

65TH ANNIVERSARY



Joe and Alberta Bailey

# The Baileys

Joe and Alberta Bailey of Baker City will celebrate 65 years of marriage on Thursday, July 26. They will be joined by their two sons and their wives, Kent and Monica Bailey and Anthony and Katherine Bailey, all of Baker City.

Joe owned and operated Valley Metal and Heating for many years. He bought the business from Albert (Bud) Marsland and his wife, Ruby, in the early 1960s. For several years Joe ran the shop and Alberta did the bookkeeping for the business. She also worked at what was the local savings and loan, Eastern Oregon Federal Savings & Loan, later Pioneer Federal Savings & Loan.

During the 50-plus years that Joe owned Valley Metal and Heating, in addition to heating, air-conditioning and routine sheetmetal work, the business restored older buildings downtown and at one time was the only shop between Salt Lake City and Portland licensed to do that line of work. Gary Baxter handled the sheetmetal department at that time and he was the "go to man" for that part of the business. He is retired and still lives in Baker City.

Joe and Alberta were blessed to have two sons, both of whom are CPAs. Kent was a managing partner in Guyer, Lindley, Bailey and Martin, now having adopted a shorter version as Guyer and Associates. Kent has recently started to wind down into retirement. The couple's younger son, Anthony, is CFO for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. They also have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. One granddaughter and one grandson are also CPAs.

Both Joe and Alberta said "Baker has been good to us. There's no place we would rather live to raise a family and operate a business."

They have many lifelong friends who live in and around Baker who can never be replaced.

## ROOSTERS

Continued from Page 1A

Anyone who is convicted of violating the ordinance could be subject to a fine of less than \$500.

Janet Midkiff of Baker City urged councilors to approve the ordinance.

She said her next-door neighbor has two roosters that sometimes start crowing around midnight.

"I wholeheartedly hope that you pass this law," Midkiff told councilors.

The city allows residents to keep chickens, but the current ordinance doesn't make any distinction between male and female fowl.

"We have had a number of complaints about roosters crowing for hours in the morning," City Manager Fred Warner Jr. wrote in a report to the City Council. "Though it sounds inconsequential, rooster crowing can be highly disruptive, especially in the summer when daylight occurs very early."

In addition to the rooster ordinance the City Council also:

- Approved the final reading of an ordinance vacating 10 feet of the 80-foot right-of-way on a 375-foot-long section of F Street in an industrial zone between 11th and 12th streets.

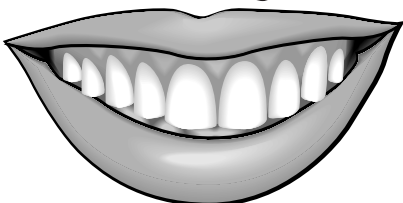
- Approved the first two readings of a revised version of the ordinance that deals with problem pet owners.

The change would clarify that residents deemed as problem pet owners would also be prohibited from boarding animals that they don't own.

- Approved a resolution making changes to the Baker City Employee Handbook. It is the first revision to the handbook since November 2015.

- Approved a resolution setting guidelines for the Silvers Street Tree Fund program for the fiscal year that started July 1.

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# 5J board meets Thursday to decide on bond

The Baker School Board will meet Thursday evening to decide whether to ask district voters on Nov. 6 to approve a \$48 million property tax bond measure.

The district would use the money, along with a \$4 million state grant, to build a new elementary school, renovate Baker High School to accommodate middle school students and turn Brooklyn School into an Early Childhood Learning Center.

The district also plans to improve energy efficiency at all district schools and to install secure entries and key card systems to bolster security.

The board will meet at 6 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St.

If voters approved the measure it would boost property taxes for residents within the school district by about \$1.97 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, probably for a period of 30 years. That equates to a yearly property tax increase of \$197 for the owner of a property with an assessed value of \$100,000, or \$295 for the owner of a \$150,000 property.

The school board will meet in an executive session (closed to the public) at 5:30 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations.

Also on the agenda for the regular public meeting is the election of a board chair and vice chair, and approve of a plan to organize a bond oversight committee. Were voters to approve the bond measure, the 11-member committee would oversee the bond-related projects.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Baker School District registration scheduled

Registration for the Baker School District is scheduled during August.

### Baker High School, South Baker, Baker Middle School and Brooklyn

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School, 2500 E St.
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baker High School

### Keating Elementary

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to noon at the school
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to noon at Baker High School

### Haines Elementary

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to noon at Haines Elementary

### Eagle Cap Innovative High School

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. at Baker High School
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baker High School

### Immunizations

- Please bring your insurance card and immunization records
- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baker High School

### Youth wellness physicals

- July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2 — 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical Associates, 3950 17th St., students grades 7-12 welcome

## CLOSE CALL

Continued from Page 1A

"I started jumping and waving the flag," Cockram said. "Eventually I ran and jumped over the guard rail. Eventually (the truck driver) admitted it and said he just reached down for a soda bottle."

