

Local & State

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

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 Pocahontas Fire Station.
- **Baker School Board:** 6 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
December 28, 1968

R.M. Phipps of Huntington, 81, outgoing Baker County Commissioner, was honored at a reception in the Baker County Courthouse Friday.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
December 28, 1993

Brian Cole has accepted a job as regional development officer with the Oregon Economic Development Department.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
December 29, 2008

Baker County's improving Web site is an increasingly valuable tool for Judge Lise Yervasi's Justice Court operation.

Yervasi, elected to the bench in May 2006, told Baker County Commissioners recently that her court was one of the first in Oregon to allow speeders and other traffic law violators to pay their tickets online.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
December 29, 2017

Two years after Oregon began allowing drivers in rural counties, including Baker, to pump their own fuel during certain hours, the law is changing to allow self-service fueling around the clock in some cases.

Oregon is one of two states — New Jersey is the other — that generally doesn't allow gas customers to pump their own gas.

But a law that took effect Jan. 1, 2016, allowed drivers to refuel their tanks between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the 18 counties with populations less than 40,000.

During the 2017 legislative session, lawmakers expanded the self-service option — which is optional for stations, not mandatory — to 24 hours a day effective Jan. 1, 2018.

However, stations that allow customers to pump their own fuel must have an attendant available to pump gas from 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. if the station, as most do, also has other retail sales, such as a food store.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 26

15 — 23 — 29 — 33 — 41 — 42
Next jackpot: \$6.1 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 26

5 — 25 — 38 — 52 — 67 PB 24
Next jackpot: \$40 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 26

1 — 32 — 33 — 43

PICK 4, Dec. 27

• 1 p.m.: 7 — 2 — 3 — 6
• 4 p.m.: 2 — 7 — 1 — 0
• 7 p.m.: 8 — 1 — 6 — 1
• 10 p.m.: 8 — 0 — 6 — 9

LUCKY LINES, Dec. 27

2-6-9-13-18-23-27-32
Next jackpot: \$29,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Barbecued meatballs, rice pilaf, green beans, biscuit, fruit cup, cheesecake
- **TUESDAY:** Closed on New Year's Day.

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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Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County since 1870
Published Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of Western Communications Inc., at 1668 Auburn Ave. (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.
Subscription rates per month are: \$9.50; by mail \$12.50. Stopped account balances \$5 or less will be refunded on request.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Baker City, Oregon 97814

Shutdown has limited effects in Union County

By Dick Mason

The (La Grande) Observer

The partial shutdown of the federal government, which began Dec. 22, is having a limited impact in Union County.

Union County residents are still receiving essential services from the federal government. These include mail delivery from the U.S. Postal Service and services from the Social Security Administration office in La Grande.

Services from some U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, are being curtailed, however. Both Forest Service offices in La Grande — the La Grande Ranger District and the Forestry and Range Sciences Lab — are closed due to the shutdown. Signs posted at the public entrances to both Forest Service offices state: "This U.S. Department of Agriculture office is currently closed due to the lapse in federal government funding. The office will reopen once Congress restores funding."

The closures mean the public cannot buy Forest Service maps and permits in La Grande. However, some public services are still being provided, including law enforcement and snow

SHUTDOWN

Continued from Page 1A

There are about 190 federal workers in Baker County, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

State government employs about 210 county residents, and 750 work for local government, which includes cities and the county.

The shutdown has a smaller effect on the Interpretive Center than it would during the spring, summer or fall because the Center has been on its reduced winter schedule since Dec. 1.

During the winter schedule the Center is open four days per week, Thursday through Sunday.

Forest Service offices are closed during the shutdown.

The shutdown does not affect the U.S. Postal Service, which is an independent agency.

removal in public use areas, according to a Forest Service spokesman.

The impact of the partial government shutdown is also being felt in the Union County offices for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency and Rural Development, all located in an office building in the 1900 block of Adams Avenue in La Grande. A total of eight employees work at the three offices, two of whom are now on involuntary leave of absence, also known as furlough, according to Mike Burton of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Burton is not one of the two furloughed, but he knows what it is like. He was furloughed during government shutdowns in 1995-96 and 2013. Burton said it is a frustrating experience because you must stay away from the office, even when you have important work to do.

"You can't do the things you need to, and your timelines do not change. You just end up with fewer days to get things done," Burton said.

One of the furloughed employees is with the Farm Service Agency and another is with Rural Development. The furloughed Rural Development employee is the

lone employee the office has, which means that it is closed and will remain so throughout the shutdown, Burton said.

The USDA's Rural Development office provides loans for housing and other building development work in rural communities.

The Farm Service Agency provides government loans to farmers for operating expenses. The loans can be used for the purchase of items such as fertilizer and fuel. The La Grande Farm Service Agency office will remain open through today, according to a statement from the FSA.

"During a government shutdown, agencies that have funds appropriated in prior years that are carried forward can continue to serve customers until that money is used up. As a result, FSA county offices will remain open through Friday, Dec. 28," the statement said.

