

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JAN. 1

Happy New Year

FRIDAY, JAN. 4

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

■ **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. at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Peterson's Gallery, Broderick's Gallery and others.

MONDAY, JAN. 7

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Haines Library.

TUESDAY, JAN. 8

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

■ **Lower Powder River Irrigation District Board:** 6 p.m. at Barley Brown's, 2190 Main St.

MONDAY, JAN. 14

■ **Medical Springs Rural Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Pondosa Station.

THURSDAY, JAN. 17

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 27, 1968

Grocery prices from Foodland: USDA Choice T-bone steaks, \$1.09 per pound; Boneless fully cooked ham, \$1.09 per pound; Canada Dry beverages, five quarts for \$1; Ice cream, 66 cents per half gallon; Folgers coffee, three pounds for \$2.05; C&H powdered sugar, two pounds for 34 cents.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 27, 1993

A Baker City man was in fair condition in Boise's St. Alphonsus Hospital this morning after he was hit once in the forehead with a hammer during a Thursday night argument at his Pochontas Road home.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 26, 2008

Cattle prices received by ranchers in Baker County and across the West have plunged 40 cents a pound since July due in part to changes in Americans' eating habits triggered by the national recession.

"The cattle industry is not immune to the economy. People are still eating a lot of meat, but they're dining out less often, and at home they're eating more ground beef and less rib steak," said Bill Moore, who ranches in Baker County near Unity.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 27, 2017

Rick Broadie is still learning the secrets of salt, but as a snowplow driver he's already convinced the simple substance can help to keep traffic moving on Interstate 84 during winter storms.

"We're very happy with it," said Broadie, who works at the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Baker City maintenance station.

Broadie, who works the 47-mile stretch of freeway between North Powder and Weatherby, said he was "amazed" during a recent shift that no drivers slid off the freeway despite snow falling heavily at times.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 24

9 - 10 - 12 - 20 - 26 - 37

Next jackpot: \$6 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 24

21 - 28 - 30 - 40 - 59 PB 26

Next jackpot: \$294 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 24

7 - 9 - 27 - 35

PICK 4, Dec. 25

• 1 p.m.: 9 - 9 - 0 - 5

• 4 p.m.: 6 - 5 - 0 - 1

• 7 p.m.: 0 - 2 - 0 - 6

• 10 p.m.: 4 - 0 - 4 - 0

LUCKY LINES, Dec. 25

18-10-16-17-23-28-30

Next jackpot: \$27,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **THURSDAY:** Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, fruit ambrosia, brownie

■ **FRIDAY:** Prime rib, baked potatoes, green beans, rolls, green salad

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.

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CITY PLAN

Continued from Page 1A

The project will cost an estimated \$5 million to \$7 million, Public Works Director Michelle Owen said.

"We're making good progress," Owen said.

Earlier this month workers from the city and its engineering consultant, Anderson Perry and Associates, tested soil samples on a property the city would like to buy as the location for the storage pond, Owen said.

The samples will help engineers determine whether the city would need to line the pond with bentonite clay or install a full plastic liner, she said.

DEQ officials notified the city several years ago that it would not issue a long-term permit allowing the city to continue discharging treated wastewater into the Powder River.

The city has at times failed to meet requirements of the current permit. In October 2015, the city released into the river treated wastewater that exceeded permitted levels of organisms that consume oxygen in the water, depleting the river of oxygen and potentially imperiling fish.

The DEQ fined the city \$6,400 for the violation.

A DEQ report also lists other potential problems with the city's current system of piping treated wastewater into the Powder River.

The wastewater often is warmer than the river water, which already exceeds federal temperature limits for fish habitat at times, according to the report.

In addition, the wastewater, at times during summer when the river flow is low, can make up more than half of the river's volume. That far exceeds the current allowed ratio between wastewater and the river flow, according to DEQ, but the city is not required to comply with that rule, under its current permit, because the wastewater treatment plant was built before that rule was adopted.

The city won't continue to qualify for that exemption, however, according to DEQ.

The city's least expensive solution, Owen said, is to use the treated wastewater — after it has been stored temporarily in the city's lagoon and been treated to remove the chlorine the city adds as a disinfectant to its drinking water — to irrigate crops that aren't used for human consumption.

That option has challenges, however.

The city needs more storage space, since the treated water would be used only during the spring through early fall irrigation season, Owen said.

Second, the city needs to find landowners willing to use the water.

The latter problem is less daunting, Owen said, since

irrigation water is a valuable commodity in Baker Valley most years.

She believes that making the water available to irrigate lower-value land east of the freeway could benefit properties that aren't growing crops now.

