

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, JAN. 18

■ **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. 21

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

### TUESDAY, JAN. 22

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 1

■ **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, FEB. 4

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Haines Library.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

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

### MONDAY, FEB. 11

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

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald January 18, 1969

Six 5J School District budget board members were taken on a school tour Friday morning by Jim Evans, 5J District Superintendent.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 18, 1994

Arnold Coe seems surprised that when his friends in North Powder ask how his new job is going, he struggles to find an answer.

"I really just haven't had time to think about it," said Coe, who recently finished a busy first six months as Baker 5J Superintendent.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 19, 2009

The Baker School Board will receive the final report from a committee organized this fall to consider ways the school district could operate more efficiently during a work session Tuesday.

The committee's recommendations have ranged from moving to a four-day school week, to selling the district office building and reorganizing elementary schools to serve students by grade level rather than by neighborhoods.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 19, 2018

A new year brings new faces at the Baker City Fire Department.

Today marks the completion of two weeks of training for three new firefighter/paramedics the city was able to hire after receiving a three-year federal grant.

The new firefighters began their training Jan. 8, which is also the day that Fire Chief Tom Wills returned from a medical leave of absence.

The city accepted the grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in October. The grant will pay \$436,000 over the three years, while the city will spend \$285,000.

"I am pleasantly satisfied with their experience level," Wills said about the three new firefighters — Cameron Kiyokawa, Brian Johnson and Steven Donaldson.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Jan. 16

16 — 21 — 29 — 38 — 46 — 48  
Next jackpot: \$7 million

### POWERBALL, Jan. 16

14 — 29 — 31 — 56 — 61 PB 1  
Next jackpot: \$129 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 16

11 — 19 — 22 — 44

### PICK 4, Jan. 17

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

### LUCKY LINES, Jan. 17

2-7-10-15-17-21-25-29  
Next jackpot: \$20,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.
- **TUESDAY:** Chicken cordon bleu, parslid red potatoes, mixed vegetables, biscuit, green salad, cake

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.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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## SHUTDOWN

Continued from Page 1A

"It kind of casts a pall over the whole community," Calder said.

According to the Oregon Employment Department, about 131 federal workers in Baker County could be going without pay during the shutdown (total federal employment in the county can exceed 200 when seasonal crews are on duty).

The 131 employees represents about 2.3 percent of the county's total workforce, said Christopher Rich, regional economist for the Employment Department.

Federal salaries are generally higher than the average for Baker County.

In 2017, the last year for which complete data are available, the average federal salary in the county was \$62,517. The average salary for all workers in the county that year was \$35,760.

Federal salaries range from about \$35,000 to about \$80,000.

Ratliff said she appreciated that one of her family's favorite eateries, Sweet Wife Baking, announced in a Facebook post Wednesday that the business was offering a free cookie and coffee or tea to furloughed workers.

As for necessities such as groceries, Ratliff said they're

"(It's) a scary situation because you're not sure when that next paycheck's going to come."

— **John Quintela, BLM employee from Baker City**

charging those on a credit card.

Ratliff said on Wednesday that she had considered applying for unemployment but she was waiting to see if President Donald Trump signed a bill guaranteeing furloughed federal workers would be paid for the time they missed.

Trump signed that bill on Wednesday.

Ratliff said that in that case she wouldn't apply for unemployment because she would have to repay any money she received through that program.

Ratliff said she feels fortunate that her husband works for the Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife, a state agency not affected by the partial federal shutdown.

For some of her friends, though, there is no other source of income either because the only working spouse is a furloughed federal worker, or because both spouses are furloughed.

"Those are the people who are more stressed right now," Ratliff said.

## Baker High School waives sports admission fees for furloughed workers

Baker High School announced this morning that for the duration of the federal government shutdown, furloughed federal workers and their families can attend all home athletic events for no cost.

Willy and Renae Crippen are among the couples who both work for the federal government.

Willy Crippen works for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Baker City, and Renae manages the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center at the La Grande Airport.

"It's kind of a double whammy for us because we're both federal employees," Willy Crippen said.

That wasn't the case during one previous shutdown, because Renae wasn't working for the federal government then.

Although the Crippens, who live in La Grande, have each missed one paycheck, Willy Crippen, a 31-year federal employee, said he was happy that at least they

did receive a check a week or so before Christmas.

But the effects of missing even one check — two checks, in the Crippens' case — arise almost immediately.

