

# Baker City Herald

February 8, 2019

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Nature sculpts ice along Pine Creek west of Baker City

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV \$1.50

QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robert Hereau of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre auditions set for Monday**

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre will have auditions for "Three Days of Rain" at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the EORT theater, 2101 Main St.

Director Paul McNeil is looking for two men and one woman for this adult drama romantic show.

**Virtual town hall Feb. 13 with Findley, Bentz**

Baker County's two representatives in the Oregon Legislature, Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, and Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, will host virtual town halls each month during the legislative session. The first event is set for Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. at the OSU Extension Office, 2600 East St. Findley and Bentz will give a 30-minute update, then take questions for 30 minutes.

**Family History Discovery event Feb. 15-16 at LDS Church**

People interested in learning about their family's history are invited to a free event Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 at the LDS Family History Center at the Baker City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Participants should use the east entrance to the church at 2625 Hughes Lane. There are classes for all levels.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 15**

- Registration starts at 5:30 p.m., with classes starting at 6 p.m.
- 2 class periods with a choice of two classes
- Open Family History Center lab
- Cookies will be served

**SATURDAY, FEB. 16**

- Registration starts at 8:30 p.m., with snacks served
- Welcome at 8:50 a.m., sign in to Relatives Around Me on your FamilySearch app
- 9 a.m. to noon, 3 class periods with 3 classes each, plus open Family History Center

WEATHER

**Today**

31 / 25



Snow likely

**Saturday**

35 / 22



Snow likely

**Sunday**

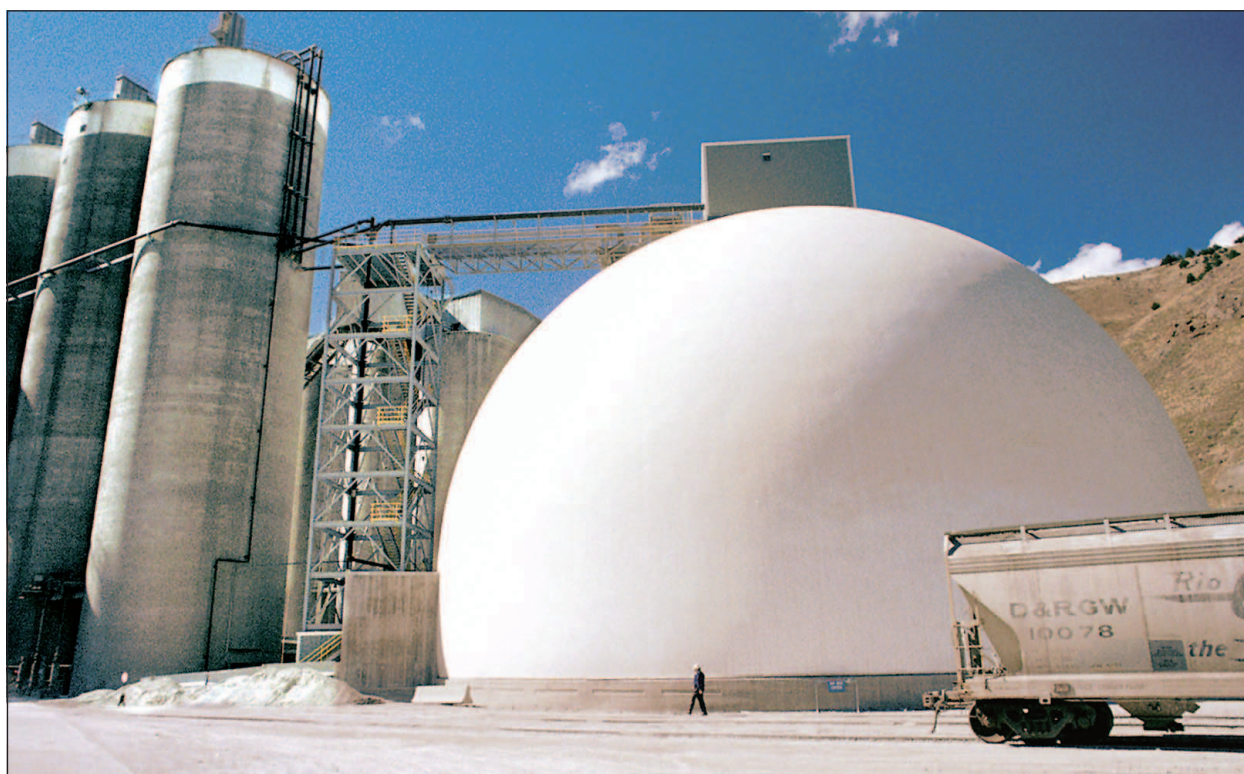
28 / 11



Snow showers

**State Lawmaker Fears Legislation Could Harm Ash Grove Cement's Durkee Plant**

## Cap, trade, trouble?



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Ash Grove Cement's Durkee plant southeast of Baker City employs about 115 workers.

By Casey Crowley  
ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

Baker County's state representative contends that a bill intended to reduce Oregon's carbon emissions could have the opposite effect globally and also threaten one of the county's largest private employers.

