

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 3 p.m. work session at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Commissioners will receive an update from Mark Browning, president of Blue Mountain Community College. A Zoom link is available at www.bakercounty.org/online/meetings.html.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald November 27, 1971

Snowmobilers will be required to have their vehicles licensed effective Jan. 1, 1972, according to the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 27, 1996

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management on Tuesday announced it will solicit public opinion at two meetings as it prepares to charge admission fees for visitors to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

The center is one of three BLM recreation sites in Oregon that will begin charging fees in 1997.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 28, 2011

Baker County Commissioners heard about tentative plans that could bring another wind farm to the Lime area southeast of Baker City.

Robert Guertin, Oregon Wind Farm, LLC, was contacted during last week's commission meeting after a proposed agreement for easements required further discussion. Commissioners wanted the length of the contract changed so it wasn't open-ended.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald November 28, 2020

Valerie Tachenko uses one word to describe this year's Thanksgiving boxes: "Phenomenal."

Tachenko helps organize food boxes distributed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Baker Adventist Christian School every year. Normally, a food drive in early November provides enough to fill the boxes.

This year the coronavirus pandemic prevented a door-to-door food drive — the first time it hasn't happened in more than 70 years.

And they had no reserves. "We started at zero this year," Tachenko said. But on Tuesday afternoon she looked over tables full of bright bags and wooden boxes filled with canned goods, sparkling cider, rolls, local potatoes, fresh fruit, desserts, and more. Each also received a turkey or turkey breast, depending on the size of the family.

"It's a breath of hope, of cheer. It's so festive," Tachenko said.

Without the food drive, the church needed to buy items for the boxes. A GoFundMe drive brought in funds, and local community members sent donations directly to the church.

The turkeys caused a bit of a headache. Tachenko called store after store to find enough — many places had just a few, and others were priced higher than she expected.

The price for turkeys came in at \$1,010.

Not long after she heard that news, Tachenko received a call from the First Presbyterian Church, which always takes a collection to donate to the cost of the turkeys.

This year's donation of \$1,000 far exceeded past amounts — and was almost exactly what Tachenko needed to buy the 75 turkeys.

"It was a miracle," she said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Nov. 24
20 — 29 — 37 — 39 — 40 — 46
Next jackpot: \$6.2 million

POWERBALL, Nov. 24
10 — 16 — 32 — 63 — 65 PB 17
Next jackpot: \$243 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 24
7 — 24 — 54 — 57 — 58 Mega 6
Next jackpot: \$94 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 24
27 — 28 — 35 — 62

PICK 4, Nov. 25

• 1 p.m.: 6 — 1 — 7 — 4
• 4 p.m.: 6 — 6 — 0 — 4
• 7 p.m.: 8 — 9 — 0 — 2
• 10 p.m.: 5 — 4 — 4 — 0

LUCKY LINES, Nov. 25
2-7-11-16-19-24-26-32
Next jackpot: \$28,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Hot beef sandwiches, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, carrot-raisin salad, pudding
- **TUESDAY:** Fettuccine Bolognese, garlic bread, carrots, fruit cup, 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

2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101
Open Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673
Fax: 541-833-6414

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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

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Cattle feedlot seeks to expand

Baker City Herald

The operator of a cattle feedlot east of Interstate 84 near the Baker Valley Rest Area has applied for a permit to expand the capacity from fewer than 3,000 animals to 15,000.

Baker City Cattle Feeders LLC is at 20528 Culley Lane, about four miles north of the Baker City Airport.

John Hepton of Nampa, Idaho, operates the feedlot.

The 198.6-acre property includes a feedlot on 98.9 acres, with the remaining area used to grow crops and hay, accord-

ing to a document filed with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The average weight of the cattle at the feedlot is 750 pounds, according to the nutrient management plan for the feedlot.

The feedlot's existing Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit, a large, tier 1 type, allows up to 3,499 head of cattle.

Hepton has applied for a large, tier II permit, which allows more than 3,500 head of cattle.

The Department of Agriculture issued a notice

of the application on Nov. 5. The agency is accepting public comments through 5 p.m. on Dec. 10. The permit would be for five years.

Comments can be submitted by:

- Mail to Baker City Cattle Feeders-comments, ODA-CAFO Program, 635 Capitol St. N.E., Salem, OR 97301
- Email to Janet.Short@ODA.Oregon.gov
- Fax to 503-986-4730

Hepton told the Capital Chronicle in an email that all of the manure from the cattle will be sold to local farmers.

"We have more demand for the organic nutrients in our manure than we could ever produce with the expansion," Hepton wrote.

He said the feedlot receives recently weaned calves and feeds them through the fall, winter and into the spring to "develop replacement heifers for local farmers and ranchers."

