remodeled office at 1915 First St. on Oct. 12.

The building is the former office of the Baker City Herald.

“It was kind of weird that here we open two businesses with similar names right across the street from each other,” said Mike Ogan, loan officer for Pacific Intermountain (PIMC).

The companies even used the same caterer for their grand opening events.

PIMC had an open house this morning featuring speakers who discussed local issues such as the Forest Service’s Blue Mountain Forest Plan revision and research into the interactions

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— Mike Ogan, loan officer, Pacific Intermountain Mortgage Company



between wolves and cattle.

Despite their similar names and their proximity, the two companies have different focuses. Pacific Residential (PRM) offers residential loans while PIMC offers loans for farms and ranches.

PRM has about 18 locations in the West, with the majority in Oregon. The company is based in Lake Oswego and was started in 2005.

The Baker City branch is managed by Scott Holmberg, the company’s Eastern Oregon area manager. Holmberg also manages the company’s branches in Redmond and Bend. Holmberg is at the Baker branch at least once or twice a month.

The decision for PRM to open up a branch in Baker came after Holmberg visited a number of towns in the area about two years ago, including La Grande, Pendleton, Baker City and John Day.

“We made some really good connections in Baker and decided to open up a branch,” he said. It’s a natural fit for us, we like

being involved in communities. We are very big on creating a relationship with our clients and taking care of them.”

The new branch has one full-time employee, Morgan Brinton, a team banker who was born and raised in Baker City and is a fifth-generation local resident.

She returned to Baker City in 2014 after living elsewhere for 11 years.

Before working for PRM, Brinton worked for a Baker City bank. She has more than 13 years of experience in the financial industry and has worked in mortgage lending since 2016. In May of this year PRM hired Brinton after she expressed interest in the position.

Holmberg said the company decided to schedule the open house Thursday because many local residents are busy hunting during September and October.

“We want to make sure that everyone knows that we are part of the community,” Holmberg said. “We wanted to make sure that we timed it in a situation where we can gather the

most amount of our clients and referral partners so that we can celebrate the opening.”

PIMC has been operating in Baker City since 1996, serving borrowers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada.

Prior to moving to the First Street office, the company’s five employees had been working from a two-bedroom house on Main Street for more than a decade.

“We outgrew the building and we are hoping to expand and have additional employees,” said Lisa Howarth, a loan officer with the company who has been with PIMC since 2003.

PIMC bought the building in May. The structure was remodeled during the summer and early fall.

“One thing that we have struggled with is getting our name known, especially locally a lot of people don’t know who we are and where we are located and we have a great opportunity right now to showcase ourselves,” said Cassie Johnson, a loan officer for PIMC.



Howarth



Johnson

Pot sellers ready if Ontario voters repeal ban

ONTARIO (AP) — Would-be recreational marijuana retailers are lining up outside Ontario’s planning offices so they can nab retail licenses should voters repeal a ban on pot sales within city limits.

The City Council recently voted to impose a 1,000-foot buffer on adult use

marijuana stores, which means there will only be space for about 15 stores if the local measure to repeal the ban passes Tuesday.

The Argus Observer reports that city planners are unsure of how to deal with the line.

If the measure passes, people might

remain in line until Jan. 2 — the first day the city would issue licenses.

Measure 23-61 would allow the sale of recreational marijuana with a 3 percent sales tax.

Ontario is near the Idaho border. The nearest current marijuana retailers are two in Huntington, in Baker County.

HEART TO HEART

Volunteers made trick or treat event a success for everyone

The Downtown Trick or Treat Event was another great collaborative effort from local businesses and community groups to provide a safe and family friendly event. Baker City Kiwanis was proud to organize the event this year and we want to thank all of the participants and volunteers who eagerly purchased bags and bags of candy and brought their Halloween “props” to decorate our Main Street.

Not only does this event provide a safe place for our children to trick or treat, it gives us a chance to hug our friends and neighbors and watch the joyous look on the children’s faces both young and old. A community with volunteers is vital to the success of any event and Baker City Kiwanis could not survive without those who volunteered with us. We want to give a special thanks to the Baker City Public Works Department for delivering the street closure signs and providing us with our safety gear and the Baker Police Department for their presence. Thanks everyone, my heart is full today.

Debbie Poe
President, Baker City Kiwanis

Honoring veterans includes helping with end-of-life care

Americans across the country celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, a special day to salute the men and women who have bravely served our country in the military.

These fellow Americans have made profound sacrifices in defense of freedom

and they deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Honoring our nation’s veterans includes supporting them throughout their entire lives, especially at the end.

As our nation marks Veterans Day on Nov. 11, Heart ’n Home Hospice wants to share its commitment to increase veterans’ access to compassionate, high quality hospice care for those who are facing serious and life-limiting illness. As part of this commitment, Heart ’n Home Hospice is a part of an innovative program, We Honor Veterans, developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through We Honor Veterans, we are ensuring that our organization is equipped to address the unique needs of our nation’s veterans.

It surprises many Americans to learn that every day, 1,800 veterans die. That’s

more than 680,000 veterans every year — or 25 percent of all the people who die in this country annually. A generation of World War II and Korean War veterans are facing end-of-life care decisions now, and they are quickly being followed by younger Vietnam War veterans, many of whom are confronting serious illnesses at an even earlier age.

The liberty that we, as U.S. citizens, enjoy comes at a price paid by these valiant men and women. Let each of us make sure we do our part to recognize and support them throughout their lives.

If you know a veteran who is in need of the special care hospice brings to people facing serious and life-limiting illness, please reach out and help them learn more about the services that hospice can provide. Contact us at gohospice.com to learn more about the ways we support our nation’s heroes.

To all our nation’s veter-

ans, thank you.

Kandice Dickinson
Heart N Home Hospice



“You’ll love the work we do. I guarantee it!” - JR



ASE



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SAINT ALPHONSUS FOUNDATION—BAKER CITY,
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

FESTIVAL OF TREES 2018

Preview Among the Trees

Thursday, November 29, 2018

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 per person

Hors d’oeuvres, No-host Bar,
Silent Auction

Gala

Friday, November 30, 2018

5:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Cocktails 5:30 p.m. ~ Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$60 per person

Buffet Sit Down Dinner, No-host Bar,
Silent & Live Auction

Dance to live music of the “High Street Band” following the auction!

Tickets Available at Betty’s Books, The Sycamore Tree and
Saint Alphonsus Medical Center—Baker City

Family Day

Saturday, December 1, 2018

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Admission: Canned food or unwrapped toy

Events are held at the
Baker County Event
Center
2600 East Street
Baker City, Oregon

