

**WOLVES**

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The committee couldn't award money for cattle losses because the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) hasn't finished maps showing areas of known wolf activity. Only depredations that happened inside those areas are eligible for compensation.

The maps should be done by mid-February.

The committee will meet as soon as possible after the maps are available to decide on compensation awards, said Mark Bennett, a Baker County commissioner and chairman of the seven-member Wolf Depredation and Compensation Committee.

Among the applications for compensation the committee heard Wednesday are \$1,798.53 from the Pine Valley Ranch, which,

in addition to the one calf killed, had two others injured by attacks that ODFW confirmed were by wolves.

Barry DelCurto, who had one calf injured by a confirmed wolf attack, is requesting \$1,822.96.

The committee received requests totaling \$62,560.56. Most of that is for cattle that didn't return from summer pastures but were not found and are not confirmed wolf losses. The committee has in the past awarded money to ranchers for unconfirmed losses.

ODFW estimates about 30 wolves are living in Baker County.

The Pine Creek pack, which killed and injured the cattle in April, consisted of 12 wolves based on an ODFW aerial survey in early December. The pack's breeding female gave birth to seven pups in the spring of 2018.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFERS BOULDERS, OTHER ITEMS VIA ONLINE AUCTION

**Baker City's bargain boulders**

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

If your wish list lacks only a boulder weighing 7,000 pounds — and whose among us does not? — Baker City's Public Works Department will gladly fill this considerable chasm in your roster of possessions.

For as little as 30 bucks. Which is much less than one penny per pound, a price you're not likely to get for, say, steaks.

And if your preference in stones runs to something more in the 3,000-pound range, the city can also accommodate your more modest needs.

The city has rid itself of surplus items many times by way of an online auction, but the current version, which continues through Feb. 5, is not quite like the others.

There are five altogether, their estimated weights at 3,000, 3,500, 5,000 (two of



Baker City Public Works photo

This approximately 7,000-pound boulder could be yours for as little as \$30.

these) and 7,000 pounds.

The city hauled the rocks, and many others, from its property along Goodrich Creek at the eastern base of the Elkhorn Mountains to use as

riprap at the wastewater lagoon, said Tom Fisk, the city's operations supervisor.

Some of the boulders were too big for that purpose, though.

The city placed several of those along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway near Wade Williams Field, and others at the new dog park near Sam-O Swim Center.

But the city still had five of the cumbersome things left, and an auction through the govdeals.com website seemed a potential way to dispose of them.

The minimum bid for each is \$30, but as of Friday morning nobody had placed a bid.

City workers will help load the boulders on the successful bidder's vehicle — something more stout than, say, a Camry is recommended.

But they won't "secure the boulder for transportation" — probably an important precaution — nor will they follow you to your destination

**Want to bid?**  
www.govdeals.com  
Go to "location searches" and type in 97814

to help with the unloading, a task likely to require more than just a handful of willing volunteers wearing gloves.

The boulders also come with a restriction.

According to the city, they can't be "placed in close proximity to the edge of city streets, county roads or state routes which would create a 'roadside hazard' for vehicles."

The acquisition process is rather less complicated with the 41 other, generally more conventional items in the city's auction.

The list includes:  
• A retired police car, a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria with 139,000 miles

• A 2002 Oldsmobile Bravada SUV with 186,000 miles  
• Several lots of tires, some of them studded

• A variety of hand tools  
• A pickup bed rack

There are also several items which, though perhaps not unique like the boulders, are not especially common.

• A metal, 13-foot-diameter merry-go-round that stood (or, rather, spun) for decades in Geiser-Pollman Park but does not meet current safety standards

• A slightly smaller (9-foot-diameter) merry-go-round removed, for the same reason, from Riverpark Park.

• Several vintage embossed street signs (two from Campbell Street, two from Fifth Street

• A road-sanding unit (sand not included)

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*photos for illustration only*

**Adoptable Pet Of The Week**

**Tia**

*My name is Tia, and I'm an 8 year old Chihuahua-Pug looking for a home. I am housetrained and full of energy! I'm 12 lbs and love going for walks with my pink harness. I'm well behaved even if I've never been formally trained. I know how to use a doggie door and have used potty pads as well. If you're looking for a sweet, wonderful and beautiful little family member, then you have found her!*

**Contact Best Friends of Baker at 541-519-7387 (no texting, please)**

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