

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 9

■ **Baker County Economic Development Council:** 3 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald October 30, 1971

Led by 172-pound senior Bill Gee, the Baker Bulldog defense clamped onto a perfect string of zeros for its 1971 home battles as Baker closed out its home encounters 24-0 over Hermiston Friday night.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald October 30, 1996

More than 200 people helped Behlen Mfg. Co. celebrate the grand opening of the Nebraska firm's Baker City live-stock equipment factory Tuesday.

The celebration at the \$4 million, 107,000-square-foot factory at 4000 23rd St. included tours of the plant, a welcoming ceremony and ribbon cutting.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald October 31, 2011

A 24-hour Maverik gas station and convenience store is scheduled to open Wednesday at 1520 Campbell St.

The Baker City store is the company's first Oregon location.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald October 31, 2020

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is planning its largest project in about 20 years to reduce the risk of a wildfire spreading through Baker City's watershed.

The campaign, which likely won't start until 2022, involves several tactics, some to be employed inside the 10,000-acre forested watershed, but with a focus on its fringes, said Kendall Cikanek, ranger for the Whitman District.

"What we're trying to do is create defensible zones between likely sources of ignition and the watershed itself," Cikanek said.

Almost all of the watershed is public land, managed by the Forest Service.

The city taps a dozen streams and springs in the watershed to supply almost all of its drinking water. The city also has one supplementary well — which is also used as an underground reservoir to store excess water from the watershed — and a company is drilling a second well now near Quail Ridge Golf Course.

The focus of the Baker City Watershed Fuels Management Project is on the east and south sides of the watershed, including the Washington Gulch and Elk Creek areas.

In those areas a swath of national forest land lies between private property and the watershed.

The Forest Service's goal, Cikanek said, is to thin overcrowded forests and light prescribed fires in that buffer zone, reducing the amount of combustible material and, ideally, creating zones where firefighters would have a better chance to stop a fire before it burned into the watershed.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Oct. 27
13 — 17 — 18 — 21 — 23 — 47
Next jackpot: \$5 million

POWERBALL, Oct. 27
3 — 6 — 26 — 35 — 51 PB 17
Next jackpot: \$116 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Oct. 26
6 — 14 — 19 — 56 — 62 Mega 9
Next jackpot: \$22 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Oct. 27
2 — 15 — 30 — 51

PICK 4, Oct. 28
• 1 p.m.: 0 — 2 — 6 — 0
• 4 p.m.: 1 — 5 — 9 — 4
• 7 p.m.: 6 — 2 — 6 — 2
• 10 p.m.: 3 — 0 — 1 — 1

LUCKY LINES, Oct. 28
1-79-14-18-21-27-31
Next jackpot: \$25,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, biscuits, corn, green salad, cookies
- **TUESDAY:** Orange-glazed chicken strips, rice, broccoli, rolls, coleslaw, bread pudding
- **WEDNESDAY:** Herb-baked chicken with gravy, red potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, macaroni salad, apple crisp
- **THURSDAY:** Chili cheese dogs, potato wedges, mixed vegetables, cottage cheese with fruit, pudding
- **FRIDAY:** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, green salad, cookies

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

CONTACT THE HERALD

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School lunches disrupted by supply chain woes

By **ALEX WITTMER**

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Supply chain issues gripping the nation have found a new, unexpected victim — local schools. Those issues prompted state leaders with the Oregon Department of Education to issue temporary waivers for schools for nutritional requirements.

That meant that longtime staples of the cafeteria such as pizza or spaghetti were absent. Officials grappled with brokering deals with new suppliers to get food to the students.

With supplies short on hand, local school lunch cooks had to improvise to get food out to hungry students.

"There are products we're only supposed to serve for child nutrition, and all of the pizza was zeroed out — it was nothing — so basically I did pizza that I put my own toppings on," said Tanya Corta, a kitchen supervisor with Imbler School District. "We're running on a tight ship here."

Tight ship or not, the supply chain woes leave little certainty about the menus — typically planned a month in advance — and whether or not the ingredients will even be available. That puts extra strain on kitchen workers and supervisors.

"I'll have to do a last-minute menu change and that's sometimes hard — and sometimes impossible," Corta said. "It's difficult and stressful, but we still get those kids fed."

From shortchanged orders to out-of-stock staples and favorites, schools are making do with less. As well, the time it takes to order supplies has increased dramatically as filling the pantry now involves dealing with multiple vendors to fulfill ingredient requirements.

