

AID

Continued from Page 1A

The Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would add \$310 billion to the PPP, as well as \$60 billion to the emergency disaster loan program, of which \$10 billion would be for direct grants to businesses. The legislation goes to the House, and President Donald Trump said he would sign the bill and urges the House to pass it.

“Hopefully we’ll see a lot more impact from this next round,” Nelson said.

The biggest problem, Nelson said, is that the two programs ran out of money before the vast majority of Baker County businesses had either been approved for the low-interest loans or received money.

Terry McQuisten, who owns the Eltrym Theatre, did receive a PPP loan, but she said it will only allow her to have employees work on cleaning and maintenance and sell concessions for takeout on certain days. McQuisten said 75% of the money has to be spent for payroll and is supposed to be used within eight weeks, in which case it doesn’t have to be repaid.

The Eltrym has been selling concessions Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and McQuisten hopes to expand the hours. Updates are available on the Eltrym’s Facebook page.

The theater isn’t yet allowed to reopen to show movies under Gov. Kate Brown’s March 17 executive order, and McQuisten said the theater might not do so until July, as studios aren’t releasing films until then.

Dave McGuire, co-owner of the Oregon Trail Restaurant, said he and co-owner Mark Linderman also received a PPP loan. They rehired the 10 employees who were laid off after restaurants dining rooms across Oregon were closed March 17.

Rehiring employees has speeded up service at the restaurant’s drive-thru window, which McGuire added last week. He said the business will be well-prepared for customers when dining rooms can reopen.

“If that happens this loan will be a miracle, a godsend,” McGuire said Wednesday

afternoon.

Tyler Brown, who owns Barley Brown’s Brew Pub in Baker City and whose family also owns the Sumpter Junction restaurant, is among the local business owners left with a lot of paperwork but no financial help so far.

Brown said he applied for a PPP loan as soon as the program opened on April 3. He said he had to gather 67 pages of tax records and other documents.

Brown said the bank where he applied had approved the loan about two weeks later, but that same day he received an email from the Small Business Administration, which is administering the program, announcing that it had cut off applications because the \$349 billion allocated was gone.

“I was incredibly frustrated by the process,” Brown said Tuesday.

Brown said the PPP loan would allow him to rehire employees when he’s able to reopen his family’s two restaurants.

PPP loans have a 1% interest rate, and businesses that keep employees on the payroll for at least six months might not need to repay the loan at all.

One reason the PPP coffers emptied in 13 days is that although the program was supposed to help small businesses, many larger companies received the low-interest loans.

The Associated Press reported that at least 75 companies that have publicly traded stock were given PPP loans, and some of those firms have market values exceeding \$100 million.

Eight companies received the maximum \$10 million loan, according to the AP, and 4,400 loans were for more than \$5 million.

Aid wasn’t limited to companies that strain the definition of “small business,” either.

Harvard University received an \$8.7 million loan.

That bothers Randy Daugherty, who owns Baker Garage, a Baker City car dealership, and who applied, unsuccessfully, for a PPP loan.

“The priority should have been for the small business owners in this country,” Daugherty said Wednesday.

His application experience was similar to Brown’s.

Daugherty said he was prepared to apply as soon as the PPP opened on April 3. He said the application process was entirely online through U.S. Bank, and he submitted the basic information by 1 p.m. on April 5, a Sunday.

Daugherty said he learned, however, that that was just the first of seven steps.

He said he received an email from U.S. Bank on April 8 that his application had advanced to step 2 for review, and on April 15 he got another email from the bank asking for a variety of documents regarding his payroll.

Daugherty said he submitted that information the morning of April 16. About an hour later he received an email from the bank notifying him that the PPP was out of money, but that his application would remain in case Congress put more money into the program.

Daugherty said he hopes his application will be approved if, as it appears likely, the Senate bill becomes law.

He said that would allow him to rehire the employees who aren’t working now due to the pandemic — about half of his annual payroll of around \$500,000.

Daugherty said Baker Garage’s service department has been “pretty active” recently, and although people are looking at buying new or used cars, “they’re not interested in committing.”

