

BUSINESS: New resale shop opens on Broadway in Baker City. **PAGE 3**



SPORTS: 16TH bicycle event wraps up over the weekend. **PAGE 7**



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911 Call Center management still under discussion

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 9:50 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, which included discussions regarding 911 Consolidated

Dispatch management, Parks Department property sale, Sumpter Dredge tailings mining, and County foreclosure property on 3rd Street.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin. Atten-

dance also included Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Baker County Parks Director Karen Spencer, Baker County Facilities Maintenance Foreman Dan McQuisten, Baker County Administrative Services Director Christena Cook, and Baker County Assessor Kerry Savage.

SEE COUNTY PAGE 2



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Sheriff Travis Ash discusses the 911 Dispatch Center with Commissioners.

Library's giant Cottonwood removed

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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This past Monday through Wednesday, Resort Street was blocked off to traffic while crews tackled the process of removing the giant old Cottonwood tree from the parking lot of The Baker County Public Library.

According to Baker County Library Director, Perry Stokes, not a lot is known about the specific history of the tree.

"At about 288 inches (24 feet) in circumference, cottonwood tree growth factor calculations suggest it was around 180 years old," Stokes said.

Involved in the cutting down of the tree were: Ed Adamson, Facilities Specialist for the library district; Tony's Tree Service; City of Baker City Public Works; Baker County Road Department; Baker County Probation and Parole (volunteers to help move the wood) and the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center (charitable organization for firewood donation).

Said Stokes, "We do aim to replant a tree in that area, but with focus currently on tree removal we are not yet in the planning stage for replanting. I anticipate that we'll be working with the Baker



Suzan Jones / The Baker County Press

By Tuesday afternoon, much of the tree had been removed.

City Tree Board for recommendations on species, location, and schedule."

The estimated cost to remove the tree was approximately \$3,000.



Photo courtesy of the Baker County Public Library.

Ed Adamson standing inside a rotten space from the tree trunk Wednesday.



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Kailyn and Vivien McQuisten visit the tree on its last day, Sunday.

Hereford crash kills one



Photo courtesy of OSP.

A Washington driver lost his life when his car struck a tree in Hereford over the weekend.

On June 24, 2017, at about 3:37 p.m., OSP Troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a single vehicle crash on Highway 245 near milepost 11 in Hereford.

Preliminary investigation revealed a 2001 Volkswagen Jetta was traveling northbound when it drifted out of its lane of travel, crossed the oncoming lane and continued off the roadway, where it struck a tree. The driver, Luis Alberto Barrera Menez, age 29, of Centralia, Washington, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The passenger, Octavio Castro Valdez, age 25, of Centralia, Washington, was transported by Life Flight to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise for treatment of his serious injuries.

OSP was assisted by Baker County Sheriff's Office, Baker City Fire Department, Blue Mountain Ambulance and Oregon Department of Transportation.




Lightning strikes house

On June 26, 2017, the Baker City Fire Department responded to a house possibly struck by lightning at B and 9th in Baker City, with a report of smoke developing inside the structure.

Upon arrival, fire crews noted occupants outside of home.

Initial command noted smoke coming from the foundation of the home and a general alarm assigned to the incident to bring additional responders.

SEE LIGHTNING PAGE 5

	Friday	Sunny and mild, highs in the low 80s. Friday Night: Clear and cool, lows near 50.
	Saturday	Sunny and mild, highs in the low 80s. Saturday Night: Clear and cool, lows near 50.
	Sunday	Sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 80s. Sunday Night: Clear and not as cool, lows in the mid 50s.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:



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