

Local & State

Baker High School students helping collect food, other donated items

Baker High School students are helping other agencies that serve needy families during the holiday season. Students will be collecting hygiene items (such as toothpaste, deodorant and other items), bath towels, sleeping bags and winter wear for Marla's Mall, housed at the North Baker Education Center at 2725 Seventh St. They also are collecting canned food for the Department of Human Services. And donated new or gently used stuffed animals will be given to local law enforcement agencies.

Students are competing by grade level to see which class can collect the most items, Toni Zickmund, BHS teacher and adviser, stated in an email to the Herald. A collection bin also is available in the main office at BHS, 2500 E St., for community members who would like to add to the donations by Dec. 18. The annual Teddy bear toss will take place at the BHS boys basketball games Friday and Saturday. At halftime of both games, the crowd is asked to throw new or gently used stuffed animals on the court. BHS Leadership members

will collect the donations to add to the contributions made by students at the school and give them to police agencies. Members of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is hosting a Salvation Army tree at the high school. Those who want to contribute to the program may simply take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift requested and return the unwrapped gift and tag under the tree, Zickmund said. The gifts will be presented to The Salvation Army at the BHS annual Holiday Assembly on Dec. 19.

Body of missing Grant County man found

JOHN DAThe body of a Grant County man who went missing during a Dec. 3 hiking trip was found by searchers Thursday morning. Lucas Francesco Cavalle, 38, of Mount Vernon, was found dead on a steep southwest-facing slope off Fields Peak in Grant County, Sheriff Glenn Palmer stated in a press release. The area is about 9 miles south of Highway 26 between Mount Vernon and Dayville.

The cause of death is under investigation. An autopsy was scheduled today, according to the Grant County Sheriff's Office. Preliminary investigation showed that Cavalle was unsuccessful in his attempt to build a fire during the time he was missing. Temperatures dropped to the single digits with wind, and 9 to 10 inches of snow had accumulated in the area, Palmer said. Cavalle was wearing hik-

ing boots, jeans, shirts and a jacket and was carrying a backpack. He had recently moved to Grant County and was unfamiliar with the area, Palmer said. Cavalle was reported missing at about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday when he failed to return from his hike. In addition to the Grant County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team and patrol staff, searchers included members of Life Flight,

the Oregon Army National Guard, Oregon Emergency Management, Search and Rescue units from Deschutes County, Crook County, Baker County, Morrow County, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) group, Grant County Air Search, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management law enforcement officers. K-9 units, drones, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft also joined the search.

Voters could decide on tax 'kicker'

PORTLAND (AP) — Momentum is building to end the only-in-Oregon approach of issuing tax rebates in order to build reserves for schools. The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that if Oregon economists' predictions hold, taxpayers will receive up to \$724 million worth of "kicker" rebates when they file their income taxes in 2020. Right now, the median state resident with roughly \$36,000 a year in adjusted gross income can expect a tax credit of about \$175 in 2020. But it's possible voters will decide to instead send the

money to a rainy day fund for schools that the state could tap during economic downturns. Business leaders who gathered in Portland on Monday said polling showed more than 60 percent of respondents would support such a change. Jeremy Rogers, vice president of the Oregon Business Council, told attendees at the Oregon Leadership Summit that lawmakers could refer the question to voters in the May 2019 election. It was the latest sign that the idea is gaining momentum, six years after voters approved ending the kicker

rebate on corporate taxes. Under Oregon's Constitution, the unique kicker tax rebate is triggered when tax revenues for a two-year budget cycle come in more than 2 percent above economists' forecast from the start of the cycle. One question heading into the legislative session is how high a priority it will be for Democrats to change the kicker, as they aim to pass major climate change legislation and raise billions in fees and taxes to fund Medicaid and education. Sen. Mark Hass, D-Bea-

verton, is chair of the Oregon Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue. On Tuesday, he expressed support for the idea of ending the kicker. "I would love to redirect it to the rainy-day fund," Hass said, noting that Oregon's dependence on income taxes exposes the state to wild fluctuations in revenue. "The next best thing to a major structural reform is to have a strong rainy-day fund to cushion the inevitable downturns we have. It's poor public policy to begin with."

Bill would make it easier to kill sea lions

SEATTLE (AP) — A bill that would make it easier to kill sea lions that feast on imperiled salmon in the Columbia River has cleared the U.S. Senate. State wildlife managers say rebounding numbers of sea lions are eating more salmon than ever and their appetites are undermining billions of dollars of investments to restore endangered fish runs. Senate Bill 3119, which passed Thursday by unanimous consent, would streamline the process for Washington, Idaho, Oregon and several Pacific Northwest Native American tribes to capture and euthanize potentially hun-

dreds of sea lions found in the river east of Portland, Oregon. Sen. Jim Risch, an Idaho Republican who co-sponsored the bill with senators from all three states, said the legislation would help ensure healthy populations of salmon for years to come. "As endangered salmon face extinction, we must take steps to protect them," Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Washington Democrat, said in a statement. The Senate bill is similar to one passed by the U.S. House in June and sponsored by Reps. Jaime Herrera Beutler, a Washington Republican, Kurt Schrader, an Oregon Democrat, and

others. The House will have to consider the Senate's bill, or vice versa, before it heads to President Donald Trump for consideration. "We have reason to believe they will by the end of the year," said Kaylin Minton, communications director for Risch. Supporters, including the governors of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, fishing groups and tribes, say the bill will give wildlife managers greater flexibility in controlling California sea lions that dramatically increased from about 30,000 in the 1960s to about 300,000 under the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act.

