

CHIEF

Continued from Page 1A

Lee, 56, said he never intended to work as a fire chief.

"I just fell into it with Baker Rural and again with Baker City," he said, adding that it's the people he works with who drew him to the position.

Lee has been the city's interim chief since February 2020, when John Clark took a job in Washington.

He and his wife, Karla, have a small ranch in the Wingville area.

"We're pretty excited about it and looking forward to working with everyone in the county," he said Monday afternoon.

Lee's salary will be \$4,571 per month, an annual total of \$54,852, Warner said. Lee's benefits will be prorated at 75% of a full-time equivalent.

Clark's annual full-time salary was budgeted at \$84,172.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
October 27, 1970

With 14 inches of snow blanketing the base area at Anthony Lakes, officials are hoping for skiing by Thanksgiving.

In a report issued to Anthony Lakes Corporation stockholders, David Baum, president, said the corporation improved during the past fiscal year by \$69,000 but fell short of anticipated expenses by \$5,000. Total gross revenue amounted to \$122,000.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
October 27, 1995

The green metal gate at the boundary of Baker City's watershed shows the scars from previous battles with bumpers, winches and bolt cutters.

There are tiny islands of rust where the paint has been scraped away. The bars are bent inward an inch or so, apparently the result of an impatient driver's unsuccessful attempt to ram his vehicle through the gate.

There was fresh damage Thursday morning at this gate near Mill Creek. Someone sliced or snapped half of one link on the chain that connects the gate to an iron post.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
October 27, 2010

Baker City's pending sewage problem could be a boon for local waterfowl and other wildlife.

City officials are looking at wetlands in Baldock Slough, north of the airport, as a place to release wastewater after it's been treated at the sewer lagoons.

The impetus is an expected change in the permit that governs where the city can dispose of wastewater.

Now, the city pipes wastewater from the lagoons into the Powder River, which flows nearby.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
October 28, 2019

Construction is nearing completion on Baker County's first two solar power farms, the larger of which is near Sutton Creek Road about six miles southeast of Baker City.

That array of about 50,000 panels is about one mile east of the landfill and about 7/10th of a mile south of Interstate 84.

Enerparc Solar Projects LLC of Oakland, California, is building that solar farm as well as a second project near Unity, in southern Baker County.

Construction manager Douglas Stevens said work on the Sutton Creek project started Aug. 30, and company officials expect the farm to be online around Dec. 15.

"This one is fast-paced," Stevens said.

Currently, workers are driving in piles — the metal bars that will hold the solar panels.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Oct. 24
4 — 12 — 35 — 36 — 42 — 45
Next jackpot: \$3.6 million

POWERBALL, Oct. 24
18 — 20 — 27 — 45 — 65 PB 6
Next jackpot: \$116 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Oct. 23
18 — 34 — 44 — 60 — 69 Mega 22
Next jackpot: \$109 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Oct. 24
12 — 57 — 59 — 66
PICK 4, Oct. 25

• 1 p.m.: 5 — 1 — 5 — 3
• 4 p.m.: 1 — 7 — 9 — 4
• 7 p.m.: 4 — 2 — 8 — 4

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 1 — 0 — 8
LUCKY LINES, Oct. 25
2-8-12-13-19-22-26-32
Next jackpot: \$11,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Chicken-fried beef steak, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, pea-and-onion salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY:** Breaded pork loin, parsleyed red potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread, carrot-raisin salad, ice cream
- **FRIDAY:** "Ghoulash," peas, cornbread, coleslaw, cookies
- **MONDAY (Nov. 2):** Chicken broccoli Alfredo over fettuccine, mixed vegetables, biscuit, green salad, cheesecake
- **TUESDAY (Nov. 3):** Meat lasagna, cauliflower, breadsticks, carrot-raisin salad, roll, peach crisp

Lunches at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75, under 60. Meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

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Baker man cited for meth possession

A Baker City man was cited for possession of methamphetamine Thursday, Oct. 22, after police conducted a warrant search of his apartment.

Members of the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team and uniformed Baker City Police Department

officers found about 3 grams of methamphetamine in a search of Robert Stanley Olp's home in an eastside apartment complex Thursday.

Olp, 36, of 2920 Elm St., Apartment No. 3, was cited and released about 9 a.m. Thursday. Olp and his 5-year-

old daughter were the only people in the apartment when it was searched, Baker City Police Lt. Ty Duby stated in a press release.

Department of Human Services' Child Welfare workers were notified of the incident, Duby said.

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team includes members of the Baker City Police Department and the Baker County Sheriff's Office. The team is supported by the Baker County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police.

HAINES

Continued from Page 1A

"We identified kids with high temperatures, isolated them and sent them home," Witty said.

He would not say how many students were sent home.

Two of those students tested positive. Witty did not know how many of the students who were sent home were tested for COVID-19.

Haines School has 114 students in kindergarten through sixth grade, along with 12 preschoolers.

Witty said there are no plans at this point to close Haines Elementary. District administrators and Baker County Health Department officials would make the decision together, he said.

"We would do that if the situation called for it," he said.

In a press release issued Sunday, Witty said the District is working closely with the Baker County Health Department to notify families and staff.

Students who are tested and are not infected with the virus can return to school after their fever subsides for 24 hours without medication, he said.

