

Baker City Herald

November 14, 2018

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In REGION, 6A

Sawmills change hands

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Mel Errend of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Garden Club meets Thursday

The Baker County Garden Club will meet Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Sunridge Inn to plant paperwhite bulbs.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Those attending are asked to bring containers. Rock and bulbs will be provided. New members are welcome.

Retirement party for Bob Parker

Bob Parker, who has worked as the OSU Extension forester for Baker and Grant counties for the past 18 years, is retiring. A celebration is planned for Friday, Nov. 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Lefty's Taphouse ballroom, 1934 Broadway St. There will be an open mic to allow people to take a turn roasting Parker. RSVP by today by calling Angela Robb at 541-523-6418 or by email, angela.robb@oregonstate.edu

Winter coat, boot drive Saturday

The Baker City Rotary Club is sponsoring a winter clothing drive Saturday. People who bring clean and gently used coats or boots to Sorbenots Coffee, 1270 Campbell St., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will receive a free drink.

OTEC offers scholarships

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for scholarships for higher education and for the annual Washington, D.C., youth tour for high school students. OTEC will award 32 scholarships for higher education: 26 for academic colleges, four for trade schools and two for lineman colleges. Scholarships for academic school are \$5,000 and the trade school scholarships are \$2,500. Applications for scholarships are available on the OTEC website, otec.com. The deadline for school scholarships is Feb. 1, 2019, and the deadline for the D.C. trip is Jan. 25.

WEATHER

Today

47 / 23



Mostly sunny

Thursday

53 / 24



Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Baker County Practices System For Distributing Supplies During Emergency

Faster Flu Shots



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jacobey Holderman RN, disposes of a syringe after giving Dan Rowland of Baker City his flu shot Tuesday at the drive through station. At right is Sarah Smith RN. Both nurses are employed at the Baker County Health Department.

By Casey Crowley
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Some Baker County residents received a flu shot Tuesday without leaving their cars.

The Baker County Health and Emergency Management department conducted an exercise that tested their ability to distribute medical supplies during a natural disaster or other emergency.

The event ran from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the former Oregon Department of Transportation property at 1050 S. Bridge St., which the county now owns, near Mount Hope Cemetery.

Residents could drive in to receive a flu shot as well as a first-aid kit, water and either a blanket or poncho.

In addition to boosting the county's flu vaccination rate, the event served as a Point of Distribution (POD) exercise for county officials.

PODs are places where residents could go following a natural disaster to pick up medicine. Tuesday's exercise



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Alicia Hills RN, nurse supervisor at the Baker County Health Department, explains how the drive through for a flu shot system works.

was the first the county has done.

Although the first-aid kits, water and clothing were free, the flu shots weren't. The county did bill insurance companies, most of which cover annual flu shots.

Participants could choose to stay in their vehicle while receiving the inoculation, but they did have to fill out forms.

The county is required to have plans for PODs but is not required to put on POD exercises such as Tuesday's.

Alicia Hills, nurse supervisor at the Health Department, said that although the Bridge Street location wouldn't work for a large-scale POD, the exercise helped officials plan for a real event.

And it helped reduce the risk of a flu outbreak. "We really want everybody to get a flu shot every year," Hills said.

Council cancels Nov. 27, Dec. 25 meetings

By Casey Crowley
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The Baker City Council will meet only once more in 2018, barring the need for a special meeting.

Councilors decided during their regular meeting Tuesday to cancel the second meeting for November, set for the 27th.

As has been the case historically, councilors also canceled the second regular meeting in December, which this year, based on the usual schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays, would have fallen on Christmas Day.

The final scheduled meeting for 2018 is Dec. 11.

The city's new fire chief, John Clark, attended Tuesday's meeting and introduced himself to councilors.

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Burning of slash piles continues

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker Valley residents will see smoke rising from the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains near the Anthony Lakes Highway on some days through November as the Forest Service continues to burn thousands of slash piles.

The piles, many of them along a narrow strip on both sides of the highway, were made over the past three years as crews thinned the forest to create a fuelbreak where firefighters could potentially stop a fast-moving blaze.

See Burning / Page 2A

School board to discuss bond levy defeat

By Chris Collins
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The Baker School Board will discuss the Nov. 6 defeat of the 5J District's \$48 million bond issue when it meets Thursday night.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Council chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Baker School District patrons voted at more than a 2-1 ratio — 4,725 to 2,185 — against the bond measure. It would have paid to build a new elementary school for Grades 1-6 on District-owned property near Baker High School. It also would have been used for improvements at BHS to make space for seventh- and eighth-graders that would have separated them from the high school students and allowed them to take more vocational classes and ad-

vanced courses.

The plan included safety and security improvements and energy efficiency improvements throughout the District.

Had the measure passed, Brooklyn Primary School also would have been transformed for use as an early learning center for children and families from birth to kindergarten age, with space being rented to education partners in the community.

Superintendent Mark Witty said after the votes were counted that the Board would meet to consider its next steps in light of the loss.

During Thursday's session, the Board also will honor Kathryn Gentry of Haines Elementary and Gretchen Morgan of Baker Middle School as the "Promise of Baker Students of the Month."

Baker Middle School Principal Skye Flanagan and Rob Dennis, who serves as the Baker School District's community liaison, will report on Challenge Day. The event is designed to improve school culture as well as relationships between students, staff and other adults in the community.

The Baker County Local Community Advisory Council, which is composed of a cross-section of community leaders, paid \$15,000 of the expense and the Baker School District picked up the other \$5,000 along with donating use of the North Baker School building to bring Challenge Day to about 350 Baker students over a four-day period in September.

Betty Palmer, assistant superintendent, also is scheduled to present the Oregon Department of Education's report of the District's English

language learners.

In other business, the Board will consider these personnel reports:

- The retirements of certified employee Carol Glaser, diagnostician for the district; and classified employee, Heather Vaughan, a paraprofessional at Brooklyn Primary School.

- The resignation of classified employees, Kadie Cosby, Brooklyn secretary; and Paul Turk, Brooklyn custodian.

- The resignation of Jeris Stephens, Baker Middle School wrestling coach.

The Board also will consider schedule changes. Directors plan to set Nov. 28 as the date of a Board work session and change the December meeting date to Dec. 6 and the March meeting date to March 7.

TODAY
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News of Record.....2A
Obituaries.....2A
Opinion.....4A

Senior Menus.....2A
Sports.....5A
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FRIDAY — CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE VISITS BAKER CITY



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