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NEW YEAR 2022
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Baker City Herald

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December 30, 2021

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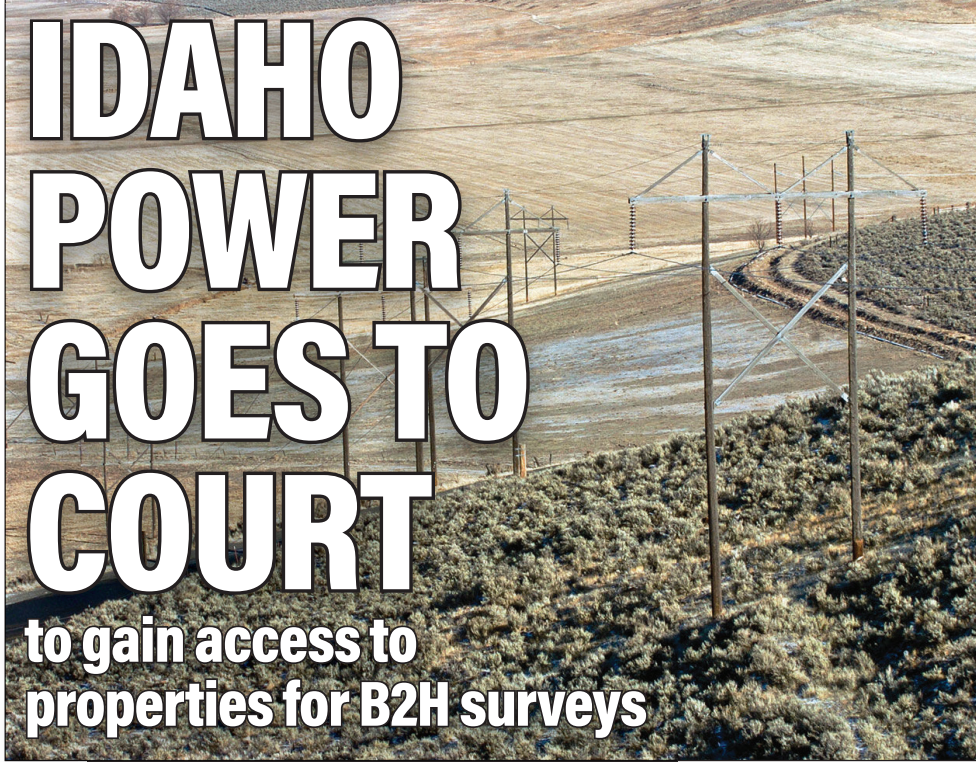
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PROPOSED BOARDMAN-TO-HEMINGWAY POWER LINE



IDAHO POWER GOES TO COURT

to gain access to properties for B2H surveys

S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

The proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway power line would follow the route of an existing line that crosses Highway 86 between Baker City and the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Company has filed civil actions against five local property owners

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
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Idaho Power Company is asking a judge to order the owners of five Baker County properties to allow the company to survey their land as part of its plan to build a major electric transmission line through Northeastern Oregon starting as early as 2023.

Attorneys representing Idaho Power filed civil petitions regarding two of the properties on Dec. 17 in Baker County Circuit Court, two others on Dec. 21, and one on Dec. 28.

The company is represented in all five cases by Timothy Helfrich and Zach Olson of the Yturri Rose firm in Ontario.

The company has been working since 2007 on the Boardman-to-Hemingway project, a 293-mile, 500-kilovolt line that would run from near Boardman to Hemingway, near Murphy in Owyhee County, Idaho.

Although sections of the proposed route runs through public property — Idaho Power has received permission from the federal government to do so — the

line, as proposed, would also cross several dozen parcels of private land in multiple counties, including Baker, Union, Wallowa and Morrow in Oregon.

Idaho Power would have to pay private landowners for an easement to build the power line across their property. This would be a one-time payment, not an annual lease, according to the boardmantohemingway.com website.

Sven Berg, a corporate communications specialist for Idaho Power, said the line would affect about 30 private landowners in Baker County, who combined own about 60 separate parcels.

The properties listed in the five recent court filings include parcels owned by Hans and Susan Finke of Wilsonville, Justin and Savannah Gyllenberg of Baker City, Dean, Rex and Susan Nelson of Baker City, the Harrell Land and Cattle LLC of Baker City, and Mike Ragsdale of Baker City.

The Gyllenbergs' 175-acre property is along Highway 30, just south of Interstate 84 between Baker City and Pleasant Valley.

The Finkes' land, covering about 288 acres, is in the northern part of Baker Valley, near Highway 203 east of the freeway.

The Nelson property, north of Interstate 84 near

the Pleasant Valley interchange, is about 941 acres.

The Harrell property, which is about two miles east of the freeway and just south of Highway 86 near the base of Flagstaff Hill, covers about 120 acres.

Ragsdale's property is just north of the Harrell parcel, and covers about 50.5 acres, according to records from the Baker County Assessor's Office.

