

Local & Region

FORCE

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To explain “sensory friendly,” Macy says some individuals “have trouble processing sensory input.” This can be a condition of autism or sensory processing disorder.

However, Community FORCE is not limiting their programs to certain children — all are welcome.

“The events we’re doing are open to anybody,” Macy said. “We’ve been collaborating with the Y in a few ways, the Eltrym, and lots of social service organizations to identify what families need and how we can reach them.”

She pointed out the matinee movies, which could also appeal to parents of toddlers who can’t sit through any entire movie without getting antsy.

Macy said Community FORCE hopes to raise awareness in the community about offering sensory friendly events.

Parent groups

Community FORCE is scheduling times each month



Submitted photo

Sienna LeTourneau, left, Maliyah Culp and Gracie Culp work on their Valentine's Day art during a session sponsored by Community FORCE.

for a parent support group and parent networking meeting.

Usually these are set for 10 a.m. on the last Monday of the month, but they might be moved due to holidays.

For up-to-date news, check the group's Facebook page, as well as the website www.communityforcefn.org

The website is also a place to fill out membership or volunteer forms.

“The events we’re doing are open to anybody.”

— Karla Macy, coordinator for FORCE program

Membership benefits listed on the website include a lending library, assistance navigating local services, networking with families, continuing education and more.

Mission of community FORCE

“Our mission is to bridge the gap between families, resources and the community. In order to improve the lives of children in Eastern Oregon living with disabilities, we aim to sustain a network of families who can share resources and ideas as well as their diverse backgrounds with others. This will empower caregivers to advocate for their child and will also cultivate connections based on diversity and inclusion. Community FORCE will accomplish this mission by supporting families and individuals whose lives are impacted by disability.”

LOCAL BRIEFING

Rabies vaccination clinic Feb. 13

Baker County veterinarians will have a rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the OSU Extension Office, 2600 East St. Cost is \$10 per animal. Dogs must be leashed, and cats in a cage.

Baker City dog licenses will also be available.

More information is available by calling the Animal Clinic of Baker, 541-523-3611, or the Baker Veterinary Hospital, 541-523-7772.

Wolf compensation committee to meet

Baker County's Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 4 p.m. in commission chambers at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. The committee will review applications for compensation for livestock killed or injured by wolves and for missing animals possibly killed by wolves.

Valentine's Day dinner in North Powder

NORTH POWDER — The Wolf Creek Grange in North Powder will have a Valentine's Day dinner on Feb. 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The five-course meal includes Cornish game hen or pork roast. Cost is \$15 and reservations are needed in advance by calling June at 541-786-3927.

This is a fundraiser for the Grange. Delivery is available in North Powder.

BHS Class of '74 reunion meeting set

The Baker High School Class of 1974 has scheduled an organization meeting to help plan for its 45th reunion this summer. The meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. at Lefty's Taphouse, 1934 Broadway St.

The reunion is set for July 5-6. More information is available by calling Kent Bailey at 541-523-4471.

County planners to hear cell tower plan

The Baker County Planning Commission will have a public hearing Feb. 12 to consider a request for a conditional-use permit to build a cellphone tower on private land near Unity.

The applicant is New Singular Wireless. The company wants to build a 199-foot-high tower on land owned by Bill and Nancy Moore. The tower would fill a gap in cellular service coverage for AT&T customers in the Unity area, according to the Baker City-County Planning Department.

The public hearing will start at 5 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

Copies of the application and other documents are available by email for no cost. More information is available by calling Eva Henes at 541-523-8219, by email at ehenes@bakercounty.org or by visiting the Planning Department in the basement of the Courthouse.

Northwest braces for more snowfall

SEATTLE (AP) — Pacific Northwest residents, more accustomed to rain than snow, found themselves digging out yet again as a fresh round of storms moved over the area, with an additional punch to come early this week.

The sun came out Sunday afternoon, but snow returned in the evening across the Northwest, bringing 1 to 4 new inches. And another storm bringing snow and the potential for freezing rain was on tap for parts of the Seattle area.

A winter storm watch was in effect from Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon.

Storms have delivered more snow to Seattle in the first days of February than it usually gets in a year, The Seattle Times reported.

