

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

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

MONDAY, JAN. 14

■ **Baker City Airport Commission:** Regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St.

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 15

■ **Elkhorn Community Preparedness:** 5:30 p.m. supper; 6:30 p.m. meeting; at the Sunridge Inn Restaurant, 1 Sunridge Lane.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

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.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Oregon Department of Transportation employee Paul Price loads another truck with rock salt used on I-84 that helps keep the freeway clear of snow and ice.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
January 10, 1969

The scenery along the south side of State Highway 220 between the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest boundary to California Gulch will be changed drastically shortly.

This 135 acres of forested land consists of the foreground area of the 348 acres in the landscape management area of the Lockhart sale consisting of 2,845 acres of marketable timber.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
January 10, 1994

The second of four steps toward approving a planned 250-unit subdivision east of the freeway is scheduled for Tuesday night's Baker City Council meeting.

The council will hear the first two readings of an ordinance revising the city's zoning map and urban growth boundary.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
January 9, 2009

City, county and school officials have a pretty good idea how they'd like to spend a small slice of President-elect Barack Obama's proposed \$775 billion stimulus package.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
January 10, 2018

Baker City's expenses for clearing streets of snow and ice pale in comparison to the expenses it incurred during last winter's incessant storms and sub-freezing temperatures.

The city's bill for spreading sand and salt through Dec. 31 amounted to \$5,356, said Michelle Owen, public works director.

"We're not spending much right now," she said.

Not compared with last winter, certainly.

By Dec. 31, 2016, the city had already spent \$95,841 — more than the \$92,000 the City Council had allocated for the entire 2016-17 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2017.

The final tab was about \$312,000.

This winter, by contrast, the city has yet to dispatch snowplows.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 7

1 - 3 - 19 - 23 - 39 - 41

Next jackpot: \$6.6 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 8

13 - 26 - 29 - 38 - 64 Mega 5

Next jackpot: \$50 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 7

7 - 20 - 30 - 43

PICK 4, Jan. 8

• 1 p.m.: 6 - 5 - 6 - 3

• 4 p.m.: 5 - 0 - 2 - 1

• 7 p.m.: 2 - 9 - 3 - 3

• 10 p.m.: 4 - 3 - 0 - 0

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 8

4-6-10-16-19-22-27-32

Next jackpot: \$11,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **THURSDAY:** Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, fruit ambrosia, pudding

■ **FRIDAY:** Chicken salad croissant, pasta salad, chips, cottage cheese with fruit, cinnamon roll

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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SALT

Continued from Page 1A

Although many states have used salt for decades to deal with snow and ice, Oregon officials had long resisted doing so in part due to concerns about salt corroding vehicles and polluting fish-bearing streams.

In 2012 ODOT started a five-year pilot project in which it spread salt on a mountainous section of Interstate 5 near the California border, and on Highway 95 in Oregon's southeastern corner.

ODOT officials said the experiment on I-5 and Highway 95 showed the benefits of salt, and in 2017 the agency enacted Phase 2 of its pilot project, which includes using salt on Interstate 84 between Boardman and the Idaho border (for a list of areas where salt can be used, see boxed story at right).

That roughly 200-mile section includes areas infamous for nasty winter driving conditions, including the Blue Mountains, Baker and North Powder valleys, the Burnt River Canyon and Three Mile Hill between Farewell



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Snowstorms are common along Interstate 84 through the Blue Mountains of Northeastern Oregon.

Bend and Ontario.

Dethloff acknowledges that neither last winter, nor so far the current version, was as snowy as the 2016-17 winter, which brought near record amounts of snow and sub-zero temperatures to Northeastern Oregon.

But he said both this winter and last were meaningful tests of the efficacy of salt, and in almost every case the simple compound passed.

"We knew it was going to be a good tool (based on the pilot project on I-5 and Highway 95), but we didn't

know how successful it was actually going to be," Dethloff said.

Besides helping ODOT crews keep the freeway clear during and after winter storms, he said salt has greatly reduced the need to spread traction-adding rock on the freeway.

As of early this week, Dethloff said the Baker maintenance station has gone through about 80 cubic yards of salt on its section of I-84 during the winter season, starting Nov. 1.

By comparison, during previous winters — the entire winter, not just through early January — the station has dumped around 1,000 tons of rock, Dethloff said.

In past winters, he said, crews often had to apply sand multiple times as falling snow covered the previous layer.

Using salt instead has often alleviated the need to use any sand.

Dethloff said ODOT workers are still learning how to get the best results from salt.

"We're still learning as an agency," he said. "I think it's going to take a few more years to fine-tune all the equipment and make sure it's dialed in."

