



District basketball Your guide to Class 1A touney starting Thursday

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robert Goodrich of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

Thousands of Oregon children would have to get vaccinated or stay out of school under a bill being prepared by Rep. Mitch Greenlick, D-Portland. The proposal comes amid a measles outbreak that has infected 52 children in Clark County, Washington, and has spread to Oregon, where four people have been infected. People in Bend were exposed to measles when a Clark County patient visited Bend in January before having symptoms.

BRIEFING

Family History Discovery event Feb. 15-16 at LDS Church

People interested in learning about their family's history are invited to a free event Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 at the LDS Family History Center at the Baker City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Participants should use the east entrance to the church at 2625 Hughes Lane. There are classes for all levels.

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

- Registration starts at 5:30 p.m., with classes starting at 6 p.m.
2 class periods with a choice of two classes
Open Family History Center lab
Cookies will be served

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

- Registration starts at 8:30 p.m., with snacks served
Welcome at 8:50 a.m., sign in to Relatives Around Me on your FamilySearch app
9 a.m. to noon, 3 class periods with 3 classes each, plus open Family History Center

WEATHER

Today

39 / 29



Rain or snow showers likely

Thursday

41 / 29



Rain or snow showers likely

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Correction: A story in Monday's issue about the new FORCE group listed the wrong location for monthly art events. Those take place at Hatch, 2019 Main St., and those interested in attending must RSVP through the group's Facebook page — search Community FORCE.

County's Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance Could Come Into Play

New Gun Laws?



David Maiorini/Philadelphia Inquirer-TNS

Several bills in the Oregon Legislature would add new restrictions on gun purchases.

By Casey Crowley ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

Baker County voters in November overwhelmingly approved an ordinance designed to prevent the enforcement of laws violating the Second Amendment and the ordinance could receive its first test later this year.

At least 12 bills have been introduced in the Oregon Legislature that deal with firearms or ammunition in some way.

Senate Bill 501, which has received the most publicity, is also the most restrictive. It would require gun buyers to acquire a permit, limit people from possessing guns with a capacity of no more than five rounds, limit the amount of ammunition a person can buy to 20 rounds in a 30-day period, require background checks for ammunition purchases and require gun owners to secure firearms with a trigger or cable lock.

SB 501 has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it

might go through revisions.

Meanwhile, Baker County voters — by margin of 5,463 to 2,752 — have joined those in eight other Oregon counties in approving a Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance.

The ordinance prohibits the county sheriff from using county money or employees to enforce any law that infringes on citizens' Second Amendment rights.

The ordinance also requires the sheriff to review local, state and federal laws to determine whether any violates the Oregon or federal constitution.

What's not clear is whether the ordinance itself is legally enforceable.

Multiple lawyers in Oregon have said that the ordinance might not be binding.

A state law — ORS 166.170 — gives the state the sole authority to regulate firearm sales, possession, transportation, use and any other elements relating to firearms. The law also voids any ordinance that a

city or county enacts related firearm regulations.

But Suzan Ellis Jones, chair of the Baker County Republican Party, which put the Second Amendment ordinance on the November ballot, contends that state law violates both the Oregon and federal constitution.

Jones believes the county's ordinance is constitutional. She said multiple attorneys reviewed the ordinance before it went to voters.

As mentioned, the local official potentially most affected by the new ordinance is the county sheriff.

Sheriff Travis Ash said that after attending a meeting with other county sheriffs earlier this month, he doesn't expect SB 501 will become law.

Ash said he opposes both that bill and any other that would infringe on Second Amendment rights.

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Council moves ahead on new property rules

By Casey Crowley ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

A more stringent property maintenance ordinance could be approved as soon as Feb. 26 after the Baker City Council approved the first reading of the ordinance Tuesday.

After roughly an hour of deliberations, councilors unanimously approved the first reading of the ordinance with one minor change. The change was to one of the criteria that could lead to a property being deemed a chronic nuisance, in which case the Baker Justice Court judge, who would determine whether a property is a chronic nuisance, could also ban access to the property, including by the owner.

The prior criteria required three or more property violation convictions in the previous 12 months, but the version councilors approved states that a property could be deemed a chronic nuisance if it had any previous violations of the ordinance.

The Council did not have the second of three readings of the proposed ordinance because Mayor Loran Joseph voted no on a motion to have the second reading.

Joseph said he wants to give residents more time to voice their opinions on the proposed ordinance.

See Council / Page 3A

Honey, A Shetland Sheepdog, Ran Away From Her Rural Home East of Baker City On Friday

Owner trying to coax frightened dog home

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Lise Madson was just getting to know her new dog when the 2-year-old, 20-pound Sheltie disappeared.

Honey, who could fill in for Lassie in a pinch, is still gone five days later.

But it's not quite accurate to say the diminutive dog — she stands 14 inches at the shoulder — is missing.

Madson has seen Honey a couple of times since the dog displayed a surprising agility, climbing a stack of lawn furniture and leaping from the deck at Madson's home near the Sparta Road, north of Highway 86 about 25 miles east of Baker City.

That happened on Friday. Madson said she was afraid Honey had been severely injured in the drop of about a dozen feet, but the soft snow cushioned her fall.

On Sunday Honey turned near the intersection of Sparta Road and Gem Mine Road.

Madson said she came within 30 feet or so of Honey, but then some other dogs barked and frightened the Sheltie.



Submitted photo

Honey, a 2-year-old Shetland sheep dog, ran away from her home near Sparta on Friday.

Honey ran into a nearby ravine where she was temporarily stranded, unable to climb through the deep snow in the defile.

Madson sought help and among those who responded on Monday

afternoon were Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Jason Yencopal, the county's emergency manager, and Trent Luschen, who works for the federal Farm Service Agency in Baker City.

They were unable to coax Honey from the ravine before night fell.

"She's really scared," Madson said of Honey. "She's acting more like a fox than a dog."

Madson said volunteer searchers went out Tuesday morning and found tracks showing that Honey apparently had escaped from the ravine.

But strong winds had erased her tracks from that point.

Madson said volunteers helped her create a "scent trail" using her own clothing and items of Honey's bedding.

The trail leads to a live trap that's baited with food and water and placed inside a tent that will shelter Honey if she finds her way there.

Madson, who bought Honey during the Rose City Classic Dog Show in Portland in January, said she greatly appreciates the efforts of Ash and his deputies and local residents who have volunteered to help her.

"Everybody's been fantastic," she said Tuesday afternoon.

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FRIDAY — COUNTY'S WOLF DEPREDATION COMMITTEE MEETS



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