Michelle Glover, business director at La Grande School District, said that creating orders once took little over an hour on Fridays. That same order now takes as long as four to five hours to finish as kitchen supervisors scramble and broker with different suppliers to get ingredients



Alex Wittmer/EO Media Group

Kristi Ritchie, head cook with La Grande High School, hands out lunches on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021. A shortage of five-compartment lunch trays led to students receiving plastic bag lunches. Ritchie, who has been an employee with La Grande High School for 21 years, laments the ordering hiccups and menu changes due to the pandemic and supply chain issues.

shipped out in time for next week's lunch.

And even then, some supplies might be entirely out of stock, or orders arrive with less than was expected.

"Our orders are not being fully fulfilled, and so that's what's caused the real challenges," Glover said. "It looks like it's coming and it doesn't arrive. We don't get any notice in advance, so they're having to be creative and on their toes with alternate plans in place."

Even though school districts use different suppliers and ordering methods, the same issue has affected many local school districts, including Imbler.

Corta said that each week is a struggle to get orders in for the Imbler schools. She now orders two weeks ahead of time, a method she employs to help dampen the effects of a supply chain that has been disrupted by worker shortages at manufacturing and processing plants, truck driver shortages, and delayed shipments from cargo ships.

She's not alone. Schools both big and small across Union County — and Eastern Oregon — have suffered similar supply chain woes. Those issues aren't limited to just food.

At La Grande High School, foam lunch trays have been particularly difficult to procure, leading to lunches

being served in plastic bags as opposed to trays. As well, the school has been shorthanded one kitchen staff member, meaning that lunches that once offered a variety of foods such as enchiladas or pizza have been diminished to sandwiches nearly every day of the week.

"They are definitely struggling with the supply chain for food items so definitely menu preparation (suffers)," Glover said. "If we're planning on serving this and then product doesn't arrive, or comes in short, and it's not enough to cover all sites — we are having to be flexible in meal preparation."

Pendleton shared similar worries with regard to supply chain problems — though like other schools, the situation is varied as different districts broker with different suppliers for food.

"We weren't able to get hamburger patties for a while, and so we would substitute chicken nuggets or burritos,"

More Coverage

In an email to the Baker City Herald, Lindsey McDowell, public information and communications coordinator for the Baker School District, wrote that the district's food services director, Kristi Hensley, said that "any shortages, so far, have been manageable and handled by ordering from backup vendors or substituting a different menu item."

"We are preparing for the possibility of more severe disruptions to the distribution chain by placing large orders for frozen products that we will keep in freezers," McDowell wrote.

said Suzanne Howard, director of nutrition services with Pendleton School District. "Or, we weren't able to get pizza for a while, so again we would either not serve them that day if we had other options to serve, like at the middle school/high school we served more than one. And then otherwise we would just have to replace it."

Programs such as the Summer Seamless Option — which provides free lunches to lower-income students over the summer — were also hit by supply chain interruptions. Those programs will continue to operate and feed students, according to Howard.

Still, the districts aren't worried about having to deny students lunch just yet.

"We're not always able to serve what I have on the menu, but we always have a backup. I feel a lot more fortunate than what I'm hearing in other parts of the country," Howard said.

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Wayne Baechler, 26, transient, 3:32 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27 on Campbell Street; cited and released.

**Oregon State Police
Arrests, citations**
HINDERING PROSECUTION,
SECOND-DEGREE THEFT (Malheur County warrant): Lacey Dawn Kolb, 40, Huntington, 9:17 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27 on Highway 7, Milepost 7.

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERALS PENDING

Roscoe Curry: Memorial service Saturday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Halfway. Military honors will follow at the Pine Valley Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family at the church following the interment. For those who would like to make a donation in Roscoe's memory, his family suggests the Gary Sinsise Foundation or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Halfway branch, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com.

POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police
Arrests, citations**
FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrants), FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): John Marsik Guthrie Jr., 50, Baker City, 3:32 a.m. Friday, Oct. 29 in the 1100 block of Washington Avenue; jailed.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, HARASSMENT: Jonathon Dale Fields, 34, Baker City, 12:54 a.m. Friday, Oct. 29 in the 1700 block of Valley Avenue; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE: Megan Rebecca Beam, 34, Richland, 9:02 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 28 in the 3200 block of 14th Street; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Zachery Ryan Chayse Smith, 26, Baker City, 4:04 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27 at the sheriff's office; cited and released.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT (out-of-county warrant): Joseph

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