“They’re antsy,” he said. “They don’t know what’s coming next.”

Loran Joseph, who with his wife, Jenny Mowe-Joseph, owns Sweet Wife Baking, said they applied for a PPP loan but were not successful.

They also looked into a U.S. Chamber of Commerce program offering \$5,000 grants, but the website crashed after being bombarded by about 15,000 applications within minutes, Joseph said.

“There’s so many businesses out there, and everybody’s looking for funding wherever they can,” he said.

Although Sweet Wife Baking continues to offer a takeout menu, the loss of revenue since the pandemic started has been significant, Joseph said.

If the bakery receives a PPP loan, it would be able to expand its offerings depending on customer demand, and potentially hire someone to deliver orders, he said.

“The biggest reason we’re open is that we want to keep the employees we have,” Joseph said.

That continuity is especially important, he said, as the bakery plans to move from its current location at 2080 Resort St. to the former site of Stockman’s bar on the east side of Main Street between Washington Avenue and Broadway Street.

The package the Senate passed is designed to address another problem that both Nelson and Bryan Tweit, Baker County’s economic development director, cited regarding the first round of the PPP — that some banks and credit unions were not able to work with businesses that wanted to apply for loans.

The new bill includes \$60 billion for the PPP distributed among smaller banks, credit unions and other lenders.

Nelson said the pandemic has had a “horrible” effect on a variety of businesses, including restaurants and bars, beauty salons and retail stores.

Tweit said he hopes a confluence of positive changes for local businesses are forthcoming.

In addition to the possibility of Congress renewing the PPP, Tweit said the money individual taxpayers have received, or will receive, from the IRS as part of the CARES Act constitutes “a pretty good influx into the economy of Baker.”

The third change is the prospect that Gov. Kate Brown, perhaps within a month, will ease restrictions included in her March 17 executive order and allow some businesses, including restaurants, to reopen while maintaining social distancing and other precautions.

The combination of residents having more income while businesses reopen could start to revive the local economy, Tweit said.

To that end, he’s supporting a new campaign encouraging people to spend their money in local businesses.

CRIME

Continued from Page 1A

“One major value — other than trying to curb the amount of illicit drugs on the street — is that they come up with a lot more information,” Duman said. “People committing crimes are also selling and using drugs.”

“That’s the advantage of having a task force,” he said. “You have all this intelligence information.”

Although it takes time to put cases together, the work eventually pays off, Duman said.

“Once we could actually get cases completed that resulted in them being in prison (or jail or on supervised probation), it has really slowed criminal activity down in town,” he said.

Among those offenders is Juan Anthony Martinez Moschella, 25, who was sentenced in March to 72 months in prison in a plea agreement with the District Attorney’s Office.

Umatilla County Circuit Court Judge Annette C. Hillman of Pendleton sentenced Martinez Moschella to an “upward departure” for sentencing based on the aggravating factor that the defendant was on release status when he committed first-degree burglary. He had been held in jail since his arrest Nov. 19, 2019.

Martinez Moschella was ordered to complete three years’ post-prison supervision upon release. The judge recommended as a condition of the post-prison supervision, that the defendant receive substance abuse treatment, have no contact with the victim and forfeit all items seized in the case.

As part of the plea agreement, Martinez Moschella admitted entering an occupied dwelling with the intent to tamper with physical evidence while armed with a deadly weapon, admitting that he was on release status at the time. He also admitted theft of a .380-caliber pistol.

These counts were dismissed as part of the plea agreement: felon in possession of a firearm, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, tampering with physical evidence, interfering with a peace/parole and probation officer and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Martinez Moschella also pleaded guilty to unlawful use of a weapon. The crime took place on Sept. 27, 2019. He was sentenced to three years’ supervised probation for that crime and ordered to have no contact with victims in that case. Other charges of possession of prohibited firearms or a silencer, felon in possession of a firearm, menacing and pointing a firearm at another were dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

At the time of his arrest, Duman described Martinez Moschella as “a one-man menace” who had been very active in the community. Martinez Moschella, who police described as a transient in Baker City, had criminal records in Florida, Texas and Oregon.