Rep. Lynn Findley, a Republican from Vale, said during a floor speech at the Capitol on Jan. 31 that House Bill 2020, the carbon "cap and trade" bill, could have what he described in a press release as "unintended consequences."

Among those is the potential to

make Ash Grove Cement, which operates a plant near Durkee, about 27 miles southeast of Baker City, less competitive against Chinese cement makers.

During his speech to the House of Representatives, Findley said that if Oregon levies a carbon tax on Ash Grove, it could result in more cement being imported from China.

"It would make it harder to compete with China because China doesn't have the same land use, same environmental regulations that Ash

Grove complies with," Findley said.

Ash Grove employees about 115 people at the Durkee plant with an annual payroll of \$13 million, according to the company, which is based in Overland Park, Kansas.

(Some of the Durkee plant employees live in Malheur County or in Idaho.)

Ash Grove is the third largest property tax payer in Baker County, having paid about \$739,000 last year, according to County Assessor Kerry Savage.



Findley

See Ash Grove / Page 3A



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Ash Grove Cement's Durkee plant is on the south side of Interstate 84, next to the Burnt River.

**Restaurant Wants To Add Outdoor Seating Beside Powder River**

## Golden Crown plans expansion

By Casey Crowley  
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The Golden Crown restaurant in Baker City is planning an expansion that would more than double the size of the Chinese eatery.

The addition will be on the west side of the building at 1726 Campbell St., on the east bank of the Powder River, and will include outside seating on an 800-square-foot deck with a view of the river.

The main reason for the expansion is to add the outside dining option, said Ken Chen, one of the Golden Crown's owners.

The current restaurant is 2,400 square feet, and the

addition will cover 2,695 square feet.

The work will be done by Dream Builders Contractors of La Grande. Construction is expected to begin as soon as final approval is given by the county, Chen said.

According to the Baker City/County Planning Department, that will be in about three weeks. The Department expects to submit its final report on the application in the next week. After that residents will have two weeks to appeal the decision.

Prior to the report being filed, owners of property within 100 feet of the

restaurant were given a chance to submit comments about the project.

Gregg Hinrichsen, whose State Farm Insurance office is at 1722 Campbell St., just across Walnut street from Golden Crown, said he is concerned that there could be issues if the restaurant doesn't add parking spaces.

Patrons from Golden Crown already often park in his lot, he said, which prevent his clients and employees from finding a place to park.

The submitted application doesn't include any expansions of the parking lot. Neither the restaurant nor the insurance office's park-

ing lot has lined spaces so it is unclear how many spots each has, but the Golden Crown's is clearly bigger. There is also some on-street parking available for both businesses. The State Farm office is the only business that directly neighbors the Golden Crown.

Chen said he hopes exterior construction will be done by August if the application is approved soon. The restaurant will remain open on its regular schedule for the duration of construction on the expansion. There are no other planned changes to the restaurant.

Golden Crown also has a location in La Grande.

## County asks judge to open road

By Casey Crowley  
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 Wednesday to file a legal challenge seeking to force a landowner to remove a locked gate across a road near Lookout Mountain in eastern Baker County.

The gate, installed in August 2017, is near the upper end of the road that starts at the mouth of Connor Creek at Brownlee Reservoir. The road, which commissioners believe is a public right-of-way, connects to the Daly Creek Road northeast of Lookout Mountain.

The legal complaint names property owners Todd Longgood and Dennis Hansen as defendants.

In a July 2018 letter to the county's attorney, Larry Sullivan of Vale, Longgood and Hansen's lawyer, Charles Hudson of Lane Powell in Portland, disputed the county's contention that the section of road running through his clients' property is public.

Hudson cited historic maps and property deed records as evidence that the gated road was built after the formerly public land was transferred into private ownership, and thus can't be deemed a public right-of-way based on the 1866 one-sentence federal statute that the county referred to in its complaint.

The complaint, filed in Baker County Circuit Court, is a declaratory judgment suit which doesn't ask for any damages against Longgood and Hansen. Rather, the county is asking a judge to determine that the road through the private property is a public right-of-way that can't be blocked.

The county contends that a 2002 resolution passed by county commissioners applies to the entire road, from its eastern end at the Snake River Road to the west end at Daly Creek Road. Longgood and Hansen's property is near the Daly Creek Road.

That 2002 resolution came about after a different property owner, on the eastern end of the road near the Connor Creek Mine, installed a locked gate.

County commissioners at that time determined, based on maps and testimony from longtime area residents, that the road existed as early as the 1870s and thus qualified as a public right-of-way under the 1866 statute known as RS 2477. The 2002 resolution deems the entire route of the road, including the section that passes through Longgood and Hansen's property, as a public right-of-way 60 feet wide.

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**TODAY**  
Issue 118, 14 pages

Calendar.....2A	Community News...3A	Horoscope.....5B & 6B	Obituaries.....2A	Senior Menus.....2A
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Comics.....3B	Dear Abby.....8B	News of Record.....2A	Outdoors.....1B & 2B	Weather.....8B

**MONDAY — BAKER BASKETBALL FINISHES LEAGUE SEASON**



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