

Local & State

Spay/neuter fund has helped with almost 2,600 animals in 12 years

The Mollie Atwater and Friends Spay/Neuter Fund has helped pay for the spaying or neutering of almost 2,600 dogs and cats in Baker County and North Powder during its 13-year history. The organization works with the community to reduce the number of unwanted and homeless cats and dogs in Baker County and North Powder by assisting people with spay/neuter surgery costs and providing information on the benefits of spaying/neutering one's animals. The table at right has detailed numbers, based on the location, of the animals the Fund has helped. The figures are as of Dec. 31, 2018. The Fund started its 14th year in October 2018. Spaying and neutering feral cats and pets makes a difference in the health and well-being of our community and our animals, a spokesperson for the group stated. Both males and females contribute to the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens. Had the animals spayed or neutered with help from the Mollie Atwater Fund not been treated, and each had contributed to a litter of six puppies or kittens, then a minimum of 15,576 animals would have needed homes over the past

Mollie Atwater Spay/Neuter Fund Results

AREA	Domestic Dogs	Domestic Cats	Feral Cats	TOTAL
BAKER CITY (inside city limits)	374	641	395	1,410
BAKER CITY ADDRESS (outside city limits)	56	131	211	398
DURKEE	4	21	3	28
HAINES	35	53	40	128
HALFWAY	52	132	102	286
HEREFORD	3	6	0	9
HUNTINGTON	13	7	1	21
IRONSIDE	0	1	0	1
N. POWDER	21	49	69	139
OXBOW	1	1	20	22
RICHLAND	25	32	56	113
SUMPTER	4	15	1	20
UNITY	7	14	0	21
TOTALS	595	1,103	898	2,596

13 years. Money raised for this program is spent locally. The Mollie Atwater Fund has benefited from continued financial support from local residents and from the Gene and Charlotte Hale Animal Care Fund and James G.

Tyler Foundation. The Animal Clinic of Baker and Betty's Books also assist during the annual December grapefruit fundraiser. People needing help with spay/neuter surgery costs for their animals can pick up a request form in Baker City from the Animal Clinic

or Baker Veterinary Hospital, or you can write directly to the address below. People wanting to contribute to the local effort can send their tax-deductible donation to: Mollie Atwater and Friends Spay/Neuter Fund, P.O. Box 402, Baker City, OR 97814.

Bill ending nonmedical exemption for student vaccination advances

By Gary A. Wamer
WesCom News Service

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. Rep. Cheri Helt, R-Bend, is one of the bill's chief co-sponsors. "This was an important step in the journey to protect student health in our schools," Helt said in a statement after

the vote. "If passed by both chambers," she continued, "this bill will save lives and will further guarantee the safety of our students. It's time to replace the discredited idea that these vaccines are dangerous and ineffective with scientifically grounded, fact-based public policy." The bill goes to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for an analysis of its financial impact. If approved there, it would come up for a likely contentious House floor vote. Oregon is one of 17 states that allows students to attend school if they are not inoculat-

ed for personal, philosophical or religious reasons. Helt said she was motivated to sponsor the legislation because of a recent outbreak of measles that has sickened over 70 people in southwest Washington. A small number of cases have been found in Oregon. Helt has pointed to statistics from the Deschutes County Health Services Department showing nonmedical exemptions among kindergartners in Deschutes County have risen from 0.4 percent in 2000-01 to 11.6 percent in 2017-18. That's the fourth-highest percentage of Oregon's 36 counties. The statewide

percentage is 7.5 percent. Several proposed amendments by Republican lawmakers opposed to the bill were rejected by committee vote. The panel did approve an amendment requested by Helt. It would allow children who are not inoculated for nonmedical reasons to attend online schools. It bars non-inoculated children from attending school-related activities that would put them in contact with other individuals. It would allow a child who is not immunized and has not provided documentation of a medical diagnosis exemption, to continue to attend school until Aug. 1, 2020.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Filing deadline nears for May election