Dethloff said drivers have settled on a maximum application rate of 200 pounds of salt for one lane over one mile.

In some conditions they are distributing salt at half that rate — 100 pounds per lane mile.

"The goal is to use as little

as possible and still be effective," Dethloff said.

ODOT's application rates are low compared with the figures listed in a guidebook from the Salt Institute, a nonprofit trade association in Virginia that promotes the use of salt on roads.

The Institute's "Snow-fighter's Handbook" lists a variety of salt application rates depending on road conditions and temperatures, but in most cases the group recommends rates from 150 pounds to 400 pounds per lane mile.

ODOT crews continue to use another de-icing chemical, the liquid magnesium chloride.

Drivers apply magnesium chloride on secondary highways — salt at this point is used only on I-84 — in advance of storms to reduce the risk of ice forming, Dethloff said.

The de-icer leaves distinctive parallel lines along the highway, and is useful on shaded corners and hills, he said.

ODOT also mixes magnesium chloride with the salt — about 20 gallons per ton of salt, a process known as "pre-wetting" — to make the salt more effective, Dethloff said.

According to the Salt Institute, "salt needs moisture to provide melting action."

As the salt dissolves snow or ice on the freeway, it creates a brine that continues the melting.

According to Clear Roads, an organization that researches methods for winter highway maintenance, pre-wetting salt can reduce the amount of salt used by up to 30 percent.

The goal, Dethloff said, is to ensure that the brine retains enough salinity to prevent the liquid from re-freezing. If the brine becomes too diluted with water, it can freeze.

He said ODOT has applied salt at temperatures around 20 degrees, and it was still effective.

The Federal Highway Administration considers 15 degrees the lowest temperature at which salt is effective on roads.

Oregon's salt pilot project

This information is from the Oregon Department of Transportation:

During Phase 1 of the project, from 2012-17, ODOT used salt on sections of two highways:

- U.S. 95 in Southeastern Oregon, which runs 121 miles between Nevada and Idaho, which both use salt.
- Interstate 5 over the Siskiyou Pass near the border with California, which uses salt on the freeway.

"The goal of the pilot was to create similar road surface conditions on each highway no matter what state drivers were traveling in, while attempting to minimize environmental impact," according to ODOT.

Phase 2, which started in the fall of 2017, expanded the use of salt to these areas:

- 200 miles of Interstate 84, from near Boardman to the Idaho border.
- 100 miles of I-5, from near Canyonville to the California border.

• ODOT will possibly use salt on the remaining sections of I-5 and I-84 and on major highways in the Portland, Salem and Eugene metro areas, if a particular storm warrants its limited use and if salt is available.

"ODOT is concerned about the impact of salt on the environment, infrastructure and vehicles," according to the agency's website. "ODOT will continue to implement best practices for storing and using salt, and will pursue appropriate research to inform effective decision making."

DEATHS

Kathryn 'Kata' Bulinski: 69, of Baker City, died Jan. 7, 2019, at her home. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center. There will be a gathering to honor and remember Kata on Friday, Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. downstairs at Crossroads Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave. It will be a time for sharing memories and love, and will include a potluck meal. To light a candle in memory of Kata, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

Carroll 'Dean' Cline: 85, of Baker City, died Jan. 3, 2019, at his home in Settler's Park Assisted Living Community. Gray's West & Co. Pioneer

Chapel is in charge of arrangements. To light a candle in memory of Dean, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Terry Crow: 66, formerly of Halfway, died Jan. 5, 2019, at Salem Health Hospital at Salem. A celebration of Terry's life, and potluck, will take place April 27, 2019, at the Halfway Lions Hall. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispi-nevalleyfuneralhome.com.

FUNERAL PENDING

Norma Jean Forsee: Traditional graveside service, Friday, Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. at Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. A potluck reception will immediately fol-

low at the Eagle Valley Grange. In lieu of flowers, Norma has requested that those who wish to make a donation do so to the Eagle Valley Ambulance Defibrillator Fund through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispi-nevalleyfuneral-home.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

THEFT III: Justin Michael Shelton, 28, of Baker City, 5:22 a.m. Monday, in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and

released.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT II: Justin Michael Shelton, 28, of Baker City, 7:03 a.m. Monday; jailed.

POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION, PROBATION VIOLATION and FELON IN POSSESSION OF A RESTRICTED WEAPON (Wallowa County warrants): Christopher Irvin Thacker, 33, of Enterprise, 12:14 p.m. Monday, at Seventh Street and Washington Avenue; jailed.

POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION: Brent Alexander Breshers, 27, of Baker City, 5:57 p.m. Monday, in the 3500 block of Cedar St.; jailed.