

INLAND

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Clark said the fire is under investigation, but it appears to be accidental rather than arson.

He said restaurant employees had locked the doors and left just 35 minutes or so before the fire was reported.

No appliances or other equipment was left on, Clark said.

When firefighters arrived, the buildings roof was burning. Clark said crews attacked the fire inside and from the roof, where they cut holes to vent the blaze.

He said firefighters limited fire damage to the roof and kitchen area at the rear of the building. He estimated damage to the building at \$150,000, and the value of contents at \$100,000.

Hensley said she was meeting with an insurance company official this morning.

Clark said the vent exhaust system for the cafe's grill was inspected just a month or so ago. The grill



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A fire Sunday night severely damaged the Inland Cafe on 10th Street.

has an automatic chemical retardant system in case of a fire, but the blaze apparently started between the ceiling and the roof, and the automatic system is not designed to trigger in that case, he said.

Clark said grill vent systems are required to be inspected every six months. He said Hensley has "been very vigilant" in complying

with that requirement.

The Inland Cafe opened in 1946, according to the restaurant's Facebook page. The building, which covers 2,862 square feet, was built in 1930, according to the Baker County Assessor's Office.

In her Facebook post, Hensley thanked firefighters. "Thank you to our Baker City finest firefighters, police

officers and all who helped save our business tonight. If it wasn't for them it would be burnt to the ground, what a great job they did trying to save a piece of everyone's heart the inland cafe! Thank you again!"

10th Street was closed to traffic between Campbell and E streets until firefighters finished their work about 11 p.m. Sunday, Clark said.

HOUSE FIRE

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When Stecher ran outside he found Waldrop, who was frantically searching for her father, Rocco Sinisgalli, who was staying in the fifth-wheel trailer, Clark said.

Baker City Police officers Rand Weaver and Jared Wood, who were patrolling nearby, arrived about 30 seconds after being dispatched, and helped Sinisgalli get out of the trailer, Clark said.

Firefighters from the Baker City Fire Department arrived within four minutes and were later joined by volunteers from the Baker

Rural Fire District and Haines Fire District, but the house was fully involved and was gutted, Clark said.

"It was a total loss," he said. "There's nothing left inside."

The blaze also burned the trailer and melted a section of vinyl siding on Stecher's house at 605 Auburn.

The home at 601 Auburn, on Baker City's east side near Pear Street, was built in 1910 and is 728 square feet, according to the Baker County Assessor's Office.

The home is owned by Timothy and Barbara Oliver of John Day. Clark said the home was insured.

Kump, the deputy state fire marshal from La Grande, said he spent most of Sunday at the fire scene. Although he found no evidence of arson, he was not able to determine the specific cause in part because the damage was so extensive.

Clark said firefighters reported flames coming from all the home's windows.

"There were several possibilities for the ignition source, but I can't say which one for sure was the cause," he said.

Kump said Waldrop had a candle burning in the home but he could not confirm

whether or not that was the source for the fire as there were several other possibilities such as electric wiring.

Both Kump and Clark said that although it was a hectic weekend for firefighters, with a major blaze at the Inland Cafe on 10th Street Sunday night (see related story above), there is no connection between the two except coincidental, as they happened on the same day.

No firefighters were hurt while fighting the fire.

Clark said the two fires illustrated the value of the mutual aid agreement among the Baker City Fire Department and the Baker Rural, Haines Rural and other local fire districts.

"On any large fire we have to have help," Clark said. "The city appreciates that. Two big fires in one day, that's a lot to ask."

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OTEC nominating committee members appointed

Baker City, Oregon (OTEC) — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors have appointed the following members to the director nominating committee for Baker and Union counties:

Positions 7 and 8 — Union County
Seats are currently held by incumbents Greg Howard and David Baum

- Donna Beverage 541-786-1492
- Mary West 541-910-4546
- Russell Lester 541-910-0906

Position 9 — Baker County
Seat is currently held by incumbent Charlene Chase

- Diana Brown 541-523-3679
- DeeDee Clarke 541-524-1999
- Fred Warner, Jr. 541-524-2040

The nominating committee handles interviewing and recommendations of qualified candidates for the 2019 OTEC Board of Directors elections. If you are a member of the cooperative and are interested in running for the OTEC Board of Directors, please contact one of the committee members in your county.

