

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Edward Hensley of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Maker's Club Wednesday at the library

The next Maker's Club event is set for Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Baker County Library 2400 Resort. The free event, designed for fourth- through eighth-graders, does not require registration. On Jan. 16 participants will make a perler bead project.

Regional Theatre auditions for 'Puss in Boots'

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre will hold auditions for the play "Puss in Boots" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Director Lisa Ensworth is looking for 10 young actors for this youth production. Here's the story line: When young Guy discovers that his inheritance consists only of a cat and a pair of boots, he is highly distressed, until he gets to know the cat. Saucy and one-of-a-kind, Boots the cat vows to help Guy achieve his goal of marrying the beautiful princess from next door. Boots also helps free the town from the clutches of Ugolin, an evil ogre. Guy and Boots trick the king and queen into thinking Guy is the "Marquis of Carabas" and also trick the ogre into turning himself into an insect who meets an abrupt end, courtesy of Boot's boot. Boy gets girl, the town is freed, magical spells are broken, and much fun is had along the way. Show dates are Feb. 21-24.

WEATHER

Today

41 / 22

Mostly sunny

Saturday

39 / 18

Mostly sunny

Sunday

36 / 17

Mostly sunny

Correction:

A story on Page 2A of Monday's Baker City Herald regarding the arrest of Alyssa Owens on a drug charge contained an error. Baker City Police Sgt. Wayne Chastain said that during the investigation, Capa, the police department's drug-detecting dog, alerted to odors of illegal narcotics that he has been trained to alert to. Capa does not alert to marijuana products, including butane honey oil, a marijuana extract.

Marijuana Taxes Bolster Huntington, Sumpter City Budgets

Pot Proceeds

Pot taxes have more than doubled each city's general fund revenue



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Candelario Gonzalez commutes from Idaho to Huntington to dispense marijuana products at Hot Box Farms, one of two pot shops in the Baker County town.

By Casey Crowley

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Local marijuana taxes have more than doubled the annual general fund revenue for Huntington and Sumpter, the two Baker County cities that have pot stores.

Huntington, where the city's (and county's) first marijuana dispensary opened in February 2016, brought in \$631,000 in pot taxes during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018. That was more than three times the city's general fund revenue before marijuana taxes were collected.

Huntington has three marijuana-related businesses — two recreational dispensaries and a wholesale marijuana growing and processing operation.

The city of 445 residents, near Interstate 84 about 45 miles southeast of Baker City, collects three sources of pot taxes:

- A city-approved 3-percent tax on all sales. This is by far the largest of the three sources, generating \$587,000 in the previous fiscal year.
- A city business license fee on marijuana businesses, which generated \$30,525
- The city's share of a state sales tax on marijuana, totaling \$13,527

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S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The Hot Box Farms of Eastern Oregon is one of two marijuana dispensaries in Huntington.

City corrects mayor voting results

Loran Joseph received 5 of the 7 votes, and the Council violated a state law by failing to announce how each councilor voted Tuesday night

By Jayson Jacoby

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and Casey Crowley

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Joseph

Loran Joseph received five of the seven votes, not four votes as City Recorder Julie Smith announced, when the Baker City Council chose a mayor from among its ranks Tuesday night.

The City Council violated Oregon's Public Meetings Law because Smith did not announce how each individual councilor had voted.

Councilors filled out paper ballots — which state law allows — but after Smith collected the ballots she announced only how many votes the two candidates, Joseph and Mike Downing, had received.

The Public Meetings Law requires that each councilor's vote be announced.

Smith told the Herald Thursday afternoon that five councilors voted for Joseph — Doni Bruland, Lynette Perry, Randy Schiewe, Arvid Andersen and Joseph himself.

Two councilors voted for Downing — Ken Gross, and Downing himself.

Downing had served the past two years as mayor, having been elected in January 2017.

Smith said the failure to announce how each councilor had voted was inadvertent. She said she was trying to move the meeting along.

The city's attorney recommends that the city read the results aloud at the next meeting for the sake of transparency. Smith said minutes for Tuesday's meeting will also include each councilor's vote.

See Council/ Page 3A

Location of leak in city water pipe was a little lucky

Crews isolated leak, and a nearby drain prevented flooding

By Casey Crowley

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A leak in a water supply line on Main Street last week left two households without water for at least 12 hours and spilled more than 60,000 gallons of water.

But the proximity of a storm water catch basin, and the location of shut off valves on the pipe, helped to limit the effects of the leak.

The city received a report of the leak about 9 p.m. on Jan. 2, and Public Works employees Dennis Bachman and Justin Plumbtree were

at the site by about 9:30 p.m. The leak happened on the east side of Main Street between Madison and Baker streets, in front of the former Ford auto dealership.

The 10-inch diameter pipe is made from cast iron, as are about 42 percent of the city's water line system.

The city started installing ductile iron water pipes in 1974 when it needed to replace an old pipe or extend a section. Ductile iron is two to six times stronger than cast iron and less susceptible to flexing and cracking when

freezing and thawing causes ground movement, now makes up 58 percent of the water distribution network.

Plumbtree attributes the leak in the cast iron pipe to two factors — the age of the pipe (it was installed some time around 1970), and recent fluctuations in temperatures that caused the ground to shift.

"We have those leaks during the winter and a lot of it's just from the ground freezing," Plumbtree said.

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Submitted photo

Baker City Public Works Department employees Justin Plumbtree, left, and Dennis Bachman try to determine the location of a water main leak on Main Street.

TODAY

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Classified.....4B-7B

Comics.....3B

Community News.....3A

Crossword.....5B & 7B

Dear Abby.....8B

Horoscopes.....5B & 7B

Jayson Jacoby.....4A

News of Record.....2A

Obituaries.....2A

Opinion.....4A

Outdoors.....1B & 2B

Senior Menus.....2A

Sports.....7A & 8A

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MONDAY — HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND SPORTS ROUND UP



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