

Baker City Manager, Mike Kee, Provides Update

After Action Review of Fires

Last week, Baker City Fire Chief Mark John attended an After Action Review of the Cornet/Windy Ridge Fire and the Dry Gulch Fire led by Gary Timm. Representatives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, Baker Rural Fire and Baker County pieced together the scenarios to gain insight for future preparedness.

Pool Projects Prioritized

The Baker City Sam-O Swim Committee will meet next week to final their list of projects for the swimming pool. They have prioritized four different swimming pool projects, including new sand filters, new showers, resurfacing the pool, and replacing the heating system. The Council appointed this group of volunteers who truly care about the pool and maintaining the facility.

Verizon 100' Towers

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, the Planning Commission will continue to review two Conditional Use Permits from Acom Consulting, on behalf of Verizon Wireless, to install a 100 ft. high transmission towers. The Planning Commission requested more materials from the applicant. The record is open for public testimony.

Planning Commission Recommends Interchange Area Plan

The Planning Commission made a recommendation to the City Council to approve the Interchange Area Management Plan, and related Development Code and Comprehensive Plan amendments, for I-84 Exits 302 and 306. A joint hearing between the City Council and Baker County Board of Commissioners will be held to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation at City Hall on Nov. 10, 2015 at 6 p.m. Maps, information and project documents are available at the project website: <http://sites.kittelson.com/BakerCityIAMPs>.

City Council Position Open

The City of Baker City is looking to fill one open position on the City Council. The City will accept applications through the office of City Recorder until Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. The individual who is appointed by a majority vote of the City Council will serve on the City Council through December of 2016. An applicant must be a registered voter in the State of Oregon and have resided within the City of Baker City for 12 months immediately preceding the appointment. This partial term will expire at the end of Dec. 2016.

Tree Board Vacancies

There are also two vacancies on the Tree Board as the City Council added two positions to the board to keep up with the demand of the Tree Board. If you are interested in volunteering for the Tree Board please fill out an application online at: <http://bakercity.com/government/boards-acommissions> or stop by City Hall at 1655 1st Street.

Be Careful of Phone Scams

This past week Baker City Police Department handled over 219 incidents and opened 37 new cases, including several arrests for outstanding warrants. BCPD also received several reports of people receiving phone calls involving individuals claiming to represent entities such as the Publisher Clearing House and the Internal Revenue Service. We would like to remind the public that if you receive a call claiming that you have won a monetary award, but first must send money upfront in order to claim the prize, be warned! This call is a scam. In addition, legitimate government and public utilities, such as the Internal Revenue Service, do not contact people over the phone to collect on an outstanding debt or tax bill.

Beaver Tree

A beaver recently fell the first tree across the new section of the Leo Adler Memorial Pathway recently. It was a small tree and was easily removed.

An award-winning television production company is now seeking individuals, families and businesses located in the Idaho backcountry.

Do you live and/or work off-the-grid in places that are hard to reach by car?
Do you get your mail or supplies by plane?
Do you have a close connection to the land and revel in the freedom of living and working in the wilderness?

If this sounds like you or someone you know, please email your name, contact information, picture and a brief description of what life is like in Idaho to: Idaholiving15@gmail.com

****We are offering a \$500 finder's fee for referring anyone who makes it to on-air series.****

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Please join us for an

Anniversary Wine Tasting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH AT 5:30PM

Join us at Settler's Park in celebrating Senior Lifestyle's 30th Anniversary. With over 30 years of extraordinary service to Seniors across the US. We want you to come celebrate with a wine tasting and enjoy Senior Lifestyle's signature chocolate cake!

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Op - Ed

Co-Sleeping Deaths of Infants are Preventable

My only purpose as Baker County Medical Examiner is to try and prevent deaths from occurring in this county. I wrote a letter several years ago after we had had three infant co-sleeping deaths in a short period of time. This letter urged readers to avoid co-sleeping with infants. Some people thought this was an unnecessary intrusion into family affairs.

Fortunately, doctors at Eastern Oregon Medical Associates [St. Lukes' Clinic B.C.] agree that there is a significant risk of death to young infants sleeping in the same bed with their parents. Medical personnel at EOMA counsel every parent of children born in Baker City to not co-sleep with their infant children.

