

Baker City Herald

April 19, 2019

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ila Duyn of Huntington.

BRIEFING

Shriners Kids Rodeo Saturday

Kids can try their skills at riding a stick horse, mutton busting and more at the 20th-annual Kids Rodeo hosted by the Baker County Shrine Club on Saturday. Activities start at 11 a.m. in the Cockram Arena at the Baker County fairgrounds following the Easter egg hunt at Geiser-Pollman Park. Kids are free; adult admission is \$5 and includes lunch.

Sen. Jeff Merkley plans town hall in Baker City April 24

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., will have a town hall Wednesday, April 24, at 3 p.m. at the Community Connection Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St.

Baker High STEM Club community science night set

The Baker High School STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is putting on a community science night on Wednesday, April 24, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the BHS gym.

WEATHER

Today

74 / 46



Showers late

Saturday

58 / 39



Partly sunny

Sunday

66 / 35



Partly sunny

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Owner Plans To Move To Former In & Out Drive-In Building

Taco Bus Rolls On



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Inside the Taco Bus, Maria Concepcion "Concha" Ochoa quickly prepares a wide variety of menu items.

By Chris Collins
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When she's not working at her day job as food service coordinator at the Powder River Correctional Facility, Yeni Arteaga is working at her other day job at the MC Taco Bus.

And so are several of her family members.

Her mother, Maria Concepcion "Concha" Ochoa, 46, is the MC for whom the taco bus is named.

The 31-year-old Arteaga has dedicated her work ethic, her time and her money into

establishing a family business to help ease the financial burden on her entire family, but especially on her mother.

After operating the bus for more than two years at the current location at 3240 10th St., just north of H Street, Arteaga is taking the business name — but not the actual bus — and moving a couple of blocks south to the former In & Out Drive-In Restaurant building at 2990 10th St.

The familiar red-and-white-striped drive-in originally opened in Baker City in 1954. The Lethlean family bought

the business in 1957 and operated it for the next 58 years before selling it in 2015. The restaurant was closed after it was sold and the iconic neon sign identifying its presence on 10th Street was removed.

As part of the \$129,500 sale agreement, Arteaga said she cannot use the In & Out business title. But she doesn't mind. MC Taco Bus suits her just fine.

"Everybody knows us like this," she says. "This is where we started."

See Taco Bus / Page 5A



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Yeni Arteaga and her niece, RaeLynne Jones, 2, join other family members at the MC Taco Bus. From left are sisters Jasmine, Miriam and at far right, