

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

- **Four-H Christmas Bazaar:** Noon to 5:30 p.m., at the Extension Office, 2600 East St.; to reserve a table, call 541-523-6418.
- **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 and others.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

- **Saint Alphonsus Foundation Festival of Trees:** Family Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Community Event Center, 2600 East St.; admission is by donations of canned food or new unwrapped toy.
- **Four-H Christmas Bazaar:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Extension Office, 2600 East St.; to reserve a table, call 541-523-6418.
- **Twilight Christmas Parade:** 5 p.m., Downtown Baker City; tree lighting afterward at the Court Avenue Plaza.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

- **Baker High School Vespers:** featuring Baker High School band, choir and theatre programs; two shows: 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Baker High School Auditorium, 2500 E St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 5, 1969

Last spring the carpenter ants again marched on the Baker County Library. Hungry ants are only a portion of the problems that beleaguer the local library. The sum of these shortcomings has brought a proposal for building a new library.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 5, 1994

The history of gold in Baker County, how it got here and how miners found it, is the topic of a Baker County Historical Society program tonight at 7 o'clock at the Kopper Kitchen, 480 Campbell St.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 4, 2009

The way Gary Bloomer sees it, Baker City — once known as the Queen City of the Mines — is a better place to display gold and silver samples than is Portland. Which is why Bloomer is perplexed about state officials' recent decision to move a collection of precious metal and gemstone samples from Baker City, where they had been displayed for more than half a century, to the state geology department's headquarters in Portland.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 5, 2018

Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty is confident that Gov. Kate Brown's call to require a 180-day school year will not force Baker and other districts that have a four-day week to switch to a five-day week schedule. Oregon doesn't mandate a minimum number of school days. Brown, in a budget and priorities plan released last week, proposed boosting the state's education budget by \$800 million and using some of that money to help districts reach the 180-day threshold. Baker School District is one of about 70 of the state's 197 districts that use a four-day week. Burnt River, Pine-Eagle, Huntington and North Powder districts also employ a four-day week. Baker School District students are slated to be in class for 147 days during the current school year.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 2
15 — 20 — 23 — 27 — 33 — 38
Next jackpot: \$6.9 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 3
23 — 43 — 60 — 63 — 69 Mega 19
Next jackpot: \$285 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 2
15 — 30 — 32 — 41

PICK 4, Dec. 3
• 1 p.m.: 4 — 8 — 9 — 9
• 4 p.m.: 6 — 7 — 5 — 6
• 7 p.m.: 0 — 5 — 0 — 9
• 10 p.m.: 8 — 1 — 8 — 3

LUCKY LINES, Dec. 3
2-5-12-13-18-22-27-31
Next jackpot: \$17,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **THURSDAY:** Pulled pork, parslied red potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, cake
- **FRIDAY:** Chicken fried steak, potatoes and gravy, corn, rolls, green salad, cookies

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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Baker County Unemployment Rate*

Year	Annual	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	N/A	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	N/A	N/A
2018	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5
2017	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6
2016	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.6
2015	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.7
2014	8.3	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.2
2013	9.6	10.1	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.1
2012	10.6	11.1	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.2
2011	10.9	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1
2010	10.3	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3
2009	10.4	10.2	10.7	11.0	11.1	11.0	10.7	10.4	10.0	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.0
2008	7.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.9	7.4	7.8	8.4	8.9	9.6
2007	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
2006	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.8	5.5
2005	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.0
2004	8.9	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.0	7.7
2003	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.2
2002	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4
2001	8.5	7.6	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.7	9.0	9.3	9.4	9.5
2000	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.3

*seasonally adjusted

JOBLESS RATE

Continued from Page 1A

In Baker County's case, however, the recent historically low jobless rates reflect an actual increase in the number of people employed rather than a smaller labor force, Rich said. The county's labor force has been nearly constant the past three years, at about 7,000 (an average of 6,994 for the first 10 months of this year, compared

with an average of 6,976 in 2018, 7,014 in 2017, and 6,955 in 2016). That's a substantial increase over the previous three-year period of 2013-15, when the county's labor force averaged 6,727. But even as the labor force has increased since 2015, the number of jobs has risen at an even faster pace, driving the jobless rate down to its current near-record low, Rich said. The average number of employed

county residents during the 2013-15 period was 6,171. The average for 2016 through October 2019, by contrast, is 6,592 — an increase of 421, or 6.8%. The average number of Baker County residents who are unemployed, meanwhile, has dropped. The average number of unemployed residents was 556 from 2013-15, but dropped to an average of 377 from 2016 through October 2019.

OBITUARIES

'Jean' Thompson

Formerly of Baker County, 1928-2019

Nora Jean (Colton) Thompson, 91, a former Baker County resident, died Nov. 29, 2019, at Bend where she was living at the time.

No services are planned at this time.

Jean, as she preferred to be called, was born on Feb. 16, 1928, at home, where she became one of 15 children on her parent's ranch, which was located on the Powder River between Pondosa/Medical Springs and Keating. She attended elementary school in a one-room school-house not far from the ranch.



Jean Thompson

Her high school years were spent in Baker. After graduation, while visiting a sister at Bates, she met her future husband of 70 years, Elmer Thompson. They were wed on Nov. 10, 1946. Out of this union, two children were born. The couple lived at Bates until 1974 and then moved to a small hobby farm they purchased just outside Mount Vernon, where they spent their retirement years. Jean was deeply loved by her family and will be greatly missed. Jean was preceded in death by her parents, John and Nora Colton; all seven of her brothers; five of her sisters; and her husband, Elmer. She is survived by her sisters, Joyce Turner and Gail Stevenson; and her children, Peggy and David, and their

respective families. To leave an online condolence for Jean's family, go to www.driskillmemorialchapel.com

Laura Chapman
Baker City, 1943-2019

Laura Jean Chapman, 76, of Baker City and formerly of Elgin, died Nov. 26, 2019, at a Baker City care center. A graveside service will take place at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, at the Elgin Cemetery. Casual dress is preferred by the family. Laura was born on April 30, 1943, at Salem to William Carlos and Ellen (Oakes) Tierce. She resided in La Grande and Baker City. She was married to Eugene Chapman.



Laura Chapman

Laura worked in several canneries throughout the years and was a homemaker for most of her life. She enjoyed bird watching, scenic drives, spending time with family, attending church and vacationing with her sister, Lois. Her greatest achievement was becoming a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Laura is survived by her daughters, Tina (Terry) Allen of Oxbow and Sandra (Jr.) Martinez of Bend; sister, Lois (Mark) Royce of Creswell; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Chapman; parents, Carlos and Ellen Tierce; and brothers, Marvin Tierce, Jim Tierce, and Jerry Tierce. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com

The weather is changing...
Watch for slick areas & drive safe!

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(All proceeds benefit the animals of Baker County)

Santa is in a BIG snowball to meet you at the

Kiwanis Santa Photos

Festival of Trees Family Day

Saturday December 7 10AM to 3PM

the Event Center (Baker Fairgrounds — 2600 East St.)

Visit Santa and Get Your Picture Taken. All Ages Welcome.

\$10

You will receive
Three 4 X 6 OR
Two 5 X 7 Prints