The criminal activity of two other Baker City men who were sentenced recently also contributed to disruption in the community, Duman said.

Colvin Cutshall III, 30, and Zachary Carter, 22, admitted that they worked together to rob two men of cash and a cellphone and assaulted one of the victims during an altercation in Baker City on July 22, 2019.

Cutshall pleaded no contest, and Carter pleaded guilty to attempting to commit a Class B felony (second-degree robbery) in agreements with the District Attorney’s office, according to court records.



Martinez Moschella

See **Crime** / Page 5A

SERIES FROM LOCAL HISTORIAN GARY DIELMAN EXAMINES 1864 LAND SURVEY OF THE AREA THAT WOULD INCLUDE BAKER CITY

Part 2: The first survey of what became Baker City

In Tuesday’s issue we left the 1864 survey crew at today’s intersection of Colorado Street and David Eccles Road, ready to continue surveying north. In Part II we’ll follow the crew through the heart of Baker City to the north boundary of Baker City Township.

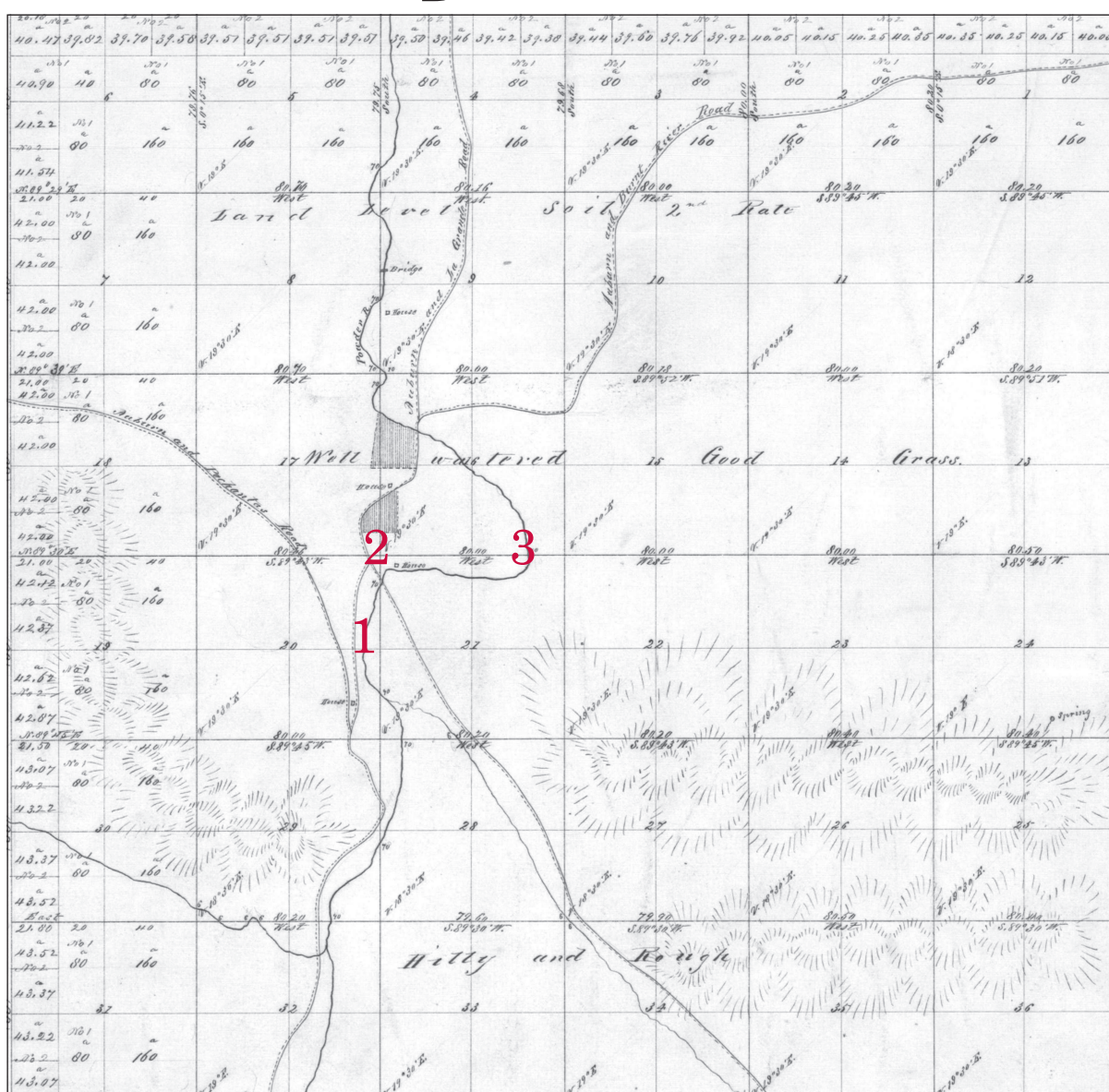
I’ve transcribed the survey field notes as the crew surveyed north through the area that became Baker City.