The committee has requested any members interested in stepping forward for consideration, please contact them on or before January 29, 2019.

The nominating committee must submit its nominations to the board secretary no later than February 1, 2019.

Any member wanting to petition for placement on the 2019 Board of Directors election ballot should contact Lea Gettle (541-524-2831) for the petition and conflict of interest forms.

Nominations by petition must be filed no later than March 5, 2019, must be signed by the candidate and include at least 50 OTEC members' signatures who are qualified to vote. In addition, there must be a request that the candidate's name be placed on the ballot.

A copy of the bylaws describing the terms of office, application and qualifications needed to serve on the nine-member board, along with a conflict of interest policy are available online at www.otecc.com/about/annual-meetings

Each director's term of office is for three years. The election will be completed at the annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2019, in John Day at the Grant County Fairgrounds. All OTEC members and their families are encouraged to attend.

About the cooperative
Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative that serves over 31,000 homes and businesses in four counties in Eastern Oregon. Headquartered in Baker City, OTEC has district offices in Burns, John Day and La Grande.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Baker County Democrats meet Jan. 17

The Baker County Democrats will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 17 at the Rogers Fellowship Hall, corner of Fourth Street and Washington Avenue, west of the Courthouse.

Coffee, tea and hot cocoa will be ready at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6 p.m. They will be discussing upcoming fundraising events, and open seats in the May election.

City planners set work session Jan. 16

The Baker City Planning Commission will have a work session Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Planners will review materials for proposed updates to the city's development code, including revisions to site design review. Copies of the work session documents are available in the Baker City/County Planning Department at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.; digital versions can be emailed for free by calling Eva Henes at 541-523-8219 or email to ehenes@bakercounty.org

Parks & Rec board meeting Jan. 22

Baker City's Parks and Recreation Board will meet Jan. 22 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Agenda items include updating the community survey for the city's parks master plan, and a design for a sign at Central Park.

Farmers Market annual meeting Jan. 22

The annual membership meeting for the Baker City Farmers Market is set for Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St.

Airport Commission meets Jan. 14

The Baker City Airport Commission will meet Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Community Connection seeks board member from Baker County

Community Connection is seeking a volunteer from Baker County to serve on the board of directors for the nonprofit organization that operates the Senior Center as well as food, housing, energy assistance and transportation programs.

The board member will represent the private sector. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call Dianne Wright at 541-963-3186 or by email at diana@ccno.org. The application deadline is Jan. 21.

ORDINANCE

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The earlier ordinance would have allowed the city to seek a court order blocking access to properties where repeated criminal activity had happened or that had multiple violations of the city's property maintenance ordinance within six months.

Warner's current proposal is to alter the existing property maintenance ordinance.

Specifically, he suggests changing the section titled "neighborhood nuisance" to read "chronic neighborhood nuisance." The ordinance defines such a property as "a building or property that, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or other similar reason, is a danger to the public health, safety or welfare."

The proposed ordinance also lists criteria that a judge could consider in determining whether a property qualifies as a chronic nuisance. One criterion is that the property has a court order allowing the city to clean it up and then bill the owner for the work.

Another criterion is whether the "property has adequate water and sanitary services."

The process starts when the city believes a property is in violation of some part of the ordinance, at which point the city would send the owner a letter outlining the violation and giving the owner no more than 30 days to correct the problem.

(The city manager would have the discretion to extend the time frame beyond 30 days in cases of "extreme hardship," a term the ordinance doesn't define.

If the owner fails to comply, the city manager can order that the owner be cited. That would move the matter into Baker Justice Court.

January 11-17

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REPLICAS PG-13
 A scientist becomes obsessed with bringing back his family members who died in a traffic accident.
 FRI & SAT: (4-10) 7:10, 9:45
 SUN: (4-10) 7:10 MON-THURS: 7-10

THE MULE R
 Clint Eastwood, Bradley Cooper. A 90-year-old veteran is caught transporting cocaine through Illinois.
 FRI & SAT: (4-00) 7:00, 9:40
 SUN: (4-00) 7:00 MON-THURS: 7-00

AQUAMAN PG-13
 Jason Momoa, Arthur Curry learns that he is the heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis.
 FRI & SAT: (3-45) 6:45, 9:35
 SUN: (3-45) 6:45 MON-THURS: 6:45

11:00am Matinee
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