

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

■ **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroadsr, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge.

MONDAY, APRIL 1

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 6 p.m. at the Haines Library.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

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

■ **"Growing the Food I Want" Gardening Class:** Topic is "You and Your Plant Beds: No Sleeping Allowed," 6 p.m., Oregon Trail Nursery, 600 Elm St.; cost is \$5 per class. Information: Mindy Sherrieb, 541-523-3449 or leave a message at 541-523-6418 or mastergardener.baker@oregonstate.edu

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

■ **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.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

■ **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 March 25, 1969

The Knights of Columbus will take on the boys of the St. Francis High School in a basketball game tonight at the Academy Gym.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 25, 1994

A comprehensive study of methylmercury levels in Brownlee Reservoir fish should be done by mid-April.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Idaho Power Co. — with possible help from Oregon agencies — plan to catch the fish the week of April 4-8.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 25, 2009

The American Red Cross office in Baker City is moving several blocks to a 950-square-foot space in the basement of City Hall, 1655 First St.

The move is official Friday.

Baker City is providing the space at no cost to the Red Cross.

Local contractors have painted and recarpeted the office, which has more storage space and room for meetings and classes than the former office at the YMCA gymnasium on Church Street.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald March 26, 2018

Unemployment rates are holding steady at historical lows in Baker County, in Oregon and across the country.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted rate was 5.5 percent in January, which was unchanged from the last three months of 2017.

The rate for 2017 is also 5.5 percent. January's rate this year is slightly better than a year ago when it was 5.8 percent in January 2017.

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in January and February. For 14 consecutive months, Oregon's unemployment rate has been close to 4.1 percent, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate was also 4.1 percent in both January and February.

Those yearly rates compare to 6.4 for Baker County, 4.9 for the state and 4.9 for the nation in 2016.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, March 23

14 — 17 — 20 — 28 — 37 — 43

Next jackpot: \$9.8 million

POWERBALL, March 23

24 — 25 — 52 — 60 — 66 PB 5

Next jackpot: \$750 million

MEGA MILLIONS, March 22

7 — 36 — 58 — 60 — 62 Mega

10

Next jackpot: \$57 million

WIN FOR LIFE, March 23

19 — 45 — 60 — 76

PICK 4, March 24

• 1 p.m.: 9 — 7 — 4 — 9

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 3 — 2 — 7

• 7 p.m.: 7 — 5 — 0 — 9

• 10 p.m.: 6 — 4 — 6 — 7

LUCKY LINES, March 24

3-8-9-13-17-24-28-31

SENIOR MENUS

■ **TUESDAY:** Stuffed cabbage rolls, parsleyed red potatoes, carrots, roll, green salad, cinnamon rolls

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, tomato-green beans, roll, sauerkraut salad, birthday 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.

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GRADER

Continued from Page 1A

Commissioners also discussed the possible sale of two county-owned properties: the former lime plant property at Lime and the Hunt Mountain property northwest of Baker City.

At a prior meeting, the county had approved an agreement with Randy Joseph, who would purchase a portion of the Lime property, approximately 80 acres, for about \$21,000.

But the completion of the sale has been stalled because of issues with cleaning up the title and establishing a right of way through the property. To do so, the county needs an attorney to draft the language for the deed.

The county also has received a purchase proposal from Steve Schaffeld, but the Commission tabled discussion on that sale until the deed for the whole property was clean. Schaffeld proposed purchasing about 38 acres for \$9,450.

As soon as the County's attorney completes a legal description of the land, the planning department can begin preparing the deed, Planning Director Holly Kerns said. The county is hoping the attorney finishes the legal

description in less than 30 days.

Tim Kerns had expressed interest in purchasing the 160-acre Hunt Mountain property after there were no bids to purchase the property during a live auction. Kerns had proposed purchasing the property for a total of \$80,000 over the course of four years. The county submitted a counteroffer that would have added a 4 percent annual interest to the total of the sale.

The county sent a letter to Kerns with its counteroffer but hasn't received a response. Kerns will be sent a follow-up letter and if the county doesn't receive a response, the property sale will be reopened.

The commission also approved amended bylaws for the County Planning Commission. The changes would allow for alternate or in-training members to serve on the board if regular members were absent.

The commissioners also spoke with Alex McHaddad, Blue Mountain Translator District executive director, about a third senate bill the district is backing. McHaddad said that originally the district thought the bill would be dead on arrival, but it has been scheduled for a public hearing. The bill would allow citi-

zens to vote on whether to change how the service would be funded. The current system adds a \$100 service charge to the bill for those within the district who have an antenna that could connect to their service. Citizens could vote to change the system to allow funding through a property tax levy.

If this was passed in only Union County, the property tax rate would be at most 26 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. If both Union and Baker counties adopted it, the rate would likely be less, but McHaddad hasn't received an estimate from the county assessor's office.

Union County commissioners have agreed to support the bill, but the Baker commissioners haven't made an official decision. Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols both said they were opposed to taxing those who don't use the service. Harvey said the bill would make service similar to libraries, which aren't used by everyone but are funded by property taxes.

The bill will have a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Business and General Government on March 26 at 8:30 a.m. in Salem.

Haines city employee placed on leave

By Casey Crowley
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The Public Works Director for the City of Haines was put on administrative leave after submitting a letter to the city council saying he was directed to break the law.

Brandon Fry says that Mayor Jim Brown fired him, but Brown says he is

just on leave.

Fry says he has handed in his work phone and keys and has begun looking for a new job.

The letter he submitted to councilors says that the mayor directed him to falsify wastewater discharge numbers and drive vehicles he was not licensed to drive. Fry

had originally planned to speak with the council on March 12 at its regular council meeting but he says Brown prevented him from speaking about the contents of the letter.

The Haines City Council has scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday at 6 p.m. to discuss the contents of the letter.

Baker Council plans special meeting

By Casey Crowley
ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

Tuesday, the Baker City Council will hold a special meeting to approve a grant application to help fund the remaining costs for an all-abilities playground.

The grant the city is applying for is through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and re-

quires a 40 percent match.

It's not clear how much the playground will cost, but Baker City recently won the Moda program voting competition with over 63,000 votes over a month. As a reward for winning the city will receive about \$35,000 to help with the project.

Past estimates had put the project cost at about \$70,000, but the

grant the city is applying for has a max cost of about \$280,000. The city could be awarded over \$50,000 from the parks grant and be able to match it with the Moda money without having to spend any taxpayer money.

The city has identified additional grant sources it could apply for if needed.

Preventive care keeps the doctor away

By Amanda Weisbrod
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LA GRANDE — The age old adage of eating an apple a day to keep the doctor away may have some truth to it after all.

Preventive health care and services such as screening tests, immunizations and health behavior counseling are "key to improving America's health and keeping rising health costs under control," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the CDC website reports Americans are using preven-

tive services at only about half the recommended rate largely because of financial barriers and sometimes due to lack of awareness.

Preventing at-risk behaviors for youth as well as adults, according to Carrie Brogoitti, public health administrator at the Center for Human Development in La Grande, is the first step in living a healthy life.

"With public health, our big thing is to create an environment in the community to allow people to make healthy choices," Brogoitti said. "A big part of that is to influence the trajectory of a child or adolescent, stopping the initiation of whatever it is we're trying to prevent."

That's why CHD started an art contest to bring awareness to the health risks associated with underage drinking three weeks ago.

Jasmine Joy Smith, strategic prevention framework coordinator at CHD, is heading the contest and hopes to connect with youth and their parents by taking a health-based approach.

"We want to focus on brain

and body development (with underage drinking) because studies show a health-effects focus has more of an impact on kids and their parents," Smith said.

Teens ages 14-18 can upload their photograph or artwork based on the consequences of underage drinking to CHD's website at chdinc.org until June 15. The submission with the most likes on CHD's website will be the winner of the contest. First place will earn a Microsoft Surface Pro 6, while second and third places will each receive a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Brogoitti said she hopes youth will be inspired to share what they've learned about underage drinking through their art with the adults in their lives.

"This contest allows youth to think about how alcohol impacts them now and potentially in the future," she said. "Youth are gathering and sharing information to educate adults with the goal of creating an environment to support youth not drinking." Along with its underage

drinking awareness contest, CHD is working to educate the public on gambling addiction during Problem Gambling Awareness Month (March). CHD also treats clients who have gambling addictions with one-on-one counseling services year round.

DeAnne Mansveld, prevention programs coordinator at CHD, said gambling is less likely to be seen as an addiction than alcohol or tobacco use, but because it activates the same areas of the brain as other addictive substances, gambling should be considered an addictive activity.

"We're trying to increase awareness that gambling can be a problem for some people," she said. "Awareness is important because many people don't realize gambling can even be an addiction."

Brogoitti and Mansveld agree the best example of a successful preventive health care effort is against tobacco use. While it is still widely used, tobacco is much less socially acceptable than it used to be.



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DEATHS

Larry Speelman: 76, a longtime Eagle Valley resident, died March 22, 2019, at his home. His funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Christian Church in Richland. Interment will military honors will take place afterward at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Friends are invited to join the family for a potluck reception after the interment at the New Bridge Grange. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eagle Valley Ambulance Defibrillator Fund through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneral

home.com

Juanita Fisher: 85, of Halfway, died March 24, 2019, at Ashley Manor in Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Sandra Alberta Osborne: Her memorial service will be Tuesday, March 26, at Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., with Pastor John Goodyear officiating. A reception will follow immediately, also at Coles Tribute Center. Memorial contributions may be made to Best Friends of

Baker City through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City OR 97814. To offer condolences to her family, go to www.colestributecenter.com

Walter McLean: There will be a graveside service at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispiinevalleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, Citations
CONFESMENT OF COURT: Jeremy James Broyles, 36, transient, 3:52 p.m. Sunday, at the Sheriff's Office; jailed.