For instance, Willy Crippen said most of the couple's bills are set up to be paid automatically, with the money taken from their account.

They've had to curtail that practice temporarily to ensure the bills are paid on time.

"It's certainly a challenge right now, getting all the bills paid," Crippen said.

He said he and his wife also try to help her father, who lives on a fixed income in La Grande.

"This doesn't just impact our household," Crippen said.

John Quintela, who works as a fisheries biologist for the BLM in Baker City, said the shutdown "is a scary situation because you're not sure when that next paycheck's going to come."

Although his wife, Heidi, does not work for the federal government, Quintela said the family, which includes children ages 13 and 9, has "definitely changed our spending habits."

"Vacation plans are on hold, and we're not going out to eat," Quintela said. "We can't look too far out now. The bills keep coming."

## OBITUARY

### Connie Howerton

Baker City, 1947-2019

Constance "Connie" Howerton, 71, of Baker City, died Jan. 14, 2019, at her home, surrounded by her family.

Per her request, there will be no funeral service.

Connie was born on Jan. 28, 1947, at Jacksonville, Florida, to Joe and Mary Erwin. She was raised as a Naval officer's daughter and moved across the states. Connie attended Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco and graduated in 1965.

Connie met Barney Howerton, the love of her life, through her mom, who had met him at her work. Barney and Connie were married on Aug. 28, 1965.



Connie Howerton

She worked for Sunset Answering Services in San Francisco and later as a personal care provider in Baker City. She was also a member of Jobs Daughter International and a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts.

Connie enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow up, camping, TV game shows (especially "Jeopardy!"), Hallmark movies, puzzles, crosswords, card games, crocheting, and watching her grandkids play ball. She loved lilacs and violets and her favorite color was a deep forest green. Connie had a special bond and memories with her dogs Penny, a Rottweiler and Tammy, her childhood boxer.

Connie will be remembered for her compassion for people, for caring for others and for her family. She would always

say, "You kids are my world."

Connie is survived by her son, Jimmy Howerton; her daughter, Debbie Howerton Andino; her grandchildren, Derek, Matt, Melissa and Sierra; her great-grandchild, Hunter James; her sisters, Debbie Joe Howerton and Sherry Hulme; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Barney Howerton; her parents, Joe and Mary Erwin; and her niece, Mary Lorraine Howerton.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Connie the family suggests Community Connection through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

## DEATHS

**Vera 'Katie' VanCleave:** 91, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2019, at her home after battling cancer. No service will take place. She is survived by her children, Alfred Dunn, Steve Dunn, Candi Duncan and Sonny VanCleave; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and cousins. To

light a candle in memory of Katie, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

**George V. Hermann:** 80, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2019, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City. His funeral will be Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. at the First Lutheran Church, 1734 Third St., with Pastor Ian Wolfe

officiating. Interment will take place Jan. 23, 2019, at noon at the Hermiston Cemetery. To light a candle in honor of George, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

## FUNERAL PENDING

**Steven Valentine:** Celebration of his life, Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Baker City VFW Hall, 2005 Valley Ave. In the

spring, a graveside military service will take place, the date and time to be announced later. For those who would like to make a donation in Steve's memory, the family suggests Best Friends of Baker through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

## POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
DISORDERLY CONDUCT, RESISTING ARREST, PROBATION VIOLATION: Ryan Alexander Bravo, 31, Richland, Washington, 8:31 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of Campbell Street; jailed.  
SECOND-DEGREE THEFT: Darlene Nichole Corr, 26, 1701 Fourth St., 1:39 p.m. Tuesday in the 3500 block of Pocahontas Road; jailed.

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**THE UPSIDE** PG-13  
A comedic look at the relationship between a wealthy man with quadriplegia and the man who's hired to help him.  
FRI & SAT: (4-00) 7:00, 9:40  
SUN & M: (4-00) 7:00 T-TH: 7:00

**THE MULE** R  
Clint Eastwood, Bradley Cooper, & 90-year-old Vietnam is caught transporting cocaine through Timmas.  
FRI & SAT: (4-10) 7:10, 9:45  
SUN & M: (4-10) 7:10 T-TH: 7:10

**REPLICAS** PG-13  
A scientist becomes obsessed with bringing back his family members who died in a traffic accident.  
FRI & SAT: (4-20) 7:20, 9:50  
SUN & M: (4-20) 7:20 T-TH: 7:20

Show Times: 541-523-2522  
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