Directors will be elected May 21 to serve on special boards to represent districts ranging from those that oversee schools, water control, fire protection and other functions of communities throughout the county. Thursday, March 21, is the deadline for candidates to file for those positions. As of this morning only incumbent directors had filed for four-year terms to serve on the Baker School Board. Chris Hawkins, current board chair, has filed to serve a second four-year term in Position 1. Andrew Bryan, who originally was appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2010, has filed for a third four-year term in Position 2. And Julie Huntington, who was appointed to the Board in January 2018 to fill an unexpired term, has filed to serve a four-year term in Position 5. The deadline for filing for office is 5 p.m. Thursday at the County Clerk's Office in the Courthouse at 1995 Third St. Candidates must file a declaration of candidacy or a petition for nomination for office with the County Clerk's Office in time for the petition to be certified by 5 p.m. Thursday, said County Clerk Stephanie Kirby.

Baker County Democrats meet Thursday

The Baker County Democrats will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21, at Rogers Fellowship Hall, 1995 Fourth St. Refreshments will be available at social time, 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

YMCA has first Shamrock Run

The inaugural YMCA Shamrock Run & Little Leprechaun Color Run attracted 74 participants on a sunny Sunday at Baker City's Central Park. The event raised money for youth scholarships for YMCA programs. The Little Leprechaun color run for kids 1-12 was 1 mile with stops along the route as kids ran through a rainbow of colored chalk and found the leprechaun and her gold coins at the end. The Shamrock 5K route was along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway to Baker High School and back.

County seeking volunteers

Baker County is seeking volunteers to serve on its Planning Commission and on the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District. Volunteer forms are at www.bakercounty.org/ commissioners. More information is available by calling the Commission Office at 541-523-8200 or emailing hmartin@bakercounty.org

City planners to meet Wednesday

The Baker City Planning Commission will meet March 20 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. Planners will have a public hearing on a proposal to add 17,168 square feet to the Harvest Church at 3720 Birch St. Copies of the Harvest Church application are available at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St., and digital versions can be emailed by contacting the planning department at planning@bakercounty.org or 541-523-8219.

—Compiled from staff reports and press releases

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS
Marjorie Tibbets: 84, of Baker City, died March 14, 2019, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise with her family at her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

BIRTHS
Defrees: Jess and Nathan, of Baker City, 12:50 p.m., Feb. 20, 2019, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Baker City, a girl, Roslyn Duke, 7 pounds, 8

ounces; grandparents are Dean and Sharon Defrees and Joanne Harwood; great-grandfather is Lyle Defrees.

POLICE LOG
Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT: Tyler James Free, 26, of 18 Foothill Drive, 3:24 a.m. Saturday, at Ninth and Myrtle streets; jailed.
VIOLATION OF POST-PRISON SUPERVISION: Carmon Deon Hendriksen, 30, of 1021 Resort St., 9:33 a.m. Friday, in the 2300 block of 18th Street; jailed.

THEFT III: Joni Lea Linscott, 37, of 2420 Ninth St., 10:30 a.m. Friday, in the 3500 block of Pochontas Road; cited and released.
Baker County Sheriff's Office
Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO ABIDE BY TERMS OF DUI DIVERSION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant):

Vanessa Lynae Morgan, 21, of 2635 Auburn Ave., 10:32 a.m. Friday, at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released.
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Dave Martinez Munoz, 46, of Hailey, Idaho, 6:40 p.m. Friday, on Highway 30 near Lang Road; jailed and later released.

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Oregon Hunters Association

Annual Banquet

Oregon Hunters Association 2019 Fund Raising Banquet
Saturday, April 6th, 2019

Community Event Center (4H Grounds)
2600 East St., Baker City OR 97814
Raffles, Games, Live & Silent Auction
Doors Open 4:30 PM • Dinner 6 PM
Auction & Raffle 7 PM

Deadline for Dinner Ticket and Raffle Ticket Packages:
Friday, March 22nd. RESERVE YOURS EARLY
If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, contact Charlie at 541-403-0402

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