Burton said his Natural Resource Conservation Service office has enough funding to continue operating through at least Jan. 4, 2019.

"If the shutdown goes longer than that, we will have to re-evaluate (on whether to keep operating)," Burton said.

SIGNS

Continued from Page 1A

So far workers have replaced 16 of the city's 384 stop signs. They are focusing on intersections with higher volumes of traffic, said Tom Fisk, the city's operations supervisor.

The Oregon Department of Transportation is respon-

sible for replacing signs on sections of Main, Campbell and a few other streets that are along state highways.

The signs cost about \$33 each, and the city also has to pay for concrete and other installation costs.

Fisk said the city has money available in its public works budget to replace the signs.

The regulations that made changes to the minimum size of stop signs were adopted in 2011, they applied only to newly installed stop signs. Cities weren't required to replace existing signs that were still usable.

Although the signs Baker City crews are replacing are still functional, Fisk

said the city wants to be proactive.

He said some of the new signs will be moved slightly from their original site to comply with the new guidelines, which also involve location.

New signs also have a bright red reflective strip on the post to make the sign more visible at night.

CORPS

Continued from Page 1A

"They have filled 3 pits 6 feet deep and 10 feet each direction clean to the top. Those crickets are 2 in. long now and 1/2 thick. Boy are they big. And they bite too."

Another letter dated June 5, 1939, details a climb to the top of Red Mountain in the Wallowa Mountains.

At 9,555 feet, it is the tallest summit in Baker County.

"Well all I can say is I'm lucky I'm here to write this letter for we just got back from a 2-day hike to the top of Red Mountain," Howard writes.

He wrote that he and his pals were the 6th group to

CCC History

The Civilian Conservation Corps operated from 1933 through 1942.

In 1940 Oregon had 61 CCC camps employing about 2,000 men, according to state records. That was more than any other state west of the Mississippi except California, which had 80 camps.

climb Red Mountain. They mistakenly thought a fire lookout was on the summit, which would have given them shelter after the climb.

"Well 6 of us started out and we climbed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with heavy pack sacks, bed rolls, rope and other climbing equipment till 6 p.m. over the most rugged and dangerous country I ever stepped on and when we got up there expecting to find a nice cabin to sleep in we found a pile of rocks with a record inside of all who had ever climbed the mountain."

With a storm coming and no shelter, the men headed back down the mountain.

"Well all we could do was to try and climb off as quick as we could for it was getting dark and with a fierce wind blowing and no one had coats of any sort. Boy I'm telling

you we came down there and nearly broke our necks."

Howard had better luck on another climb, this one to the top of 8,650-foot Cornucopia Peak, the prominent mountain that looms over Pine Valley and gives Halfway a distinctive backdrop.

There was a fire lookout atop Cornucopia, as Howard documented in a series of photographs.

The lookout was built around 1923. It was abandoned around 1945 and later dismantled.

Whit Deschner said he would like to donate his father's documents to the Pine Valley Community Museum in Halfway.

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERAL PENDING

Weston Daniel Gibbons: 7, of Baker City, died Dec. 21, 2018, at McCall, Idaho. His funeral will be Saturday, Dec. 29 at 11 a.m. at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7, with Pastor Jesse Whitford officiating. Memorial contributions in honor of Weston may be made to the

Baker City Christian Church through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle for Weston or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

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

POLICE LOG

Baker County Sheriff PROBATION VIOLATION: Austen Mikel Coble, 22, 450 Spring Garden Ave., 11:37 a.m. Wednesday at the parole and probation office; jailed.

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INTERMOUNTAIN LAW, PC
Welcomes
Sean M. Jorgensen & Kimberley M. Mosier
Attorneys at Law

Sean has joined our firm effective November 06, 2017. He is licensed in Idaho and Oregon has been practicing law since 2016. His practice will focus on Civil Litigation, Construction Law, Family Law, Labor and Employment, and Landlord-Tenant Law.

Kim has joined our firm effective September 17, 2018. She is licensed in Oregon and began practicing law in 2003. Her practice will focus on Estate Planning and Municipal Advising.

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Martin Leuenberger ~ Krischele Whitnah ~ Sean M. Jorgensen ~ Kimberley M. Mosier
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www.bakercitylaw.com

Dec 28 - Jan 3
ELTRYM HISTORIC THEATER
1809 1st St, Baker City • www.eltrym.com

AQUAMAN PG-13
Icon: Monom, Arthur Curry learns that he is the heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis.
FRI-SUN (3:30) 6:30, 9:30
M&TU: (3:30) 6:30 W&TH: 6:30

MARY POPPINS RETURNS PG
Icon: After her original visit, the magical nanny returns to help the Banks siblings and Michael's children through a difficult time in their lives.
FRI-SUN (3:45) 6:45, 9:35
M&TU: (3:45) 6:45 W&TH: 6:45

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE PG
FRI-SUN (4:00) 7:00, 9:40
M&TU: (4:00) 7:00 W&TH: 7:00
Bargain Movie
Show Times: 541-523-2522
Office: 541-523-5439