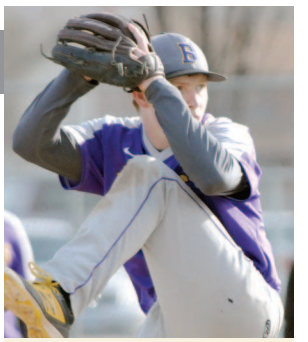




# Baker City Herald

March 18, 2019

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In SPORTS, 6A

Baseball  
preview

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports Monday \$1.50

QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dick Humphreys of Baker City.

**Oregon, 3A**

SALEM — A bill to remove nonmedical exemptions for schoolchildren not inoculated for communicable diseases passed its first legislative hurdle Thursday.

The House Committee on Health Care voted 7-4 to approve House Bill 3063, which bars children from public and private schools if not immunized for measles and other diseases.

**Sports, 5A**

Baker started its track and field season on a strong note Friday at the Ontario Icebreaker meet.

The Bulldogs had several midseason marks and earned a half-dozen individual firsts.

"We had an incredible meet yesterday," Coach Suzy Cole said. "Overall I was amazed at how well all of our athletes competed, our veterans all the way down through our newbies."

**Sports, 5A**

Baker swept Payette in a nonleague tennis match Thursday at Payette.

"All of our kids played outstanding," said Baker coach Kristin Schwin.

Baker won the girls match 5-0 and the boys 4-1.

WEATHER

**Today**

55 / 28



Mostly sunny

**Tuesday**

58 / 30



Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below will be blank on issues delivered or sold from boxes. The space is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

**Cattle Ranchers in Eastern Baker County Brace For Possible Wolf Depredation**

## Ranchers Get Ready



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife photo

Wolves from the Snake River pack photographed in 2017.

By Jayson Jacoby  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Almost a year has passed since wolves killed four calves and injured seven others in eastern Baker County, and several affected ranchers are ready to try new tactics to protect their herds.

Their efforts will be bolstered by having relatively timely information of the wolves' movements based on data from tracking collars the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has fitted on several wolves.

That includes wolves from the Pine Creek pack, which was responsible for all the attacks on cattle in April 2018, as well as a pair of wolves, one formerly a member of the Pine Creek pack, that have been traveling together for the past month and could potentially start a second pack as early as this spring.

Barry DelCurto, who owns a ranch near Halfway, lost one calf to wolves from the Pine Creek pack.

Wolves attacked the calf in April, and the calf died in June after DelCurto and his wife, Shella, had spent \$850 on veterinarian bills.

Barry DelCurto said that when he turns out his cows and calves on a Forest Service grazing allotment east of Halfway, probably around the middle of April, he will strive to keep the herd congregated in larger groups, where in theory they are less vulnerable to wolves.

DelCurto said there is one cross fence in place in the allotment, and he plans to build a second fence to aid in confining his cattle.

He also plans to install temporary electric fencing for the same purpose.

DelCurto said his ultimate goal, in limiting the movement of his cattle, is to keep them out of a corridor that, based on last year's events, seems to be the Pine Creek pack's preferred



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife photo

Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeast corner of the state, including these animals from the Snake River pack in Hells Canyon.

*"A lot of guys are altering their approach, delaying when they move cattle into that area or going to other private ground. They're trying to be proactive. Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome is not going to work."*

— George Rollins, Pine Valley resident and former wolf committee co-chair, Oregon Cattlemen's Assn.

route from the Low Hills country southeast of Halfway to the higher, forested country north of Highway 86.

He also will employ "range riders" — people on horseback who will try to keep track of the cattle and discourage wolves from approaching.

"It's all going to be an experiment," DelCurto said. "It's going to take some time to develop it to fit us."

The DelCurtos learned about ways to try to protect their cattle after attending a four-day workshop in Montana in September 2018 put on by a ranching couple who deal not only with wolves but also with grizzly bears and other predators.

The DelCurtos were so impressed by what they learned from Hilary and Andrew Anderson that they invited the couple to put on a two-day seminar in Halfway in early January.

The DelCurtos aren't the only Baker County ranchers who are preparing for another spring of moving their herds onto spring grazing lands where wolves roam, said George Rollins, who lives near Halfway and is the former co-chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Rollins said he has talked with many ranchers, including ones who lost calves to the Pine Creek pack last April, and "we expect the wolves to be back in the same area as they were last year."

"That seems to be their pattern," Rollins said.

One difference this spring, he said, is that ranchers won't be taken by surprise.

"People are much more aware, and they'll be watching out," he said.

Some ranchers plan to use fladry, a type of fencing designed to deter wolves.

Rollins said other ranchers he's talked with also plan to revise their grazing schedules to avoid moving cattle into the Low Hills country where several of the wolf attacks happened last spring.

"A lot of guys are altering their approach, delaying when they move cattle into that area or going to other private ground," he said. "They're trying to be proactive. Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome is not going to work."

Not every rancher has access to other early season grazing land, however, so there will be cattle in the Low Hills during the same period as last year, he said.

Rollins expects more range riders this spring, as well as a concerted effort among ranchers to increase the human presence around cattle and, if they see wolves, to make noise and otherwise try to haze the animals.

Oregon's wolf management plan doesn't allow ranchers to shoot wolves unless the animals are attacking livestock, but ranchers can fire guns into the air and make noise to try to scare off wolves.

See Wolves / Page 2A

ONLINE VOTING FOR GRANT TO HELP BUILD ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND

## Baker has a large lead in contest

With three days left in online voting, Baker City has a large lead in the contest to win a grant to help build an all-abilities playground.

As of this morning, Baker City's lead over second-place Prineville had topped 20,000 votes.

Voting continues through Wednesday in the Moda Assist program, which will award the winner a grant equal to \$20 for every assist the Portland Trail Blazers have during their 82-game regular season.

The grant total is likely to be about \$35,000.

As of this morning, Baker City had 57,846 votes. Prineville had 37,743, and the third competing city, Independence, had 13,934.

A campaign including social media posts and signs posted at several businesses reminds residents that they can vote once per day at nba.com/blazers/assist

See Contest / Page 2A

## Baker FFA president elected as district leader

Baker FFA Chapter President Ty Morrison has been elected Eastern Oregon FFA district president.

The Eastern Oregon FFA District includes Baker, North Powder, Pine-Eagle, Union, Cove, La Grande, Imbler, Elgin, Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph FFA chapters.

"We are excited to travel to Redmond for the State Convention March 21-25 with 18 students," Bibiana Giff, agriculture science teacher and FFA adviser with Baker Technical Institute at Baker High School, stated in an email to the Herald. "Ty will be competing at State FFA convention as a finalist in Job Interview, as well as competing on the Ag Marketing Team with Dallas Hardesty and Ron Bobo."



Morrison

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TODAY

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Letters ..... 4A

Lottery Results ..... 2A  
News of Record ..... 3A  
Obituaries ..... 2A

Opinion ..... 4A  
Sports ..... 5A & 6A  
Weather ..... 8B

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE