

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

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

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 Ponds 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.

MONDAY, JAN. 21

■ **Baker County Red Cross Volunteers:** 6 p.m., in the Red Cross Office at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald January 11, 1969

HALFWAY — Postmaster George Hansen wishes to inform the patrons of the Halfway Post Office that due to continued vandalism in the lobby of the new post office, the lobby will be locked at night until further notice. Anyone needing to get into the lobby in the evening should contact the city marshal, Vee Makinson, since he has a key to the lobby.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 11, 1994

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is still trying to acquire Red's Horse Ranch in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, but the soonest the forest could assume ownership would be this summer.

The acquisition, which would involve a land swap among private landowners, the forest and the Bureau of Land Management, is being analyzed.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 12, 2009

A house that served as lodging for workers at the Pondsosa mill from 1927 until the mill closed in the late 1950s was damaged by a chimney fire Thursday night.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 12, 2018

Baker County has had more than twice as many confirmed cases of influenza during the current flu season compared with the same period last year.

This year's flu season started Nov. 19, which was when St. Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City saw its first influenza patient. From that day through Tuesday, the hospital has had 25 confirmed cases of influenza virus.

For a similar period last winter, from Nov. 5 to Jan. 9, influenza cases numbered 11. The last case on April 16, 2017, signaled the end of flu season with a total of 33 cases.

The typical flu season is Oct. 1 through March 31, said Michelle Stairs, who handles employee health and clinical education at St. Alphonsus. She began offering influenza vaccine to hospital staff in September.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 9

8 - 9 - 11 - 29 - 33 - 38
Next jackpot: \$6.7 million

POWERBALL, Jan. 9

6 - 19 - 37 - 49 - 59 PB 22
Next jackpot: \$96 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 9

2 - 23 - 50 - 69

PICK 4, Jan. 10

• 1 p.m.: 7 - 8 - 9 - 8
• 4 p.m.: 9 - 6 - 5 - 3
• 7 p.m.: 6 - 1 - 5 - 2
• 10 p.m.: 0 - 3 - 5 - 1

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 10

2-6-12-16-19-24-25-30
Next jackpot: \$13,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, biscuit, fruit cup, brownie
- **TUESDAY:** Spaghetti with meat sauce, cauliflower, garlic breadsticks, green salad, cheesecake

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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Safe Communities Coalition strives to reduce tobacco sales to minors

The Baker County Safe Communities Coalition will conduct a Rewards and Reminders outing in February aimed at reducing tobacco sales to minors.

The Rewards and Reminders program has been implemented in cities and counties across the nation, Ray Day, the program's coordinator, stated in a press release.

The program has proven to reduce tobacco sales to minors and subsequently to reduce underage tobacco use, according to the press release.

Day says the program is not punitive.

"Our goal is to increase awareness among local retailers about the issue of adolescent tobacco use," the press release states. "In most communities, retailers that sell tobacco products are very supportive of the program. This program is not a sting operation playing 'gotcha' with our local merchants."

Here's how it works:

Teams of two teen volunteers ages 14 to 17 and one adult volunteer will make contact with a retail store. A teen will enter the store and ask the clerk if he or she can purchase a tobacco product.

If the clerk attempts to sell

the tobacco product to the minor, the teen will not accept it. Instead the teen will give the clerk a letter advising him/her that a tobacco sale almost was made to a minor.

The purpose of the letter is to remind the clerk that Oregon law requires retailers to check identification before selling a tobacco product, the press release states.

The Safe Communities Coalition will offer training information to the clerk if he/she attempts to sell tobacco to a minor.

If the clerk asks the teenager for identification and refuses the transaction,

then the teen will present the clerk with some type of reward — such as a gift certificate to a local business — and a letter thanking the clerk for not completing the transaction.

There is no illegal activity involved during the operation because the teens do not actually purchase or touch the tobacco product, Day said.

He and other members of the Rewards and Reminders Team appreciate the support of the Baker County community.

More information is available by calling Day at 541-523-8215.

Some furloughed federal workers could be eligible for unemployment

By Mike Rogoway
The Oregonian

There are about 9,600 federal workers in Oregon who are working without pay or not at all as a result of the three-week federal shutdown.

Many of them will be eligible for unemployment benefits from the state, but the rules for who qualifies are a little complicated — as are the guidelines for what you have to pay back if Congress ultimately restores the missed income.

Employees not working because of the

shutdown, and those who are working less than full time and not being paid, may apply for unemployment benefits from the state. However, employees working full time during the shutdown are not eligible for jobless benefits — even if they're not being paid.

That's an odd situation, admits David Gerstenfeld, director of Oregon's unemployment insurance division.

"I don't think the laws necessarily had this type of scenario in mind," he said.

The issue is that the legal definition for unemployment excludes people who are working full time, according to Gerstenfeld.

Even if they're not getting paid for their work.

During the shutdown, the federal government requires some people with essential jobs to continue working, full time, even though there is no money appropriated to pay them.

See *Furloughs* / Page 3A

LEAK

Continued from Page 1A

City officials later analyzed charts showing water usage and determined that the leak started at 8:43 p.m. on Jan. 2.

Fortunately there is a storm water catch basin less than a block away, at the corner of Main and Madison streets, so the leaking water drained quickly and didn't cause any flooding.

Plumbtree said city workers used control valves to reduce the water pressure in the line, maintaining enough pressure to prevent contaminants from entering the pipe. Workers isolated the leak to a short section of pipe, and they also had to shut off water to two nearby homes. The city offered bottled water to those residents.

Tom Fisk, the city's operations supervisor, said the site of the leak was fortunate in that it is commercial area rather than a strictly residential neighborhood. Had the leak happened on a residential street, a dozen or more homes likely would have been without water, he said.

The episode also illustrated the importance of the city's policy of regularly checking shut off valves on water pipes to ensure they work, Fisk said. Had either of the valves that workers turned off to isolate the leak failed, more homes would have gone without water, he said.

Because that section of Main Street is part of state Highway 7 and owned by the

state rather than the city, the city had to notify the Oregon Department of Transportation and receive permission to excavate to repair the leak.

This was no minor bit of digging.

Main Street in that block consists of 10 inches of concrete over 8 inches of crushed rock, a layer of structural fabric and 6 inches of lime-treated base. The concrete is too thick to be cut using the saw the city owns, so the city called the nearest specialty contractor, A-Core from Boise.

Although the company was booked with other jobs, it sent an employee to Baker City to start cutting into the street at 10 a.m. on Jan. 3.

City workers located the leak but the city's repair clamp, because it was designed for steel rather than cast iron pipes, was slightly undersized. However, Plumbtree found an emergency repair kit that the city had bought many years ago and he adapted the kit to repair the pipe.

The city finished repairs by about 2 p.m. on Jan. 3 and turned the water back on to the two affected homes.

Fisk said that section of Main Street is much thicker than typical city streets because the state designed it to handle heavy trucks. He said the street has held up well since it was built in the mid 1980s.

A typical residential city street, by contrast, typically has about 4 inches of asphalt.

Plumbtree says that other



Submitted photo

Justin Plumbtree of the Baker City Public Works Department used clamps to repair a leak in a 10-inch water pipe along Main Street.

than upgrading the city's water line to ductile iron there is no way to completely prevent leaks due to frost heaving.

"It's just something you got to deal with until these are removed or replaced," he said.

Every year the city upgrades some water lines, but the city can only afford to do a certain amount each year. Plumbtree said the city likely won't replace the cast iron line on Main Street until the street needs to be rebuilt, due to the cost of excavating and rebuilding the street.

City workers backfilled the trench above the pipe and then had to wait for the concrete to cure. The city poured more concrete on Thursday, but the northbound street will be confined to one lane at least through the weekend, as the city waits for the concrete to harden and meet state standards for hardness, Fisk said.

Water lines beneath Main Street are 10-inch diameter cast iron between Campbell and Baker streets. From Baker Street south to Auburn Avenue the pipe is 12-inch cast iron.

Police arrest 3 after securing search warrant

Baker City Police, working with Oregon State Police and the Baker County Sheriff's Office, arrested three people on Wednesday following a warranted search of a home at 2787 Third St.

Police secured the search

warrant after receiving a report of criminal activity at the home.

The three arrested:

- James Edward Grove, 41, transient, on charges including parole and probation violation, disorderly conduct,

escape and criminal mischief, as well as warrants for criminal trespassing, interfering with a police officer, reckless driving, reckless endangering and driving while suspended

- Melissa Marian Carey, 32, 2787 Third St., on charges

of hindering prosecution and unlawful possession of methamphetamine

- Rhiannon Elizabeth Smithhart, 27, transient, Baker County Parole and Probation Department retainer

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
SECOND-DEGREE ASSAULT, FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT: Millicent Norwood Sherman, 25, 2630 Resort St., 6:06 p.m. Thursday in the 1900 block of Broadway St.; jailed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR, CONTEMPT OF COURT (out of county warrants): Kirk William

Roberts, 45, Haines, 8:10 p.m. Thursday in the 2400 block of Estes St.; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION, SECOND-DEGREE THEFT (Baker County Justice Court warrants): Xysis Silk Duane Lahey, 24, 2425 Balm St., 3:18 a.m. today in the 500 block of Campbell St.; jailed

Oregon State Police

FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER: Amanda Marie Dixon, 30, formerly of Mountlake Terrace, Washington, 9:02 a.m. Thursday, at the Baker County Jail where she is being held on another charge. Police said Dixon failed to register when she moved from Washington to Oregon.