The animal waste management plan for the feedlot is available online at <https://oda.direct/CAFO>. Under "public notices," click on "Area 6: (Eastern Oregon)."

Bentz: River Democracy Act far from a done deal

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, Oregon's only Republican member of Congress, is pushing back against the proposed River Democracy Act in a letter sent Nov. 16 to all 62 county commissioners in his mostly rural district, including Baker County.

The bill, proposed by Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, would add nearly 4,700 miles of designated wild and scenic rivers across Oregon, and calls for widening protective stream buffers from a quarter-mile to a half-mile on both sides.

According to Wyden, the River Democracy Act was developed based on more than 15,000 nominations from 2,500 Oregonians. It has garnered criticism from county officials, as well as the timber and ranching industries, wary of new land restrictions and regulations.

In his letter, Bentz stated he is opposed to the legislation and that, despite receiving a hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, it remains far from a done deal.

For example, he said the River Democracy Act does not have a companion bill in the House, nor has it received any consideration in the chamber to date.

"My Oregon House colleagues, all Democrats, have not publicly supported this bill," Bentz said. "At the time of writing this letter, (it) only has the support of Oregon's two senators."

The Capital Press contacted Oregon's four other House members — Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Kurt Schrader and Peter DeFazio — to ask if they supported the River Democracy Act. None responded to requests for comment.

Bentz, whose district represents all or part of 20 counties in eastern, central and southern Oregon, said the majority of county commissioners have expressed serious concerns



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

The Imnaha River flows through private lands 10 miles upstream from the town of Imnaha. The River Democracy Act of 2021, which Oregon U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley cosponsored, would redesignate 58 miles of the river from Indian Crossing to Cow Creek, including this area, as a Recreational River, and label 4 miles of the river, from Cow Creek to the mouth of the confluence with the Snake River, as Scenic.

about the bill, which he called "a flawed proposal based on an exclusive and secretive process that would undermine public access to, and responsible management of, Oregon's natural resources."

The commissioners in at least three Eastern Oregon counties — Wallowa, Union and Grant — have objected to the bill. The American Forest Resource Council, a timber industry group, and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association have also raised objections.

Those issues were outlined by Bentz in his letter. They range from a lack of consultation with local elected officials and experts, to how the wild and scenic river designations might affect multiple land uses including timber harvest, livestock grazing, mining and outdoor recreation.

With half-mile stream buffers on either side, the River Democracy Act adds up to about 3 million acres of protected land, or an area roughly the size of Connecticut.

Wyden defended the bill during a virtual town hall

meeting on Aug. 31, assuring constituents the bill contains language explicitly to protect existing private property rights.

Responding to written questions from the Association of Oregon Counties, Wyden said protections under the National Wild and Scenic River Act are not the same as wilderness areas. Motorized access and mechanical forest treatments are allowed, and often encouraged to improve the ecological function of the watershed.

The River Democracy Act actually goes a step further, Wyden said, and requires land management agencies such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to assess wildfire risks in each wild and scenic river corridor.

A spokesman for Wyden, Hank Stern, said it is puzzling why Bentz would oppose a bill aimed at stepping up wildfire management.

"Sen. Wyden believes this legislation can pass the Senate if it gets a fair review on what's actually in the bill, rather than meritless and made-up claims," Stern said in an email.

As for the House, Stern said Wyden has had discussions with members of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

That said, it is not a requirement to have companion legislation in order for the bill to pass both chambers.

Bentz, however, said local elected officials in his district are worried the bill would open the door for special interest groups to file frivolous lawsuits targeting management activities, while requiring understaffed agencies to produce expensive and time-consuming river plans.

Before the bill moves forward, Bentz said Wyden and Merkley should release detailed maps and analyses of the proposed wild and scenic river segments for public review.

Stern said the bill includes legal descriptions of all proposed streams and rivers. Nominations for wild and scenic rivers are still being added and removed as staff continues to meet with stakeholders.

"Maps will be finalized well before the Senate votes on the bill, and be made immediately available," Stern said.

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ENCANTO (PG)
Disney Animation. As the only member of her family with no magical powers, Mirabel must save her family's magic, although she has no special gift of her own.
Fri - Sun 1:10, 4:20, 7:20
Mon - Thurs 7:20

HOUSE OF GUCCI (R)
When Patrizia Reggiani, an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel the family legacy.
Fri - Sun 12:30, 3:45, 7:00
Mon - Thurs 7:00

GHOSTBUSTERS AFTERLIFE (PG-13)
After moving to a new town, a family discovers they have a connection to the original Ghostbusters and the secret legacy their grandfather left behind.
Fri - Sun 1:00, 4:10, 7:10
Mon - Thurs 7:10

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