

Baker School District continues to offer tours of school buildings

Public tours of Baker schools are continuing this month. The tours, which got underway last month, are designed to allow District patrons to learn more about how money from a proposed \$48 million bond measure would be used if the measure is passed by voters in the Nov. 6 election, a District press release stated. Each tour and presentation will last about 45 minutes. Advance registration would be

helpful but is not required. To sign up, email Sandy Mitchell at Sandy.Mitchell@bakersd.org. Those attending are asked to check in at the school office. Here is the schedule of tours:

- Brooklyn Primary — Oct. 16 at 11 a.m.
- Baker Middle School — Oct. 23 at 11 a.m.
- Baker High School — Oct. 22 at 2 p.m.
- South Baker Intermediate

— Oct. 17 at 11 a.m.

- Haines Elementary — Oct. 10 at 10 a.m.

The School Board voted in July to seek the \$48 million bond to address aging facilities and a list of concerns identified by the District's Long Range Facilities Planning Committee. The proposed bond would be used to:

- Address safety and security issues at all schools
- Address energy efficiency and high maintenance costs at

all schools

- Build a new elementary school
- Move seventh- and eighth-graders to Baker High School where they could access vocational and advanced classes

If approved, the bond would cost homeowners an estimated \$1.97 per \$1,000 of the assessed value of their home over a projected 30 years. That's about \$197 per year for a home assessed at \$100,000.

COUNTY

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The county will pay \$20,000 for the monitoring. Commissioners were originally scheduled to review an agreement with Farallon Consulting for grand administrative services and environmental review service work on the fire station project. This was postponed until the next regular commission meeting, set for Oct. 17, because District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff, who also serves as the county counsel, had recommended some clarification to the agreement.

Commissioners appointed several people to various boards:

- Commissioner Bruce Nichols, along with Sharon Bannister, Chris Knoll and Jason Hatfield, were appointed to the Board of Property Tax Appeals. Their terms continue until June 30, 2019.
- John Wilson and Sandy Sorrels were re-appointed to the Baker County Development Corporation for terms continuing until Oct. 1, 2021.
- Dan Johnson and Carrie Matthews were appointed, and Wanda Ballard re-appointed, to the Natural Resource Advisory Committee for terms continuing until March 1, 2021.

Commissioners will schedule an executive session to discuss the ongoing dispute about public access on a section of the Connor Creek Road near Lookout Mountain. A property owner last year installed a locked gate across the road. County officials about 15 years ago determined that that road is a historic route that must remain open to the public, but the landowner, Todd Longgood, has given the county copies of maps and other records to bolster his claim that the section of road that he blocked is not part of that historic route.

AWARDS

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The restoration also uncovered windows on the first floor, and Phillips replaced all the street-level doors. She didn't limit the restoration to the Main Street side of the building. Phillips said she also renovated the eastern facade, which faces Resort Street, to complement the work the city did in 2013 along the street between Auburn Avenue and Campbell Street. The project included burying utility lines, rebuilding the street and sidewalks, installing decorative streetlights and planting trees.

The Haskell Building houses two businesses — Delicioso, and Royal Artisan, a framing gallery owned by Phillips' daughter, Kate Reid. Phillips said she would like to use the building's second floor as well, a 5,000-square-foot space that once was the Baker Elks Lodge. "I hope to spruce things up there, but to leave it original as much as I can," she said.

Baker City Little Big Show, best downtown retail event

This was the third year for the Little Big Show, which takes place in August. "When we started The Little Big Show three years ago

the goal was to do something bigger than First Friday and to incorporate all the galleries and shops as well as local charities to promote art," said Brian Vegter of the Baker Art Guild. "Our audience of local and visiting art lovers has grown over the past three years and has also grown the number of participating artist with 2018 involving 67 from around the Northwest." This year's show budget was \$700. Vegter said there were more sales, an additional gallery, and more than \$1,000 was donated to Baker County charities. The opening night of the show has people visiting all locations in search of art, as

well as through the month of August. "It's an amazing event to witness and the many volunteers and artists that help to bring it all together each year are what makes this event so special," Vegter said.

Barley Brown's Brewing, business of the year

The business, which includes a microbrewery, restaurant and taproom, in two separate Main Street buildings at the intersection with Church Street, celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Barley Brown's beers have won more than 80 awards in national and international beer competitions.