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LOCAL BRIEFING

Last Chance Bazaar at Nazarene Church

The Nazarene Church is hosting a Last Chance Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the church's Family Life Center, 1250 Hughes Lane, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds from the event go toward the Nazarene Church's Upward Sports Basketball and Cheer League. Food is also available, including hot dogs, potato salad, and chili. All proceeds from the food support a Youth Conference that the teens will attend in July.

Keating pinochle potlucks planned

Biweekly pinochle potlucks are scheduled this fall and winter at the Keating Fire Hall, 26502 Keating Grange Road. The potlucks start at 6 p.m., with cards to follow. Players should bring a potluck dish to share, table service and \$2 for the pinochle. Lemonade, coffee and tea will be provided. Potlucks are scheduled for Dec. 22, Jan. 5 and 19, and Feb. 2 and 16. More information is available by calling Cammie Miller at 541-523-6108 or Patti Pickard at 541-523-2943.

COUNCIL

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They would have to schedule a special meeting later in December, as two current councilors, Rosemary Abell and Adam Nilsson, will end their terms Dec. 31. Another option is to leave the appointment to the newly constituted Council that convenes in January. That group will include two councilors elected Nov. 6, Lynette Perry and Ken Gross. In either case, the Council could either appoint one of the six candidates who was on the Nov. 6 ballot but was not elected, or ask for other interested citizens to submit their names for consideration.

Chronic nuisance properties discussion

Also during Tuesday's meeting, councilors will hear from a group of residents who have concerns about conditions on one property and about the city's efforts to deal with properties with chronic accumulations of trash. A year ago the City Council considered a proposed ordinance that would have allowed city to block all access for up to a year to residential properties where at least three separate cases involving certain crimes or city code violations have occurred within a 180-day period. Councilors eventually decided not to approve that ordinance.

The property councilors are scheduled to talk about Tuesday, at 1975 Birch St., is one the city has had multiple issues with since May 2015. The city cited the resident, Lucas Gwin, in 2016 for failing to comply with a city ordinance prohibiting people from allowing trash to accumulate. The city ended up spending about \$2,000 to clean up the property, placing a lien on the property that allows the city to be repaid when the property is sold. But neighbors reported that garbage has again piled up on the property, leading to an infestation of mice and other rodents, according to a staff report to councilors. The city has cited Gwin again and is waiting for bids on cleaning the property a second time.

Other business

- Baker City Fire Chief John Clark is proposing that the city donate fire gear to the Mitchell Rural Fire Department, which can use the gear for non-suppression personnel. The gear is not usable for structural firefighting and can't be sold because it is expired.
- The American Red Cross is requesting to have its lease for office space at City Hall extended through 2023. The agency has leased the space, for no cost, for the past decade. The current lease expires at the end of 2018.

ARREST

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Because the victim is younger than 12, if Estudillo is convicted of the crimes of rape, sodomy and unlawful sexual penetration, he could face up to 25 years in prison on each count under Jessica's Law, Shirliff said. The law, named after a child victim in Florida, requires mandatory minimum sentences for certain sex crimes. It has been in place in Oregon since 2006. If convicted of the first-degree sexual abuse charges, Estudillo could face a mandatory minimum 75-month prison sentence for each crime. The Baker County Sheriff's Office and the state Department of Human Services is assisting Baker City Police in the investigation.

CAPA

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Currently the money goes into the main fund for the K9 program. Chastain said that when a drug-detecting dog retires its handler usually ends up adopting the animal, and there can be considerable medical expenses involved as the dog ages.

The stuffed animals BCPD is selling are from Hero Industries, a company from California which creates and sells a variety of stuffed animals and other products. One of the people who purchased a stuffed Capa is Sharon Bass, a retired BCPD officer. "If they sell really good we will just keep selling them," Chastain said.

The department won't buy more until the first batch of 50 have been claimed. It takes about two weeks for Hero Industries to deliver more. "Capa is a tool for the department, but he is my dog and you can see there is definitely a bond," Chastain said. The fundraiser auctioned off a number of valuable

items and raised more than \$18,000. The K9 program for BCPD costs about \$10,000 per year. Recently the department used money from the fund to buy a new alarm system that alerts Chastain if the temperature in his police car is too hot for Capa. The alarm also monitors the vehicle's engine, battery and the carbon monoxide level in the car.

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Weekly Specials December 10-16

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Tuesday	All You Can Eat Spaghetti.....	\$8.95
Wednesday	Liver & Onions.....	\$8.95
Thursday	Chicken Fried Steak.....	\$9.95
Friday	All You Can Eat Mini Shrimp.....	\$9.95
	Steak & Shrimp.....	\$10.95
	Pan Fried Oysters.....	\$10.50
	NY Steak.....	\$13.95
Saturday	Prime Rib.....	\$13.95
Sunday	Roast Beef.....	\$9.50/8.95 sr

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