

Local & State



Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

Jack Hashagen lines up a shot in spite of the “help” from Joe Hayes, new manager at Community Connection of Baker County.

MARY JO

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“It was a longtime goal of the seniors to have their own building,” Carpenter said.

Baker County Seniors Inc. owns the building, and Community Connection of Northeast Oregon is the private nonprofit that manages operations and activities.

Those have grown during Carpenter’s tenure. They started with one bus driver and 2.5 full-time employees.

“Now we have eight bus drivers, and four office staff,” she said. “There’s been a lot of accomplishments and growth.”

The transportation piece has grown since 1985, when funding for public transportation first came available. Over the years, Carpenter has served on several state advisory boards focused on transit needs.

“It’s important that we in Eastern Oregon are represented in these committees. Our needs are so different,” she said.

During her career Carpen-

“Now we have eight bus drivers and four office staff. There’s been a lot of accomplishments and growth.”

— **Mary Jo Carpenter, reflecting on her 31 years as manager of Community Connection of Baker County**

ter has seen transit options grow, and now Baker City has public transportation with the Community Connection trolley’s five-day schedule throughout town.

More than 30 years also means a lot of people through the doors, whether it’s for a game of pool, bingo, lunch, pinochle or line dancing.

And quite a few have touched her heart.

“My most memorable story is Chuck. He was a bit of a loner,” she said.

His wife had died, and one day a friend talked Chuck into a Friday dance at Community Connection.

Then he started coming for lunch.

Soon he put his garden

expertise to work on the grounds.

“He lovingly took care of our lawn for two years. It was beautiful,” Carpenter said.

It turned out that Chuck wanted to give back.

“He said ‘this place saved my life.’ He so appreciated that someone put him in touch with this place,” she said.

“To me, that’s the seminal story of what it’s about. Keeping people in touch, a way to connect people.”

New manager

Joe Hayes moved to Baker City from Bend, where he lived for the last 28 years.

But he’s not exactly new to the area. He built a house on the same land owned by his grandparents, Bob and Helen Proebstel.

“My grandparents met at Haines Elementary in the 1920s,” Hayes said.

His mom, Clare Proebstel Hayes, also grew up in the area.

Hayes was raised in Half Moon Bay, California. His father was a commercial fish-

erman and his mom was a teacher. He spent many summers on his grandparents’ place outside of Haines.

His career in social services started with the Boys and Girls Club in Bend, which he directed from 1995 to 2000.

“We signed up a thousand kids the first month,” he said.

From 2000 to 2007 he worked for J Bar J Youth Services, including the Cascade Youth and Family Center that served homeless and runaway youth.

For the last 10 years, Hayes has been the facilities manager for the Diocese of Baker, overseeing an \$8 million retreat center outside of Bend.

He moved to Baker City at the end of April. Then this job at Community Connection came available.

It does, he said, fulfill the 20-year dream he wrote about in third grade:

“I will live in Oregon on my grandparents’ ranch. When it snows, I will drive my tractor.”

LOCAL BRIEFING

List of Baker County drop-off sites for mail ballots for Nov. 6 election

Although Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. is the deadline to vote, elections officials say voters who haven’t already sent their ballots should take them to a drop site rather than put them in a mailbox to ensure they’re counted. Ballots must arrive by the deadline, and postmarks don’t count. There are several options in Baker County.

- County clerk’s office, Suite 150 in the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. in Baker City. The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on election day, Nov. 6, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Drive-in drop site, on the west side of the Courthouse, off Fourth Street, open every day, 24 hours a day, up to 8 p.m. on election day.

- Community Connection Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on election day from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sites outside Baker City:

- Halfway City Hall, 155B, East Record Street, open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on election day from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Huntington City Hall, 50 East Adams St., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and on election day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Richland City Hall, 89 Main St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and on election day from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Turkey Trot set for Thanksgiving morning

The 11th-annual Turkey Trot is set for Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 22. This fun run/walk is a 5K (3.1 miles) and raises funds for the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center, a faith-based nonprofit that runs a food and clothing bank in Baker City.

The Turkey Trot will begin at 9 a.m. in front of Kicks Sportswear on Main Street. Same-day registration is from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Entry is \$10, and those who register by Monday, Nov. 5, will receive a shirt. Register online at neoregoncompassioncenter.org/turkey-trot/ or print an entry form and mail it to Northeast Oregon Compassion Center, PO Box 665, Baker City, OR 97814. (Forms must be received by Nov. 17, otherwise bring the registration on the day of the race.)

Participants are also asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the race start to help fill the Compassion Center’s food bank.