Groups push to ban cyanide 'bombs'

By Stephen Hamway
WesCom News Service

Nearly 100 private citizens and environmental groups in Oregon and beyond are pushing back against the use of cyanide capsules as a means of predator control. In a letter sent in September to the state and federal agencies that use M-44 devices, which fire a burst of sodium cyanide poison when triggered, the groups called for a ban in Oregon. Other states in the West have already done that. The groups criticized the practice as being ineffective, undermanaged and dangerous to humans, pets and other animals. "This is a no-brainer, and I still find it hard to believe

that this is still going on," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of the Oregon conservation nonprofit Predator Defense, one of the groups leading the effort. M-44 devices — sometimes derogatorily called "cyanide bombs" — are small, spring-loaded devices designed to control populations of coyotes, foxes and wild dogs, according to material from Wildlife Services, a federal program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The devices contain a capsule filled with sodium cyanide that's partially buried in the ground and coated with a substance that's designed to attract canines. When an animal triggers

the device, a lethal dose of sodium cyanide is ejected. The traps are designed to handle wild canines that attack poultry or livestock, especially sheep and lambs. According to material from Wildlife Services, coyotes killed more than 118,000 sheep and lambs nationwide in 2015, and livestock owners lost \$32.5 million from attacks on sheep and lambs by all predators that year. The federal agency considers M-44 devices a vital tool in fighting depletions. "Without an effective predator management program that combines lethal and nonlethal methods, losses to predators would be significantly higher," the material reads.

Still, Fahy said the devices kill animals indiscriminately. The petition notes that Wildlife Services reported 246,985 animals killed by M-44s from 2000 through 2016, ranging from grizzly bears to kangaroo rats to red-tailed hawks. The devices killed 4,621 animals in Oregon alone during that time, making local headlines in 2017 after a device killed OR-48, a collared gray wolf living in Northeast Oregon.

See Cyanide/ Page 6A

LOCAL BRIEFING

Free car seat inspections set for Saturday

A free car seat check-up event will take place Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Baker City Fire Department, 1616 Second St., from 9 a.m. to noon. Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians will be on hand to offer education and to answer questions on how to properly secure a child in a child safety seat, proper use and installation of the child restraint and booster seats in the vehicle, proper use of LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) system, and appropriate positioning of occupants in vehicles with airbags. The event is free and an appointment is not necessary. Each seat check takes approximately 40 minutes. The purpose of this check-up event is to provide parents and caregivers with information on the proper use and installation of their child safety seats. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States and correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death as much as 71 percent; however, three out of four seats are not used or installed correctly. The clinic is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Transportation, St. Alphonsus Medical Center and Baker City Police Department. For more information, call CPS Technician, Phoebe Wachtel with the Baker City Police Department at 541-524-2014.

Concert will support Children's Theater

True North will give a concert tonight as a fundraiser to support bringing Missoula Children's Theater back to Baker City. The event will be at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2177 First St., Baker City. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Betty's Books or Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. Tickets at the door are \$25. The concert was arranged by Carol Harley.

Forestry Department eases restrictions

Although fire season remains in effect in Northeastern Oregon, the Oregon Department of Forestry ended public use restrictions starting at 12:01 a.m. today. That means campfires are allowed, and restrictions on chain saw use are no longer in effect. Fire season rules remain, however, which means permits are required for other fires, including debris burns and burn barrels.

Prescription drug take back event Oct. 27

The Baker City Police Department, in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration, will accept unwanted or expired prescription drug pills and patches on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Police Department, 1768 Auburn Ave. Police can't accept liquids, needles or sharps of any kind. The service is free and anonymous. More information is available by calling Phoebe Wachtel, the department's administrative assistant, at 541-524-2014, extension 20, or Lynn Magnuson, evidence technician, at 541-524-2014, extension 29.

FOREST

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- Timber production: adopt alternatives that accelerate timber harvest until the healthy forest standards are met then continue to maintain in perpetuity.
- Wildlife security zones: Baker County encourages the Forest Service to discontinue planning for wildlife management, as it does not have this authority, and to focus on making the forests healthy and productive.
- Grazing: allow for the maximum number of AUMs and monitor the allotment in a manner that promotes remediation, if needed.
- Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy: This document must be put out for public review before its use in the plans.

Each of the 11 counties in EOCA submitted a list of issues regarding the forest plans. Other counties, besides Baker, in the association are Union, Grant, Wallowa, Umatilla, Morrow, Deschutes, Harney, Malheur and Sherman.

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Vote yes for KIDS Measure 1-88

Dr. & Mrs. Carl Stiff

"Carl and I believe that Measure 1-88 will be a great benefit to all our kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren and a financial benefit to the community." - Barbara Stiff

Paid for by the YES FOR KIDS Committee, Debbie Penning, Treasurer

RUN FOR VETERANS Hosted By ALL AMERICAN METAL ART

November 10th, 2018 9:00 AM

For More Info Contact All American Metal Art

Start Line : Mt. Hope Cemetery
Finish Line : Baker Sports Complex

Owner: Tyler Gassin 541-519-4243

All Are Welcome to Participate in a Free, Fun, Family Event Supporting Our Veterans Bring Your Own American Flag to Run With!

Meet Our Local Veterans and Check Out What They Are Receiving For Their Service

David Davis Air Force
Zach Downing Marines
Michael Lary Coast Guard
Cliff Robertson Navy
Kaiden Williams Army

Donate \$10 or More to the Wounded Warriors Project and Receive an All American Metal Art T-shirt (Limited Supply)

The Highest Donation Will Receive This Custom 4' x 2' 6" Flag From All American Metal Art

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

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Designed by: Hayden J. Roche www.linkedin.com/in/hjroche