The Health Department has contacted students and staff who were in close proximity with the students who tested positive. Close proximity is defined as being within 6 feet of the person who has tested positive for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

"For us to stay in school and to be able to serve our kids in person, it is just so critical as a community — we've got to wear our face coverings, wash our hands regularly, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet."

— Mark Witty, Baker School District superintendent

Those who were required to quarantine were notified on Sunday afternoon, Witty said. District staff deep cleaned spaces in all affected classrooms and buses Sunday, Witty said.

As of Monday, the two positive tests at Haines were the only ones from the school district, which resumed in-person classes for students from preschool through sixth-grade on Oct. 14.

A limited number of students who were on a bus with the two Haines students who tested positive also have been quarantined, Witty said.

Students who are quarantined will be able to continue their studies at home through the District's comprehensive distance learning system.

"While it is disappointing that some students will not have access to in-person learning, this step is necessary to halt the spread of COVID-19 within the school system as quickly as possible," Witty stated in the press release. "One of the key reasons we have

invested heavily in our technological platforms is to allow us to continue serving students in situations such as this."

Baker County reported five new cases of the coronavirus on Saturday and four more on Monday bringing the county's total, since the start of the pandemic in March, to 123.

The rate of new infections — nine cases in three days — reverses a recent trend. From Oct. 10-23 the county reported just three new cases, one each on Oct. 6, 20 and 22.

As he has done throughout the pandemic, Witty asked for the community's cooperation in helping keep younger students in their classrooms and to help achieve that same goal for older students as well.

"For us to stay in school and to be able to serve our kids in person, it is just so critical as a community — we've got to wear our face coverings, wash our hands regularly, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet," he said.

Witty also asked community residents to avoid events that don't follow those Oregon Health Authority recommendations.

Another plea went out to parents whose children have a fever higher than 100.4 degrees and other signs of illness.

"I can't keep a school open if I have multiple kids coming who have this," Witty said.

PROPERTY

Continued from Page 1A

Acquiring the section of property from Sackos — it covers 21,294 square feet — would allow the city to create a new access point to the park, as well as off-street parking for vehicles, which is absent now.

On Oct. 6 Warner and Sackos signed a purchase agreement, contingent on the City Council approving a resolution authorizing the deal, setting the purchase price at \$200,000.

In his report to the City Council, Warner wrote that the city has allocated \$60,000 from its Leo Adler Memorial

Parkway/Park fund. A private nonprofit, Leo Adler Memorial Parkway Inc., has amassed private donations totaling \$50,000, and the Leo Adler Foundation has approved a grant of \$50,000, contingent on the city having a signed purchase agreement for the Sackos property.

That leaves a \$40,000 shortfall, and in his report, Warner proposes that the city make up the difference with money from the Elkhorn View Industrial Park fund.

The city has \$253,000 in that fund, from sales of lots in the industrial park in northwest Baker City, to be used for economic and community development.

In his report to councilors, Warner wrote that the Sackos property, in addition to improving access to Central Park, would create additional public parking for downtown events including the farmers market.

Warner wrote that acquiring the property would also make the city eligible for potential state grants to further develop Court Plaza, between Resort and Main streets. That's the location of the farmers market.

In other business on tonight's agenda, councilors will resume their discussion about the federal requirement that the city adopt a policy for the police department, dealing

with the use of excessive force, to qualify for a \$1.5 million Community Development Block Grant.

New Directions Northwest would use the money to build a fitness center for its clients undergoing addiction and mental health treatment.

The Council voted 4-3 on Oct. 13 to postpone a decision on the policy. Councilors Doni Bruland and Lynette Perry both objected to the policy, saying the federal government should not impose such a requirement on cities.

Police Chief Ray Duman told councilors he isn't concerned about the policy and that it wouldn't affect how police officers do their jobs.

OBITUARY

'Gene' McEwen

Haines

Eugene "Gene" McEwen, 76, of Haines, died on Oct. 20, 2020, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Per his request, there will be no funeral.

"When we remember our

dad, we envision the warm sun on his face, a cool breeze off the lake, and a fishing line in the water," his family said. "The steady hum of the wood lathe machine and the wood chips in the air, as he created art out of wood. A strong, steady voice, a soft flannel shirt



'Gene' McEwen

and a warm heart. These are just a few things that remind us of who Gene McEwen was. Words cannot encompass all that he embodied or the lives he enriched during his journey through life. He will be remembered, treasured, loved, and missed."

Gene is survived by his son, Ty McEwen of Phoenix, Arizona; his daughter, Kat (Ely) Myers of Baker City;

and his grandsons, Jake and Gavin Myers.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Gene, the family suggests the City of Haines to be used toward the beautification of the local parks, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Marie Kowalski: 85, of Huntington, died on Oct. 24, 2020, at the home of her niece in Haines, surrounded by an amazing amount of family who loved her dearly. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

John Booth Wessels III: 83, of Baker City, an Air Force veteran, died Oct. 24, 2020. He will be interred in the veterans section at Mount Hope Cemetery. To leave an online condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION (Two Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Kenny Lee Hellman, 51, of 1860 Plum St., 3:12 a.m. Sunday, in the 600 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Donald Lewis Petty, 33, of Emery, Utah, 11:36 p.m. Sunday, on Interstate 84 at Baker City; cited and released.

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