

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

The Baker School Board made the decision during a special meeting Monday, said Superintendent Mark Witty. “The Board does not believe that it was prudent or the right thing to do,” Witty said of the decision to postpone the measure in light of concern for the additional financial burden it would have placed on the Baker community as effects of the coronavirus pandemic continue to unfold. “This just isn’t the right time,” he said. “We’ve got higher priorities to consider for the betterment of our community.”

By withdrawing the bond measure, the District also will be giving up a \$4 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Match grant it would have received had the bond measure passed.

The District will not be eligible to apply for the matching state grant again in time for the November election. That delays the District’s plan to seek funding for school improvements until the May 2021 election.

In the meantime, the District will use some of the school funding approved by the 2019 Legislature to pay for safety and security improvements at all buildings. Plans to implement an early learning center to be housed at the North Baker school building also will move forward, Witty said.

“All our data points demonstratively to a pretty high need for a high quality preschool program and quality child care,” he said. “That has an impact on kindergarten.”

Witty said the early learning center’s programs will work to close the gap between youngsters starting school

without access to health care, child care and early educational opportunities, and their peers who have a leg up because of their family circumstances.

Even before the governor announced the extension of school closures, Witty said the District already had begun considering, at the governor’s direction, how to best meet day care needs for health care and first responder workers.

“I’m hoping we can figure out a way to assist critical workers who help keep us safe,” Witty said Tuesday.

That would include children of workers at the fire department, health department, the jail, 9-1-1 dispatch center, and city, county and state police officers.

The District is looking at caring for 40 to 50 children, from birth to third grade, in the self-contained modular buildings at Brooklyn Pri-

mary School. The modulators would be disinfected nightly and children would be rotated in small numbers through the playground as part of the schedule, which would be set to accommodate emergency service providers who work all shifts. Parents would deliver the children curbside to the buildings.

“We think this would be a really reasonable approach for us to take,” Witty said.

The District would enlist help from its early learning partners to care for infants and preschoolers, he said.

“We’ll be doing it in a manner that is as safe as possible and isolating groups into small numbers,” he said.

The District, with the help of community volunteers, also is serving free meals to everyone 18 and younger Monday through Friday.

Witty said he might be seeking help from the Dis-

trict’s certified staff as the time off continues. Employment contracts will remain in place during the break.

In a press release announcing the extended time off for staff and students, Witty stated that the District is working to develop supplemental plans to meet the educational needs of all students.

Seniors will be the highest priority as Baker High School works to ensure the students meet graduation requirements, Witty said.

The focus will be on meeting core curriculum requirements for all high school students, he said.

“Be assured we’re going to get credits earned and keep moving forward,” Witty said.

Witty said that will include some online instruction and at the lower grade levels, supplemental learning materials will be available.

“Additional information will

be forthcoming as we develop viable strategies for students and their families to meet the educational needs of their children,” he stated in the press release. “

Witty noted the sacrifices that are being made by children and families as the state and the nation work to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

He pointed to the BHS girls basketball team, which didn’t get a chance to defend its state basketball championship.

A student trip to Vietnam over spring break also was canceled and spring sports seasons and other activities are being delayed or canceled.

“Those are some of the sacrifices all of us are going to have to make for the betterment of the community and for the protection of our parents and grandparents,” Witty said.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
March 20, 1970

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The first postal strike in the nation’s history affected at least nine states today and the Postmaster General warned that if the spreading wildcat walkout was not halted immediately it would cause havoc to the national economy.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
March 20, 1995

Gov. John Kitzhaber slipped into Baker City Saturday morning, slid into a chair at City Hall for about half an hour and soaked up some Baker City history.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
March 19, 2010

Farmers and ranchers are celebrating National Agriculture Day in Baker County Friday by serving a barbecue beef lunch at Brooklyn Primary School and talking with students, parents and teachers about how agriculture affects our daily lives.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
March 20, 2019

After last week’s withdrawal of the proposed new management plans for the three national forests in the Blue Mountains, Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, is optimistic that the Forest Service will work with Eastern Oregon on forest management issues.

During the first week of March, Harvey and representatives from other Eastern Oregon counties visited Washington, D.C. The primary reason for Harvey’s trip was to attend a conference for the National Association of Counties, but he and others from Eastern Oregon also talked with federal officials about the region’s concerns about how public lands are managed.