Water, coffee and hot chocolate will be available at the race’s turn-around point and at the finish line. There will also be post-race food and refreshments, plus prizes for the top three finishers in individual and teams.

Commission to hold executive session

The Baker County Commissioners will hold an executive session Wednesday to discuss possible litigation.

The executive session, which is closed to the public, will be held at 1 p.m. and will take place in the middle of normal session. After the conclusion of executive session the commissioners will resume normal session and appoint volunteers to committees and ratify two agreements with the Oregon Tourism Commission.

Capital Christmas tree to visit Baker

By Casey Crowley
crowley@bakercityherald.com

On Nov. 14, the Capitol Christmas tree will come to Baker City. The tree will stop overnight in Baker before moving on to Idaho. While in Baker the city will hold a celebration.

When in Baker the tree will be located on the 2000 block of Main Street which will be closed from 4 p.m. to 8

p.m. Nov. 14. During its time in Baker and the rest of its tour the tree will be in a climate controlled box and will not have any ornaments. People will have the chance to sign a banner that will be hung on the tree.

There will also be a number of speakers at the celebration when it comes to Baker

The tree will come from the Willa-

mette Forest in Oregon and will make 10 stops on its tour before it comes to Baker City. In total it will stop at 23 different locations before it arrive at its final location in Washington, D.C.

Additionally Baker City also hosted three events to make ornaments for the tree at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Those ornaments were sent to the Capitol separately from the tree.

Asylum seekers detained in Oregon file suit

PORTLAND (AP) — Two asylum seekers who were detained at a federal prison in western Oregon have filed a lawsuit contending the Trump administration violated religious protections.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reported that Pachattar Singh and Gurpreet Singh filed the federal lawsuit Thursday saying they weren’t allowed to

follow customs of their Sikh religion at the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan.

“While detained at Sheridan, asylum-

seeking detainees of the Sikh faith were denied a vegetarian diet, and many were forced to eat meat to avoid malnutrition and starvation,” the lawsuit said.

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From Community Connection of Baker County

These individuals, organizations and businesses are supporting our senior Dining Center for this month:

Marvin Wood Products	Willma Phegley-Waggoner,
Mike & Marianne Klingler,	IMO Steve Waggoner
IMO Mr. & Mrs. William Klingler	Ludy Busciglio & Friends
Kerb’s Family	Dave & Paula Odahl
Glenda Cole	Judy Baker
American Senior Benefits	Terrie Everts
VFW Aux. #3048, IHO Veterans	Setter’s Park
Baker Co Veteran Services,	Lloyd & Susan Danielson
IMO Veteran’s Day	(IMO = In memory of) (IHO = In honor of)

“The food is great here! I don’t fix full meals at home, so if I didn’t eat here, I wouldn’t get the fruits and vegetables that I like”

Thank you to Gray’s West & Co., Safeway and Heart N Home for donating the cake! The Dining Center is open Monday through Friday, serving 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Closed on holidays. The suggested donation for senior lunches, for people over 60 and under 12 is \$4.50. Non-senior meal price is \$6.75. Come and enjoy visiting with friends over a good meal.

Other activities available:
Aerobic exercise, bingo, Tai Ji, Tai Chi, bridge, pinochle, dancing, blood pressure checks and more!

Community Connection of Baker County 2810 Cedar Street
541-523-6591

November 2-8

ELTRYM HISTORIC THEATER

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BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY PG-13
A chronicle of the years leading up to Queen’s legendary appearance at the Live Aid (1985) concert.
FRI & SAT: (3-45) 6:45, 9:35
SUN: (3-45) 6:45
MON-THURS: 6:45

THE NUTCRACKER & THE FOUR REALMS PG
A young girl is transported into a magical world of gingerbread soldiers and an army of mice.
FRI & SAT: (4-00) 7:00, 9:40
SUN: (4-00) 7:00
MON-THURS: 7:00

THE OLD MAN & THE GUN PG-13
FRI & SAT: 7:10, 9:45
SUN-THURS: 7:10

GOOSEBUMPS 2:
HAUNTED HALLOWEEN PG
FRI-SUN: (4-10)

(Bargain Matinee)
Show Times: 541-523-2522
Office: 541-523-5439

Vote **yes** for KIDS

Measure 1-88

The Lethleans

“We graduated from Baker in the 70’s, it was good. Now is the time to make our schools the best in the state. Let’s all work together to make this goal happen. Vote yes on Bond Measure 1-88.” - K. & G. Lethlean

Paid for by the YES FOR KIDS Committee, Debbie Penning, Treasurer

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