

MOTORCYCLES

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"The city's been terrific to work with. It's never we can't do that, it's always, how can we help?"

Godfrey said City Manager Fred Warner Jr. took him around the city, including up and down Main Street, to get a feel for the town and look at places to set up shop.

Godfrey said they're rolling around a lot of ideas to grow the event and make it even better in the years to come, but nothing has been decided.

He wanted to keep their plans under wraps until they get the green light.

One key feature the Harley team has already had a hand in creating is the Flat Track race. In its second year now, Miller said Harley had the idea for the race, which drew about 1,500 people to the fairgrounds last year.

Although the Baker County Chamber of Commerce was initially a player in continuing the event after Miller and Folkstead's retire-

ment, Shelly Cutler, the chamber's executive director said she's, "incredibly excited about the plans going forward."

Miller said Harley was a good fit because they "have resources we don't have. They put on events almost weekly, and they're good at it."

Warner said the city is excited the event will continue and hopes to work with Harley to keep the community's interests at the forefront.

"We'd like to see it as a sustainable event that brings economic development to the city with minimal impact to the citizens, and I think we can accomplish that," Warner said. "We like to see we have good engagement with merchants and the chamber."

Miller takes pride in the scale the rally has reached saying, "15 years ago you'd almost never see a bike in Baker. Now there's almost always a bike outside of the Geiser Grand Hotel." Now, Miller is looking forward to spending more time at his business, the Baker Truck Corral, where he's opening a coffee bar and expanding the restaurant.



Downtown bike show during a previous year's event.

Kathy Orr / Baker City Herald file photo

SENIORS

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Trautner said it's important that they connect these people with a fellow senior who has "lived experiences" and can relate.

"A peer is anyone who can self-identify and can admit that they too struggle and have issues," said Trautner. "Everyone has a different story, everyone has a different experience. They're more of a friend or someone that understands you."

He said peer support is an important health care field that can often work together with a more clinical diagnosis.

"There's more peer workforce development and you can combine it with behavioral health care," said Trautner. "You can have a peer supporter in the mix along with clinical support."

While Community Counseling Solutions doesn't currently have an office in Baker County, Trautner said they're looking to expand the program and once specialists are trained they can be anywhere in the state of Oregon to do their calls.

One woman from Baker County uses the program.

With 42 people on the call lists now, Trautner said they hope to grow that number to 85 seniors by this time next year, a number he described as a "reasonable goal."

Kuehn said they're talking to a group of people now who are hoping to get started.

CCS Executive Director Kimberly Lindsay said that it takes time for a program like this to reach large numbers.

"It takes a while to reach those that are, by definition,



underserved," said Lindsay. "They're a hard to reach population because they are isolated and detached."

Lindsay said they are working to partner with physician's offices and health care providers to get the word out and encourage referrals. She said they're also working on a social media presence to get in front of seniors' families or friends because they are often who Lindsay sees submitting referrals for seniors.

Although the weekly calls are scheduled, Trautner said there's flexibility to reschedule if something comes up.

"It allows the two people to do their own weekly business," he said.

A similar initiative through Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, the Telephone Reassurance program will make scheduled check-in calls to seniors in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties. Some use this program to check in on their older relatives or friends when they or their family go out of town.

Mary Jo Carpenter, Baker County Manager for Community Connection, said that telephone reassurance isn't requested much anymore and one of the problems they were running into is the fact that

the person must be home when they call otherwise those at Community Connection will contact emergency services to go check on the senior.

Trautner said this is something they run into. In that case they will often leave a message and try again another time.

The service partners with the Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI) from which the outreach program receives its funding. Trautner said Janet Holboke, one of GOBHI's older adult behavioral health specialists, had the idea for this program.

Another service CCS offers is the peer-run Warmline hot line. This service is available seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Trautner said seniors utilizing the outreach program can call the Warmline any time too if they want to talk to someone outside of the time of their weekly call.

With a staff of five senior peer support specialists, Trautner said one specialist's max call load is about 20-25 people. While not all five of them call that many people each week, he said the staff initially took on this program in addition to working the Warmline.

"It was a good start to use Warmline peer support specialists because they were already trained and had the experience," he said.

As their call list grows, Trautner said he's hoping to hire another specialist to work the senior line full time.

He said the retention rate for this service is high, citing results from a third-party satisfaction survey ranking in the 80th percentile.

"At first they might have started off feeling depressed, but then you can hear in their voices they start looking forward to the call," said Trautner.

The 42 seniors signed up with the program after its first year are spread out over 12 counties, with Clatsop and Umatilla counties seeing the largest enrollment at 15 and 10 seniors respectively.

People between the ages of 51 and 93 have taken advantage of the phone service

in that time, although the largest age group is between 70 and 75.

CCS serves the same rural Oregon counties as GOBHI. In Eastern Oregon that includes Baker, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Malheur, Harney and Lake counties.

Trautner said people across the country call the Oregon-based Warmline, which serves as an example of the potential for the senior line to grow.

"We're trying to do it right," he said. "There's no template. We're inventing it as we go."

Kuehn said they're averaging about a couple of referrals a week.

While their numbers are growing, she said there's still a lot of seniors who are lonely and could use someone to talk to.

Although she's the program manager, Kuehn said she has an 85-year-old woman she calls each week.

"At first they might have started off feeling depressed, but then you can hear in their voices they start looking forward to the call."

— Todd Trautner, Oregon Senior Peer Outreach program supervisor

"I love my call," said Kuehn. "It's the highlight of my day."

Lindsay said she's seen a Umatilla woman who sits by the phone at her nursing home waiting for the call.

"On Tuesday at 4 p.m. the phone is hers," said Lindsay. Trautner said the 82-year-old Umatilla man still receives his weekly call almost a year later.

More information is available by calling the toll-free referral line or online at communitycounselingsolutions.org/senior-outreach/

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MOTORCYCLE RALLY HELLS CANYON

Baker County Residents... Please join us downtown for the 2018 Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally

THURSDAY, JULY 12
 4pm-9pm: Vendors, Local Shops & Food Court, Poker Run, Walking Poker Run - **FREE** for everyone 21 & over
 Pick up your cards at the HBC/Information booth.
 Cash Prizes!
 7pm-10pm: Kickstart Party at Veteran's Memorial Club
 Free with your wristband
 8pm-12am: Live Music at the VFW Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 13
 8am-8pm: Ride a Course! 10 of 'em, Poker Run
 9am-8pm: Vendors, Farmer's Market, Local Shops & Food Court
 Open, Walking Poker Run - **FREE** for everyone!
 Pick-up your cards at the HBC/Information booth.
 Cash Prizes!
 7pm: Hell On Wheels FlatTrack racing at the Fairgrounds sponsored by Baker Truck Corral
 8pm-12am: Live Music at VFW Hall

SATURDAY, JULY 14
 7am-10:30am: Breakfast at the VFW Hall
 8am-8pm: Ride a New Course! Poker Run
 8am-8pm: Vendors, Farmer's Market, Local Shops & Food Court Open
 8am-6pm: Walking Poker Run - **FREE** for everyone!
 Pick up your cards at the HBC/Information booth.
 Cash prizes!
 2pm-6pm: Bike Show on Main Street
 6pm: Poker Run and Walking Poker Run Prizes
 6:15pm: Bike Show Awards
 7pm-9pm: Live Music at the Veteran's Memorial Club
 8pm-12am: Live Music at VFW Hall

SUNDAY, JULY 15
 7am-11am: Breakfast at the VFW Hall & Eagles Lodge
 8am-2pm: Vendors, Local Shops & Food Court Open