Harvey said they met with officials with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, as well as members of Congress and anyone who would listen.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, March 16

13 — 19 — 23 — 24 — 25 — 28
Next jackpot: \$6.1 million

MEGA MILLIONS, March 17

20 — 27 — 28 — 58 — 59 Mega 25
Next jackpot: \$96 million

WIN FOR LIFE, March 16

6 — 19 — 25 — 53

PICK 4, March 17

• 1 p.m.: 4 — 0 — 0 — 7
• 4 p.m.: 8 — 0 — 3 — 8
• 7 p.m.: 7 — 5 — 1 — 5
• 10 p.m.: 8 — 0 — 7 — 9

LUCKY LINES, March 17

3-6-10-16-18-24-27-31
Next jackpot: \$13,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Beef pot roast, potatoes and gravy, peas, roll, carrot-raisin salad, berry cheesecake
- **MONDAY (March 23):** Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise sauce, baked potato, Brussels sprouts, biscuit, fruit cup, apple crisp
- **TUESDAY (March 24):** Spaghetti with beef sauce, cauliflower, garlic breadstick, green salad, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY (March 25):** Chicken-fried chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, roll, pea-and-onion salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY (March 26):** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, carrots, roll, gelatin with fruit, brownie

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

1668 Resort St.

Open Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

Fax: 541-833-6414

Regional publisher
Christopher Rush
crush@eomediagroup.com
Publisher
Karine Brogoitti
kbrogoitti@lagrandeobserver.com
Jayson Jacoby, editor
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com
Advertising email
ads@bakercityherald.com
Classified email
classified@bakercityherald.com
Circulation email
circ@bakercityherald.com

Copyright © 2020

Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County since 1870
Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 1668 Resort St. (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.
Subscription rates per month are: Baker City (97814), \$10.80; all others, \$12.50.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Robert Cummings

Baker City, 1923-2020

Robert Guy Cummings, 97, died on March 9, 2020, at his residence at Meadowbrook Place.

His memorial service will take place on April 25, 2020 at the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City.

Robert was born on Jan. 24, 1923, at Mount Vernon, Oregon, to William Otis and Gertrude (Hall) Cummings. He attended high school in Mount Vernon and went on to serve for 2½ years in the United States Navy as a machinist’s mate. He worked for Carnation Can for 22 years until his retirement.

On Feb. 29, 1980, Robert married Marilyn Jean Cameron at Hillsboro.

Robert enjoyed carpentry, gardening and reading. He always had a beautiful yard and a tremendous vegetable garden. He made sure to share the produce with his family and friends each year. He was a member of the Harvest Church, Oregon Boiler Makers Union, Full Gospel Businessmen’s Association and the Oregon Retail Association.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn Cummings of Baker City; his stepsons, Dan (Linda) Shelton of Baker City, and Perry Shelton of Baker City and Florida; 17 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Gertrude Cummings; his siblings, Eva, Harlan, Eulala, Otis and Harry; and his son, David Cummings.

In lieu of flowers and cards, contributions in memory of Robert can be made to the Harvest Church through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Robert, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.colestributecenter.com

Donald Seymour

Haines, 1931-2020

Donald C. Seymour, 88, of Haines, died on March 16, 2020, at Saint Alphonsus

Medical Center in Baker City.

A private Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City, followed by interment at Haines Cemetery.

Donald Carol Seymour

was born on June 7, 1931, at Hillsboro to Sidney Douglas and Marion Miller Crocker Seymour. He attended grade and high schools in Hillsboro. After graduating from Hillsboro High in 1949, he received a full tuition scholarship (\$91) to Vanport Extension Center (later Portland State University) in the St. Johns Area of Portland. After two years, he transferred to University of Oregon in Eugene, where he worked his way through with summer jobs in construction and in a gyppo sawmill in Lebanon. At the University of Oregon, he worked in the kitchen of a girls’ dormitory.

He graduated from the U of O in 1954 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He went into the Army in November of that year and, after basic training, was sent to a tank company in Germany. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant first class at the completion of his two-year commitment.

Don entered Law School at the University of Oregon in the fall of 1956, where he met Barbara Ann Proebstel, the daughter of Robert and Helen Proebstel of Haines. They were married in Baker at the end of their second year of law school. They were the first married couple to graduate from the University of Oregon Law School.

After graduation and passing the Oregon State Bar, Don clerked on the Oregon Supreme Court for a year, first for Hall Lusk, who was appointed to the U.S. Senate to replace Richard Neuberger, who died in office, and then for Lusk’s replacement, Alfred T. Goodwin.