But first some technical information. The numbers that begin each field note — for example, 80.00 — refer to the number of “chains” the crew has surveyed from the beginning of a section line. Two chainmen stretch out a metal chain that is 66 feet long and composed of 100 links. Each link is 7.92 inches long. Here’s the math: 100 links x 7.92 inches = 792 inches / 12 inches = 66 feet. When the chainmen have stretched out the chain 80 times, they have surveyed one mile: 80 chains x 66 feet = 5,280 feet = 1 mile. The abbreviation of “links” in the field notes is “lks” and “chains” is “chs.”



Dielman

North between Secs 20 & 21 20.00 (1,320 feet) Powder River 70 lks wide runs NW. (The crew crosses Powder River at a point halfway between David Eccles Road and the present Powder River channel — red “1” on the map — which is 400 feet further east. This area was part of the Oregon Lumber Company operation. I have no explanation for how Powder River channel today is so far east of the old channel. Perhaps it had something to do with the company needing room for the tracks of its



A map that includes the site of Baker City was drawn based on a survey that was done from May 13-18, 1864.

narrow-gauge Sumpter Valley Railway, which in about 1890 began bringing logs from Sumpter Valley to the Baker City mill.)

40.00 (2,640 feet) Set ... post on East bank of River 9.50 lks (6.27 feet) East of true corner for ¼ Sec corner in mound of Earth with charred Stake ... (The crew is avoid-

ing setting the ¼ section corner in the middle of the river.) 68.00 (4,488 feet) Leave River, runs NE. (This would be at present Estes Street.)

74.00 (4,884 feet) Road (to Auburn) bears SE & NW. 80.00 Set post for corner to 16, 17, 20 & 21 in Mound of Earth with

charred stake ... Land Mostly River bottom, Soil 1st rate Note: The River bottom is now overflowed to the depth of two feet and it is impracticable to Set ¼ post at true corner. I Set it on the nearest dry Land to the true corner.

(The crew is now at the intersection of future Main and Auburn streets — red “2” on the map. Long-time surveyor Jim Hambleton says the post, which no longer exists, was along the east side of Main Street and on the mid-line of Auburn Street. Standing where the post was you would be a little closer to the present Chevron service station than to Hotel Baker. From here the crew headed east along the section line between sections 16 and 21, in other words they are surveying a mile east along Auburn to just across I-84. Then they head back along the same line.)

15.00 (990 feet) Powder River 70 lks wide runs N. (The crew crosses Powder River, which has turned north near the south end of Pear Street — red “3” on the map. I used Google Earth to find locations to which the field notes refer. At this location I run into a problem, because Google Earth shows the location at 15 chains to be at an elevation 40 feet above Pear Street. So far I have no explanation for the elevation discrepancy. I just know that the 1864 township map shows Powder River began flowing north in this area.)

34.00 (2,244 feet, at about Cherry Street) Leave willow brush bears N & S.

40.00 Set post for ¼ Sec corner in mound of Earth ...

80.00 The corner to Secs 16, 17, 20 & 21. (The crew is back at the intersection of Main and Auburn.)

Land rolling. Soil 2nd rate. Good Grass. (I assume that this is a general impression of the land along Auburn Street.)

See **Survey** / Page 5A