No one was injured and the towing company only had to replace a fender on the rig.

For Superior Towing manager Justin Merritt, the one-year anniversary of company's only accident on the road after almost 22 years in business serves as motivation to partner his crews with Spirit Ride, an organization that escorts a red, white and blue casket across the country to raise awareness for "Move Over" laws.

The laws' purpose, mirrored in the nonprofit's slogan of "slow down, move over," is to require drivers to do just that when police, fire, EMS and towing crews are along road shoulders.

Superior Towing is hosting Spirit Ride Thursday morning with a ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Baker Truck Corral, on East Campbell Street next to Interstate 84. Following the songs and speeches open to the public, the crew will take the painted casket on a procession along Main Street before taking it to the Washington border at Umatilla and handing it off to a Pasco, Washington, team. Crews are arriving with the empty casket from Ontario on Wednesday.

According to Spirit Ride,



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald  
 Justin Merritt

100 first responders are killed on America's roads every year.

Sixty percent of those are tow truck operators, according to the organization.

For Merritt, those statistics are never far from his mind when he's out on a call.

"We all have families to go home to," he said. "It's the real deal out there. We're out there on the white line, on our knees hooking up cars and you have to keep your head on a swivel. People don't understand how much a tow operator puts himself in harm's way."

Other tow trucks, along with Oregon Department of Transportation, police, fire and EMS vehicles, will join the Superior Towing rig in Thursday's procession.

Superior Towing owner, Donn Christy, said the offer to host Spirit Ride was a no-brainer.

"Our story is not unlike others in the business," he said. "We respond to about

2,000 calls a year. That's 2,000 times you're putting your body in harm's way."

Merritt said he still remembers when Cockram called him to tell him his truck had been hit.

"He was pretty shaken up, as was I," Merritt said.

Cockram said Christy frequently reminds drivers to always have an exit strategy when out on calls.

"It can happen anywhere, even in a small community like this" Cockram said. "We just want to go home at night as well."



Christy

While he said he thinks drivers are becoming more aware of the move over law, Christy said there's still too many drivers who aren't.

"I tell the guys, if you're under a vehicle, you'll never

feel it," he said. "People have respect for blue lights but very little for amber lights. There is no second chance. I've seen and had my fair share of close calls."

Spirit Ride is sponsoring events in 300 cities this year, more than twice as many as last year, its first.

Merritt is excited for the organization's first stop in Baker.

"In a small community like Baker, people always show up and show great support," he said. "It's an honor for Superior Towing to be a part of this. It hits close to home."

The Baker Truck Corral restaurant parking will be closed for the ceremony Thursday morning but people going to the restaurant can park in the truck lot, Merritt said.

Please Help Us Help Others  
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### Donations Needed Now

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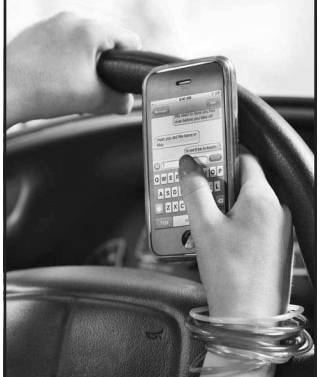
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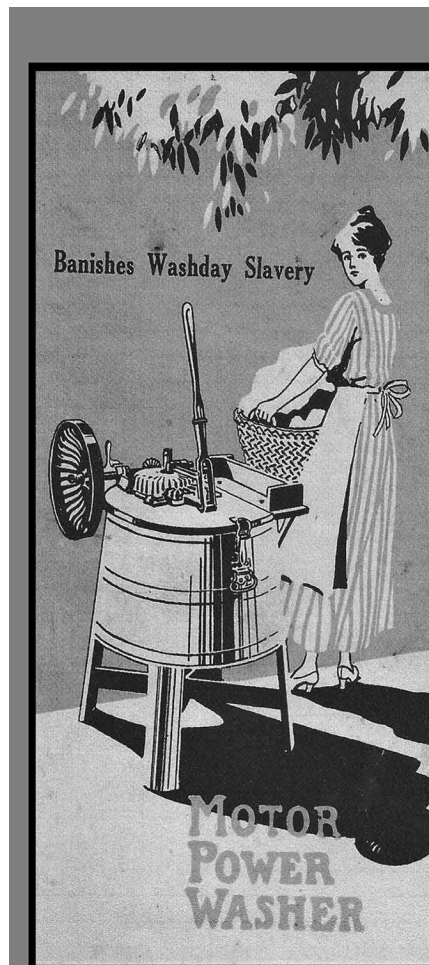
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