

What's new at the Baker County Library

• 2400 Resort St.

FICTION

- "The Kingdom of Copper," S.A. Chakraborty
- "Hap & Leonard Mysteries," Joe Lansdale
- "Silent Night," Danielle Steel
- "The Perfect Alibi," Phillip Margolin
- "Crucible," James Rollins

NONFICTION

- "The Mother of the Bride Guide," Katie Martin
- "The Case For Trump," Victor Davis Hanson
- "My Life Among the Underdogs," Tia Torres
- "Girl, Stop Apologizing," Rachel Hollis
- "Dark Agenda," David Horowitz

DVDS

- "Ben is Back" (drama)
- "Creed II" (action)
- "The Favourite" (comedy)
- "Instant Family" (comedy)
- "No Man's Land" (documentary)

OTEC crews help restore power in Douglas County

More Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative crews have traveled to Southwestern Oregon help restore power to thousands of residents still without electricity after a snowstorm in Douglas County in late February.

OTEC announced that a second four-man crew left for Roseburg Wednesday morning, relieving the first

crew OTEC sent on Feb. 27.

A third crew is scheduled to leave next week, if needed. Both crews are slated to spend one week in Roseburg.

The OTEC employees are aiding Douglas Electric Cooperative to restore power after some areas of Douglas County received as much as 18 inches on Feb 24-25.

As of Wednesday morning, more than 49 percent of Douglas Electric's members were without power, according to the cooperative's outage map.

Douglas Electric Cooperative has 25 crews and 76 trucks working to restore power to the area, according to a story in the Roseburg News-Review.

County commissioners delay decision on Lime land sale

By Casey Crowley
ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

The Baker County Commissioners on Wednesday tabled a discussion on a proposal to sell nearly 38 acres of county property at the abandoned cement plant near Huntington.

Steve and Jeri Schaffeld, who own adjacent property, have offered to buy the county land for \$9,450, or \$250 per acre.

Commissioner Mark Bennett said commissioners tabled the discussion because there was a complication on completing a recent sale of property at the site, based on whether the property needed to be surveyed and who would pay for a survey.

Bennett said that in the future he would like to make sure that if a survey is required for the property that the county would at least share the cost with the buyer.

Bennett said he had no issue with the Schaffeld's proposal.

Commissioners likely will discuss the proposal at their next meeting, March 20.

Last spring the county hired a contractor to demolish buildings at the abandoned plant at Lime, and prepare the property, which covers almost 1,000 acres, for possible sale.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey was absent Wednesday, as he is in Washington, D.C., meeting with agency officials and members of Congress.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Upward Sports Celebration Sunday

The Upward Sports celebration Sunday and barbecue potluck are set for Sunday, March 10 starting at 9:45 a.m. at the Baker City Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane.

The event is the culmination of the second season of Upward Sports basketball and cheer. Players, coaches and the leadership team will be recognized.

Lonnie Jackson, a former basketball player at Boise State and Boston College, will be the guest speaker.

Please bring a potluck dish to go along with burgers and hot dogs.

Trivia Night Sunday at Churchill School

Teams of up to five people are invited to test their knowledge at the monthly trivia night gathering, held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at Churchill School, 16th and Broadway streets. The next competition is March 10. It is free to register a team. Food and beverages are available to purchase. Spectators are welcome to cheer on the teams. Register ahead by sending a message through the Churchill School's Facebook page or sign up at the door.

Participants are asked to enter through the parking lot off 16th Street.

Concert set Tuesday at Churchill

Matt Hopper & the Roman Candles, described as "danceable roots music," takes the stage Tuesday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at Churchill School, 16th and Broadway streets. Cost is \$8 for all ages.

The evening also features special guest Deb Wessler, an Alaskan singer, songwriter, guitar and banjo player who now lives in Baker City. Those attending are asked to enter through the parking lot off 16th Street.

— from staff reports and press releases. To contribute, call 541-523-3673 or email news@bakercityherald.com

9 BHS students earning college credits — for free

By Chris Collins
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

Nine Baker High School students have been earning free college credits as they explore what it would be like to work as a teacher through the Oregon Teacher Pathway program at Eastern Oregon University.

The students spoke about their experiences and showed the Baker School Board a PowerPoint presentation about the program Thursday night.

The program is a collaboration between BHS and the La Grande university, said Sharon Defrees, a

retired teacher who is substituting for Adriene Oster, who is out on medical leave.

Oster is the Future Center adviser at BHS where students consider careers that best fit their skills and interests as they prepare for life beyond high school graduation. Oster accompanied the group to Thursday's meeting.

The students told the Board that as participants in the Oregon Teacher Pathway program, they earn four free credits in the Introduction to Education class. Other credits are reduced from \$159 to

\$49 each and the registration fee is waived.

"This is one of the best opportunities I've seen in partnership with EOU," Defrees told the Board. "It will prepare them for being in a much better place than I was when I first started teaching."

In addition to the college coursework, the students also spend every Thursday at South Baker Intermediate School working with fourth-graders on math and reading skills.

The high school students also work with mentors from the college and learn from South Baker

fourth-grade master teachers Stacy Gambleton and Kristin Schwin.