Two more co-sleeping deaths have occurred in Baker City in the past four months. This has nothing to do with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), which is not a preventable cause of death. Co-sleeping is a 100 percent preventable cause of death. If a child is not present in the parents bed, they will not die from co-sleeping. Parents do not think they will roll over onto their child and prevent the baby from breathing. However, an infant lying wedged next to a parent may not be able to lift and turn their head and may suffocate. Parents who are sleeping very soundly because of taking drugs or alcohol provide an additional risk of infant death.

There is nothing wrong with cuddling an infant in bed or on a couch. When it is time for the parents to sleep, the infant needs to be put in a crib or cradle. It is no different than using a car seat for the child. It is what provides life saving protection from asphyxiation.

James E. Davis, M.D.
Medical Examiner, Baker County

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant Meeting to be Held

"If you had expenses from the Dry Gulch Fire and are an eligible agency and you want reimbursement for expenses you should attend the meeting," said Baker County Emergency Manager, Jason Yencopal. The FEMA Fire Management Assistance meeting for the Dry Gulch Fire will be held at the Halfway City Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. according to Yencopal.

Any county, city, village, town, district, or other political subdivision of any state including any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity for which an application for assistance is made by a state or political subdivision is eligible. Other state and local political subdivisions may be eligible if they are formed in accordance with state law as a separate entity and have taxing authority. These include, but are not limited to, school districts, irrigation districts, fire districts, and utility districts which incurred expenses from the Dry Gulch Fire.

Oregon Department of Forestry personnel will present information regarding the program, eligibility, and eligible expenses. All you need to bring are your questions, your agency Tax ID number and your agency's DUNS number. If you do not have a DUNS, you will be provided information at the meeting on how to obtain one.

If you have questions, contact Yencopal at 541.523.9669 or Tim Holschbach from ODF at 503-945-7341 or email: Tim.J.Holschbach@oregon.gov.

Planning Commission to Hold Two Public Hearings

The Baker County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015 to hear the following matters:

AP-15-002: Bill and Sharie Andrade are the owners of the property located on a 4.69+/- acre parcel at 42165 Stanciu Road and are appealing a decision of the Planning Director. The property is identified as Tax Lot 200 in Section 20 of Township 9 South, Range 45 East, W.M., in the Exclusive Farm Use Zone (EFU). On Aug. 10, 2015, Shirley Dively applied to the Planning Department for approval to use an existing mobile home as a Temporary Hardship Dwelling which was denied given that the criteria for relative of property owner, listed in ORS Chapter 215, was not met. The appeal will be reviewed under the criteria listed in the Baker County Zoning Ordinance Sections 410.03(A)(9) and 360.02. For more information, contact Planning Director Holly Kerns at hkerns@bakercounty.org or by telephone at 541- 523-8219.

CU-15-002: Mike Voboril is applying for a conditional use permit for a Major Home Occupation. The site proposed is on the outskirts of Baker City on a 205.49+/- acre parcel identified as Tax Lot 100 in Section 19 of Township 9 South, Range 40 East, W.M., in the EFU. Mr. Voboril owns MMW Electric Motor and Pump Repair, Inc, a company that provides residential and irrigation water system services in Baker and neighboring counties. Mr. Voboril is seeking permission to conduct the business from a shop on the property of his primary residence. The home occupation request will be reviewed under the criteria listed in Baker County Zoning Ordinance Sections: Chapters 150, 210, 360, 410, and 760. For more information, contact Planner Kelly Howsley-Glover at kglover@bakercounty.org or by telephone at 541-523-8219. A copy of the application, all documents and evidence submitted by or on behalf of the applicant, and the applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost. A digital copy of the documents can be emailed to you at no cost, or a hard copy can be mailed to you by post mail, upon request, for a reasonable cost. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed application may do so by submitting written testimony to the Baker County Planning Department no later than 5 p.m. on the date of the hearing. Testimony may also be given in person by attending either hearing. The hearing will be held at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third Street, Suite 131, Baker City, Oregon. The Planning Department is located in the basement of the courthouse.

Letters to the Editor

The Record-Courier welcomes your letter to the editor. Prefer 300 words or less. Letters may be sent by a single author once a month. Email with your contact information: news@therconline.com.