Savannah Gyllenberg said she and her husband have lived on their property for about seven and a half years. She said they received packages from Idaho Power a few months ago with forms to sign granting the company access, but the couple haven't had time to review the documents.

Gyllenberg said an existing Idaho Power transmission line crosses their property, and they have never objected to company workers entering the property to maintain the line.

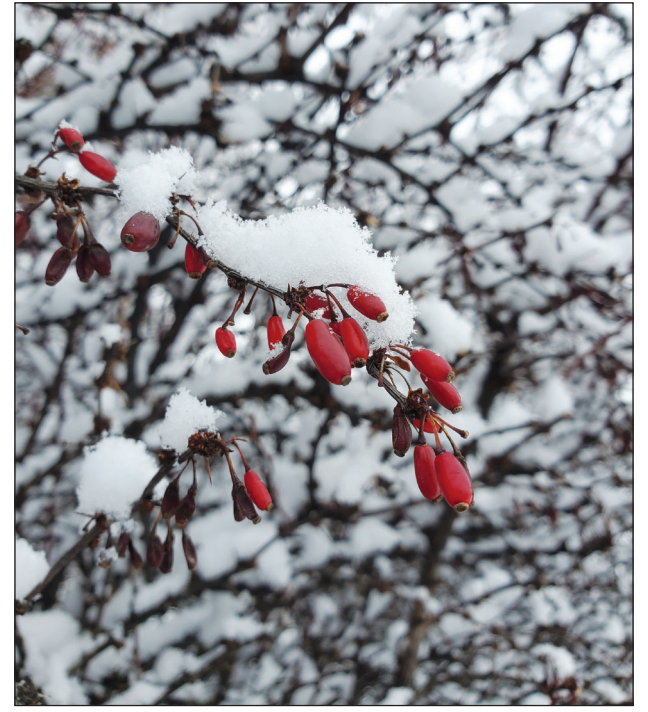
The five petitions have nearly identical wording in most sections, differing mainly in the legal descriptions of the specific parcels involved.

In each petition, Idaho Power states that either the company or its contractor, Cornerstone Energy Inc. 21, acting on the company's

See, **Power** / Page A3

2021 bids a chilly farewell

And 2022 is likely to start cold, too



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Snow clings to a barberry bush in Baker City on Wednesday morning, Dec. 29.

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
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The new year is likely to start much like the old one is ending.

Snowy.
Chilly.

The wintry weather that dominated the final week of 2021 is forecast to persist into at least the first few days of 2022 in Baker County, according to the National Weather Service.

The latest in a series of storms should bring light snow to the area Thursday, Dec. 30, followed by brief clearing on Friday and Friday night.

With few clouds to hold in the heat, and arctic air

intruding from Canada, temperatures could dip to near or even below zero in parts of Baker County Friday night.

New Year's Day should be dry and chilly, with high temperatures in the teens or low 20s.

A stronger storm is projected to move in from the Pacific Ocean on Monday, Jan. 3. Although temperatures will be moderate, and potentially rise above freezing on Tuesday, it's possible that all the precipitation will fall as snow even in the valleys, according to the Weather Service.

See, **Chill** / Page A3

Scouts to pick up Christmas trees Jan. 2

Baker City Herald

Local Boy Scouts will be picking up Christmas trees in Baker City starting at 9 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 2.

This community service is free, but donations are greatly appreciated, said Scoutmaster James Simpson.

Trees need to be placed by the curb in front of the house before 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Simpson said there will be about 18 Scouts — plus their parents — gathering trees.

Busy beginning in Baker City

City Manager Jonathan Cannon reflects on his first year

By **SAMANTHA O'CONNOR**
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As he approaches the end of his first year as Baker City manager, Jonathan Cannon looks back on a 2021 when, more often than not, his schedule was full.

"It's been very busy. We've had a lot going on this year," said Cannon, who was hired in late November 2020 and officially started work Jan. 1, 2021.

In Baker City's council-manager form of government, Cannon is in effect the CEO, responsible for

handling the day-to-day operations of the city and its departments.

He works under the direction of the seven-member City Council, five of whom started their terms the same week in January 2021 that Cannon moved into his office in City Hall.

Cannon, 44, replaced Fred Warner Jr., who retired at the end of 2020.

In addition to the usual challenges of adjusting to a new job in a new city and state — Cannon moved from North Carolina, where he was city manager of Saluda, a city of about 800 residents — Cannon also arrived in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, Cannon had to deal

with a variety of issues related to the pandemic, including Gov. Kate Brown's mask and vaccination mandates, and restrictions that affected businesses.

"Trying to adjust to that, yet still operate things ... every business in town, everybody in town, we're no different from anybody else, have had to deal with that and navigate," Cannon said. "That's been very interesting, to say the least."

In particular, the requirement that some workers either be vaccinated or request a religious or medical exemption has affected the city.



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Jonathan Cannon in his office at Baker City Herald. He is nearing his first anniversary as Baker City manager.

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FRIDAY — BAKER CITY COUNCIL TALKS ABOUT HOMELESS ISSUE