The current plan includes a pipeline because the city doesn't own enough land adjacent to its existing lagoons to accommodate the new storage pond, Owen said.

The city owns 40 acres but the new pond is likely to cover 60 to 100 acres.

Owen said city officials are concentrating on properties on the east side of the freeway because land values are lower there.

A complicating factor is that the city can't build the pond within 10,000 feet of the Baker City Airport, because the pond would attract waterfowl and other birds that could pose a hazard to aircraft, Owen said.

Owen said the city's goal is to use treated wastewater to irrigate crops not only near the new storage pond, but also along the route of the pipeline.

She said DEQ will require the city to secure long-term — perhaps 20 years — agreements with farmers or ranchers for use of the water.

It's unclear whether the city would charge a fee for the water, or allow landowners to use it in exchange for a property easement for the

pipeline.

"We're not just going to be giving the water away," Owen said. "We have a commodity that people want to have."

She said the city will try to route the pipeline on public rights-of-way, mainly along county roads, as much as possible.

Owen said the city had a deadline of Jan. 11, 2019, to submit a design for the pipeline and storage pond to DEQ officials, but she has requested a six-month extension.

The reason, she said, is that the city is still waiting for the Division of State Lands to determine whether the property the city hopes to buy for the storage pond is designated as wetlands.

City officials do not believe it is, but if the state agency disagrees the city would have to make changes to the design to comply with wetlands rules, Owen said.

Once DEQ has approved a design, the city would have two years to build the pipeline and pond.

The city raised wastewater rates in 2017 and 2018, by a total of about 22 percent, to begin stockpiling money to repay the loan the city likely will have to take to pay for the pipeline and storage pond.

City officials have estimated that a \$5 million loan would cost the city about \$370,000 in annual payments over 20 years.

TEACHER

Continued from Page 1A

The program's aim is to help agriculture teachers in their seventh to 15th years of teaching address common issues that lead them to leave the profession. Those issues include burnout, work/life balance, and stagnant professional growth, Duncan said.

Organizers of the program hope to

accelerate the careers of those selected to participate through year-long professional development.

Topics addressed at the NAAE Convention included setting priorities, work-life balance and moving careers and agriculture programs forward over the next several years.

This year's cohort will continue throughout the year with virtual learning experiences, online collaboration

through the national association's professional learning community — Communities of Practice — and by connecting through social media tools, Duncan said.

The goal of the program is not only to retain XLR8 participants as teachers, but to give them tools to help other mid-career educators, she said. The program is sponsored by CSX and Herman and Bobbie Wilson as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

EVANS

Continued from Page 1A

"I wanted to have the opportunity to get into the computer science field and this allows me to do that along with different hands-on experiences and opportunities for internships and research projects," Evans stated in a press release.

"I have always liked school, but was always the outcast in high school," she said.

"So far college has been so much better, especially in that aspect. I am really just looking forward to taking on all that EOU has to offer in the future."

The program was started with a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, which funds the scholarships for the new EOU science and technology students.

The Advancing Science and Technology in Eastern

Oregon (ASTEEO) program began three years ago when EOU chemistry professor Anna Cavinato received the program's original grant. Since then, 20 students from rural areas have benefitted from its scholarships as they pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM).

This year's students are supported by fee remissions that EOU President Tom Insko approved last fall,

Cavinato said.

In addition to Evans, the 2018-19 cohort of new ASTEEO Scholars are Darin Hauner of Irrigon, a senior who transferred to EOU from Blue Mountain Community College last year and is studying computer science and chemistry; Michael Hefley of Bend, a freshman studying mathematics; Harrison Smith of Scio, a freshman studying biology; and Korie Klein, of Edwall, Washington, a freshman studying chemistry/biochemistry).

ASTEEO Scholarship applications close Feb. 1, and details about how to apply are available at eou.edu/asteo

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

■ **JoAnn Lucas:** 83, of Sumpter, died Dec. 24, 2018, with her sons at her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

■ **Neal Page:** 77, of Richland, died Dec. 26, 2018, at his home. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

■ **Margaret Morris:** 82, of Baker City, died early Christmas morning at her home. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

FUNERAL PENDING

■ **Robert Lane Watson:** Memorial service will be Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11 a.m. at the Baker United Methodist Church, 1919 Second St. There will be a reception afterward at the church. Private inurnment will take place later at the Prairie City Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Heart 'N Home Hospice or Best Friends of Baker, through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Lane, go to www.colestributecenter.com



Thank you to all who contributed and attended the BCPD K9 Fundraiser, raising over \$30,000!

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Sumpter Valley Railway
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