

Outdoor Rec / Local

MayDay, Inc. gets a visit from Santa Claus at First Friday event

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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MayDay, Inc. participated in December's First Friday event, offering pictures with a special visitor, information on their services, and cookies and cocoa.

Millie Joseph, director, said the event was a chance to raise awareness of "who we are and that we're here for the community."

Children had an opportunity to visit and get a picture with Santa in front of a beautiful Christmas tree as well as enjoying candy canes and other Christmas goodies.

MayDay, Inc. works to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and child and elder abuse. They offer assistance to victims, including a 24-hour crisis line, trained advocates, and assistance with obtaining restraining orders.

Advocates also go out on all reported sexual assaults. Joseph explained advocates are privileged, meaning they can't be subpoenaed and are not required reporters.

Other services offered include food boxes. The only requirements are income-based in alignment with the Oregon Food Bank guidelines. Food boxes can be received once a month, by appointment at the office.

MayDay, Inc. also offers



Meghan Andersch / The Baker County Press

Santa Claus a.k.a. Miles Cornelius listened to all the good girls and boys on First Friday during MayDay's open house.

a class on relationships. Classes are held every Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and are open to everyone.

Joseph said they would like to offer more classes in the future, when they have the funding. Volunteers are always welcome.

Joseph said some current needs are help with the Crisis Line, help at the front desk, or sorting clothes donations.

MayDay, Inc. does not discriminate against volunteers, though anyone working with the public must pass a background check.

More information on MayDay, Inc., including offered services, how to help, and secure online donations, is available at maydayinc.net.

The office number is 523-9472. The 24-hour crisis line is 523-4134 or toll free at 888-213-4134.

5J holds community meeting

BY SUNNY WERNER
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On Monday, December 7th., approximately 15 administrators, teachers and parents met at South Baker school to discuss goals and plans for the future.

Mark Witty, School Superintendent, and Nnette Lehman, Principal of South Baker Intermediate, met with teachers and parents to explain the goals of the Community Meetings being held in each school in the district. Ben Merrill, Principal of Baker High,

was also in attendance. Lehman first went through the PowerPoint presentation designed by the School Board, and explained to attendees the goals developed by the 5J Board.

- These included:
- Effective Literacy Support for Students, Families and the Community;
 - Implement Robust Calendar for Additional Opportunities; and
 - Collaborative Leadership.

Lehman went on to

explain how Baker schools were moving to address these goals using nationally recommended criteria.

Reading is expected to be at grade level by 3rd grade: Baker offers Reading Support Staff.

All-day kindergarten has been implemented, and the Summer School has been expanded.

The District offers Ongoing Professional Development Opportunities. Students are able to earn college credits in High School, and have Career Pathways available

through the Baker Technical Institute.

Regular attendance is considered vital to successful students: schools have incentives in place to foster and encourage good attendance.

In addition, the Baker School District was selected for Math Enhancement programmes.

The District offers Charter Schools to respond to parental choices and student needs, and Baker Technical Institute for those students who wish to begin gaining practical skills and knowledge in their chosen fields.

The group of attendees then briefly split into three, and followed Lehman's request to select their choices for activities and programmes they would like to see continued.

Once completed, each group presented their choices to the larger group. Then came the direction to select the activities and programmes that could be improved upon.

Again, the small groups presented their ideas to the group at large.

Then Lehman instructed the entire group to walk among all the lists, and each select three items they felt were of greatest importance by placing a check mark.

Witty explained the District would take all suggestions from all the meetings at each school under advisement. There will be more meetings including teachers and the Board to whittle the selections down. Once the process is complete, the Board will return to the community groups with the selected projects.

Baker Mat Club wrestling

Baker Mat Club Wrestling Match Results for the December 5, 2015 Enterprise Match are: 1st place wins-10; 2nd place wins-8; 3rd place wins-5.

OSP asks for help in poaching case



Submitted Photo.

This elk in Union County was shot and left to waste.

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is asking for the public's help in locating the persons responsible for the unlawful taking of a branch antlered bull elk outside of La Grande in the Starkey Unit located in Union County.

The bull was shot and left to waste just west of Foothill Road in the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area. The bull elk is believed to have been shot on approximately November 10th. The incident occurred during the general season Rocky Mountain elk season which is open to spike elk only. There was no season open for branch antlered bull elk.

A reward is being offered by the Oregon Hunters Association through the Turn-in-Poachers (TIP) program for any information leading to an arrest and conviction in this or any other wildlife case. Callers can remain anonymous. The TIP program number is 1-800-452-7888. Anyone with any information is encouraged to contact Senior Trooper Kris Davis at the Oregon State Police office in La Grande at 541-805-4757.

Burnt River restoration project done



Submitted Photo.

Juniper cut along Burnt River near Durkee.

The Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with two landowners in the Durkee area to complete a juniper removal and bank stabilization project on the banks of the Burnt River.

This restoration project implemented a long term juniper management plan to mechanically remove 40 acres of juniper trees in the project area. Not only will the juniper cut promote healthy vigorous growth of native grasses and shrubs in the uplands, but the trees were also used in stabilizing the banks of the Burnt River. The tree skeletons are anchored to the bank via cables and t-posts and placed top-end down into the stream. The juniper were overlapped and angled downstream, so the water will not scour and erode the banks further.

Between the two landowners, 220 junipers were anchored on the river bends to displace energy and armor the fragile soil. Willow bundles were also planted on the banks to help reestablish the riparian area, which is essential for improved water quality and wildlife habitat. As the woody vegetation grows, the river banks will become more stable. The plantings were situated under the anchored juniper to protect them from browsing. The landowners also reseeded the disturbed areas, as well as the road that was used for hauling material to the site. Seeding will promote native vegetation and decrease the chance for noxious weed niches.

This project incorporated several activities that will continue to enhance the Burnt River watershed for years to come.

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