Don then worked in the Lane County District Attorney’s office for a year and a half, when he and Barbara took over a law practice in Florence. After two and a half years, Don felt the need to specialize and took a position with the Oregon

Attorney General in Salem, specializing in taxation. After 10 years there, Don spent seven years in public utilities, and then eight years as an administrative law judge for the Workers Compensation Department, retiring in 1989. He and Barbara moved to Oceanside in 2003, then to Portland in 2016 and lastly to Haines in 2018.

Don and Barbara had three children: Robert Proebstel Seymour, a rancher-CPA and now CFO for Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics, residing in Haines with his wife, Livia; Dr. John Patrick Seymour, an MD specializing in Occupational Health, residing in Beaverton with his wife, Lisa; and Katherine Seymour Mack, a VP Sales and Marketing for a battery company, residing in Portland with her husband, Derek. The Seymours have six grandchildren: Tim (Kendra), Sarah (Lupe), Daniel, and Anna (Cody), children of Robert and Livia; Tara (Harold), Nicholas (Jasmine) and Matthew, children of John and Lisa; and Mary Helen Mack, child of Katherine and Derek. They have four great-grandchildren: Waverly (Tim and Kendra) Levi and Manuel (Sarah and Lupe), and Addilyn (Tara and Harold).

Don loved bicycle touring with his children and also participated in three “Seattle to Portland” rides, and four “Cycle Oregon” rides, the last Cycle Oregon when he was 68 years old with his then 13-year old grandson, Tim. He was active in both Cub and Boy Scouts, participating in many 50-miler hikes, and rafting trips, and in Judson Little League, where he served as coach for John’s baseball team and spent many hours catching for Katherine. He was past president of the Salem Bridge Club, and was also a Silver Life Master in Bridge, and acted in over 25 plays in Florence, Salem and Albany.

Contributions in Don’s memory can be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation through Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Don, or to leave an online condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Norma Eavenson: 74, of Baker City, died March 16, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in Norma’s memory, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Ron Buxton: Due to the coronavirus situation, Ron’s family has decided to postpone

the memorial service until June. Should friends and family desire, memorial contributions may be made to the family to help with his final expenses. To leave an online condolence for the family of Ron, to go www.grayswestco.com

Tara Lee Warren: Her memorial service has been postponed due to concerns about the coronavirus. The new date and time will be announced.

Ray Zaccone: A memorial service and celebration of Ray’s

life, with military honors and a potluck, will be Friday, March 27, at 2 p.m. at the Halfway Lions Hall. The family suggests memorial contributions in Ray’s name to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, or VFW Post No. 7847, through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Richard Fredrick Young, 54, of Baker City; and Jamie Joseph Weiss, 64, of Baker City, 6:25 p.m. Monday, in the 1500 block of Indiana Avenue; both were cited and released.
Baker County Sheriff’s

Office

FIRST-DEGREE THEFT I (five counts) and **SECOND-DEGREE THEFT** (two counts), Baker County Circuit Court Warrant: Mickie Fjeld, 69, of Halfway, 3:14 p.m. Tuesday, near Halfway; cited and released.

Charges dismissed

Charges against Joseph Attilo Guardia, 43, of Baker City, reported in the News of Record in the March 5 issue, have been dismissed on an order signed by Circuit Court Judge Matt Shirtcliff on March 16. According to a motion filed by Chief Deputy District Attorney Michael Spaulding, there was insufficient evidence. The charges were dismissed without prejudice, which means they could potentially be refilled.

Best Friends of Baker Saturday Market

**EXTENDED HOURS FOR SHOPPING OR DONATIONS:
TUES & THURS: 9 AM - 1 PM
SATURDAYS: 8 AM - 2 PM**

2950 Church St, Baker City (first left after Broadway turns into 10th)
We accept debit, credit, cash & checks!
(All proceeds benefit the animals of Baker County)



Rachel Pregnancy Center

2192 Court Avenue, Baker City • 541-523-5357

Services Provided:

Free Pregnancy Tests
Referrals for Free Ultrasounds
Pregnancy Options Counseling
Adoption Referrals
Prenatal, Infant Care & Parenting Classes
Maternity & Baby Clothing
Post Abortion Recovery

Helping women & men in an unplanned pregnancy.

All services free & confidential.

Open Tues - Thurs
10 AM - 5 PM
(closed for lunch)

A resource center for families