An expected 2 feet to 4 feet from Sunday through Wednesday in the Cascades could be welcome to skiers and snowboarders, Will Ahue, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Portland, told The Oregonian.

WINTER

Continued from Page 1A

Baker schools opened as usual despite the wind-driven snow, although Blue Mountain Community College's Baker City campus was closed today, Eastern Oregon University in La Grande was also closed.

Interstate 84 was open across the Blue Mountains as of 8 a.m. The Oregon Department of Transportation was reporting blowing snow throughout the region.

Baker City Public Works crews were plowing a few areas prone to drifting, such as Indiana Avenue near the golf course. Crews were waiting to see how much snow falls before deciding whether to plow higher-traffic streets overnight, said Tom Fisk, the city's operations supervisor.

Washington looks to tighten vaccination law

By Rachel La Corte
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Amid a measles outbreak that has sickened more than 50 people in the Pacific Northwest, Washington lawmakers heard testimony Friday on a bill that would remove parents' ability to claim a personal or philosophical exemption to opt their school-age children out of the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

Hundreds of people opposed to the measure lined up more than an hour before the start of the hearing before the House Health Care and Wellness Committee, many wearing stickers with the bill number, HB 1638, within a crossed out circle.

The bill comes as health officials have reported at least 52 known cases in Washington state and four in Oregon. Most of the Washington cases are concentrated in Clark County, just north of Portland. The measure is sponsored by a lawmaker from that region, Republican Rep. Paul Harris of Vancouver, and has the support of the state medical association and Gov. Jay Inslee. Inslee declared a state of emergency last month.

Harris said people in his area are “concerned about our community, its immunity and the community safety.”

The measure does allow proof of disease immunity through laboratory evidence or history of disease to substitute for immunization.

Currently, the state allows school-vaccination exemptions for children at public or private schools or licensed day-care centers based on medical, religious and personal or philosophical beliefs. Unless an exemption is claimed, a child is required to be vaccinated against or show proof of acquired immunity of nearly a dozen diseases — including polio, whooping cough and mumps — before they can attend school or a child care center.

John Wiesman, the secretary of the state Department of Health, said the effort to limit exemptions is “about safe schools and protecting vulnerable children.”

Wiesman told the panel that compared to other outbreaks in the state in the past decade, “the outbreak we are dealing with right now is larger and infecting people faster than recent history.”

Opponents testifying against the bill included environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who questioned safety standards around vaccines.

Susie Corgan, with Informed Choice Washington, said after the hearing that parents who are worried about their children having adverse reactions to vaccines have a right to philosophical exemptions.

“Where there is risk, there must be choice, and there is risk with this vaccine as there is with any other medical procedure,” she said.

Four percent of Washington secondary school students have nonmedical vaccine exemptions, according to the state Department of Health. Of those, 3.7 percent of the exemptions are personal, with the remainder being religious exemptions. In Clark County, 6.7 percent of kindergartners had a nonmedical exemption for the 2017-18 school year, according to health officials.

Washington is among 17 states, including Oregon, that allow some type of nonmedical exemption for vaccines for “personal, moral or other beliefs,” according to the Na-

tional Conference of State Legislatures.

Legislation introduced in Washington state in 2015 that would have removed the personal or philosophical belief allowance for an exemption to childhood vaccines never made it to the House floor for a vote after it faced stiff opposition.

Both the WSMA and Inslee also support a broader bill

that was introduced in the Senate earlier this week. That measure would not allow personal or philosophical exemptions to be granted for any required school vaccinations.

California removed personal belief vaccine exemptions for children in both public and private schools in 2015, after a measles outbreak at Disneyland sickened 147 people.

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SAT: (1:10) (4:10) 7:10, 9:40
SUN: (1:10) (4:10) 7:10 M-W: 7:10

ON THE BASIS OF SEX PG-13
FRI: (4:00) 7:00, 9:35
SAT: (1:00) (4:00) 7:00, 9:35
SUN: (1:00) (4:00) 7:00 M-W: 7:00

GREEN BOOK PG-13
FRI: (3:45) 6:45, 9:30
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Come help us celebrate
Sunday Feb. 17 from 2-5 p.m.
Community Connections Center, 2810 Cedar St.