



Baker City Herald

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GO! Magazine
Your guide to events happening around the region

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Carrie Folkman of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

Election night 2018 was pretty much a disaster for the Oregon Republican Party. Now, the GOP has to decide what direction to take heading toward the 2020 election.

"Republicans have to pick whether they want to continue to try to win statewide by moving to the center, or be ideologically pure and move further to the right," said Jim Moore, a political science professor at Pacific University.

Republicans must choose between a policy of cooperation or confrontation.

BRIEFING

Garden Club to meet for Christmas luncheon Dec. 19

The Baker County Garden Club will meet Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. for a meeting and Christmas luncheon hosted by the Leonnigs, 1638 Broadway St.

Last Chance Bazaar at Nazarene Church

The Nazarene Church is hosting a Last Chance Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the church's Family Life Center, 1250 Hughes Lane, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Proceeds from the event go toward the Nazarene Church's Upward Sports Basketball and Cheer League.

Food is also available, including hot dogs, potato salad and chili. All proceeds from the food support a Youth Conference that the teens will attend in July.

Community Christmas Eve service at BHS

A community Christmas Eve service is planned for Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Baker High School auditorium, 2500 E St.

Retirement party for County Clerk Cindy Carpenter

A retirement party for Baker County Clerk Cindy Carpenter is set for Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. There will be cake, punch and coffee. Carpenter is retiring at the end of 2018 after serving as clerk the past four years.

WEATHER

Today
38 / 25



Snow showers

Thursday
36 / 23



Cloudy

Richard And Lynne Langrell Spent Almost 4 Decades Restoring Historic Home

The Final Touches



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Richard Langrell says he just wanted something different for the front door. His design includes an all-steel frame to support the door, flashy glass and concrete that resembles original stone blocks.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Although the Langrells strived to recapture the original design of the home, they added some features, including the gazebo.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Richard Langrell chuckles as he tells the story about his kids, the pancakes and their gritty garnish of sheetrock dust, but it's pretty clear that this tale, however silly it might sound, was at least inspired by real events.

It is perhaps the perfect anecdote, the only one that could compress into a couple of sentences one family's 39-year commitment to their house.

Langrell, 62, is walking in the basement of that 118-year-old house, at the corner of Second and Estes streets, when he picks the pancake story to illustrate what it was like for him and his wife, Lynne, to raise their four children — daughters Frances and Robbie, and sons Asa and Sterling — in a home that was being restored.

"To this day my kids don't like pancakes without a little sheetrock dust on top," he says.

The purpose of this little joke, of course, is to try to explain, to someone who wasn't there, just how much the restoration — the thousands of hours of measuring and sawing and nailing — became enmeshed into his family's history over four decades.

"We've enjoyed the house," Langrell said on Monday afternoon. "We raised our kids here. We've done what we set out to do. Now we're ready to go on to another project."

Open House Saturday

Although the Langrells' home was on the Christmas parlor tour Dec. 8, Richard Langrell said he wants to give residents another chance to tour the historic building.

The home, at 1503 Second St., will be open this Saturday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Which explains the "For Sale" sign wedged into one window.

But there is quite a lot more to this story than Langrell might imply with his "we've done what we set out to do" comment.

This was not simply a matter of a couple buying an old home and then sanding off its rough spots, both figuratively and literally, in a leisurely fashion.

Because in the Langrells' case what they ended up doing was much different from what they originally planned when they bought the home from Richard's father, Grier Langrell, in 1979.

"We were going to make it into six apartments," Richard Langrell said.

But then fate, partially in the form of

the federal government, intervened.

First, in the early 1980s, the Housing and Urban Development agency built more than 100 subsidized units in Baker City.

Langrell wasn't pleased about this at the time, but he acknowledges now that the feds' construction boom, and its effects on the local rental housing market, ended up being "a good thing."

And that's because not long after, around 1982, the Langrells learned that the home they bought — Richard describes it now as a "huge pink square" — was all but unrecognizable from its original form.

This revelation came from the granddaughter of Orson Taylor, the first person to live in what became known as the Kolb-White House, a two-story, 2,800-square-foot Queen Anne-style brick home at 1503 Second St.

She gave the Langrells several historic photographs of the home before its many modifications, but those weren't the true treasure.

The Langrells also inherited, as it were, the original blueprints drawn by Michael P. White, a Baker City architect who designed several of the city's finest homes and buildings, including the Natatorium (today's Baker Heritage Museum) and the White Apartments on First Street between Washington and Court avenues.

See **Restore** / Page 6A

Council will wait to appoint member

■ City will ask candidates from Nov. 6 ballot if they're interested in being appointed

By Casey Crowley
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The Baker City Council will take its cue from city voters in appointing someone to fill the vacancy created when Carly Annable, who received the second-most votes in the Nov. 6 election, moved out of town.

Councilors, meeting Tuesday night for the final time in 2018, decided to reach out to four candidates who weren't among the winners in the election.

Four of the seven positions were up for election.

The top four candidates, in order, are Lynette Perry, Annable, Ken Gross and incumbent Randy Schiewe.

The four highest vote-getters who weren't elected, also in order, are Doni Bruland, Daryl DeMoss, Kevin Luckini and Morgan DeCarl.

Councilors on Tuesday directed city staff to ask each of the four candidates if they're still interested in serving on the City Council.

See **Council** / Page 2A

Addison chastises Lohner's attorney in suit

By Chris Collins
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An ongoing lawsuit filed three years ago by a former Baker City journalist against the City of Baker City and former Police Chief Wyn Lohner has taken a new turn at the Appeals Court level.

Brian Addison, 53, a former reporter for two now-defunct Baker County weekly newspapers, has filed a motion in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals seeking monetary sanctions against Lohner and his attorney for what Addison alleges were time-wasting maneuvers as part of Lohner's appeal of a lower court decision in the pending lawsuit.

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FRIDAY — GIFT IDEAS FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS



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