The students are required to write a research paper on an educational topic of their choice and a college-level literature review to be presented to an EOU audience on May 22 and a week earlier to a Baker audience.

A few of the students admitted they were swayed away from the job after participating in the class.

"I learned I'm not going to become a teacher," senior Hannah Metz told the Board. "But I learned valuable skills, such as the impor-

ance of networking and creating relationships."

Other students who spoke were seniors Hannah Johnson, Koedi Birmingham, Abigail Hobbs, Corrina Stadler, Schelly Hewett and Emma Finley; and juniors Lucas Stearns and Emily Vowell.

"What a great program that is," Superintendent Mark Witty told the Board. "Especially to see the collaboration between the older students and the younger."

"Whether they choose to go into education or not, it's a great program."

HEART TO HEART

A team effort to rescue snowmobilers

Baker County is a wonderful place to live, where people are willing to help random strangers at the drop of a hat. In my position as Baker County Sheriff, I continually witness selfless acts of kindness, compassion and care by residents and public service agencies.

This past Friday night a call for help came into the Baker County Sheriff's Office from a visiting snowmobile recreationist in Halfway. Two snowmobile riders were stranded in rugged terrain above Cornucopia.

Undersheriff Van Arsdall and I, along with a two-person snowmobile rescue team, were on scene in a matter of hours. Taylor Kerns of Haines and Clay McCarty of Baker City are not official members of the Baker County Search and Rescue team. Yet when they received a call in the night, did not hesitate leaving their warm beds to help strangers in need.

We responded to Halfway and both Taylor and Clay ventured into the night in

search of the two strangers, identified as Scott Weaver and Mike Webb from Washington State. Taylor and Clay travelled by GPS through unfamiliar territory in a brave attempt to reach the stranded party. With the temperature well below freezing, the entire team was shivering. The first attempt at locating the lost party was unsuccessful, and we decided to wait until daylight for a second search. I overheard Clay say, "If it was me, I would want someone to come looking."

After about an hour of sleep in the front seat of our pickups, I made a phone call to the Main Place in Halfway. The call resulted in the restaurant's doors swinging open early and a quick, warm breakfast. With a well-nourished team, we headed out for a second search of the area.

I contacted additional SAR members, as well as Ron Still of the Halfway Snowmobile Club. After hearing the situation, Ron got busy making phone calls and quickly recruited several more snowmobile searchers

to assist in locating the two stranded individuals.

SAR responded to the scene with a command vehicle, operated by Jason Yencopal of the Emergency Management Division and Corinna Jacobs of SAR and Dispatch. SAR Coordinator Brent Kerns responded from Baker City with five members ready to ski and snowshoe into the mountainous terrain if needed in the rescue operation.

North Powder Fire responded to the area hauling a snow cat, snowmobiles and personnel. Dustin Stephens of Baker Aircraft offered the use of a helicopter. Both were responding to the scene, but were turned around when Weaver and Webb were located.

While all of the responders were travelling to our staging location, Taylor and Clay launched the second search attempt and made radio contact with the lost party using FRS radios. They learned the lost people were not injured, but they were extremely cold. They were in a canyon but unsure where it was located.

About this same time, several members of the Halfway Snowmobile Club, along with their avid snowmobile friends and family, arrived at our command post. These individuals had left their paying jobs and changed their plans for the day to help search for Weaver and Webb. The new riders were put into three search teams, given a quick lesson on police radio usage, fitted with GPS tracking devices and launched to join the initial team of Clay and Taylor.

All told, there were 10 snowmobilers who deployed and located Weaver and Webb. The two had traveled down the Trail Creek drainage and got their machines stuck in an area where most people do not ride. They spent the night in a tree well, using the heat of the engines and exhausts on the snowmobiles for warmth. The rescuers were able to

get the two snowmobiles unstuck and assist the lost subjects back to our command post.

Without this team of selfless volunteers, a fun winter outing for Weaver and Webb could have ended in tragedy. I am extremely thankful to the responders. On behalf of the Baker County Sheriff's Office, I would like to personally thank the following individuals and businesses for their eagerness to help in this search: Taylor Kerns (Haines), Clay McCarty (Baker City), Lucas Thomas (Richland), Dustin Traw (Halfway), Ray Denig (Halfway), Jeff Bond (Baker City), David Bond (Baker City), Toby Gangler (Bates), Jess Goin (Halfway), Ron Still (Halfway), Duane Miles (Halfway), Jon Miles (Baker), Dustin Stevens and Baker Aircraft (Baker City), Colby Thompson and North Powder Fire (North Pow-

der), the staff at the Main Place (Halfway), Brent and Logan Kerns (Haines), Zach Downing (Baker City), Jason Yencopal (Baker City), Corinna Jacobs (Baker City), Sean Lee (Baker City), Kim Corn (Baker City), Levi Bunch (Durkee), Chris Galiszewski (Baker City) and the entire Baker County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team.

This list of people initially responded to the scene after answering phone calls made starting around 5 a.m. I have no doubt the list would have grown exponentially, had the search progressed. Selfless acts of kindness and the willingness to help others in need make this a great place to live. I am proud to say that I am from Baker County and am forever grateful to be a part of our amazing community.

Travis Ash

Baker County Sheriff

MARCH 8-14

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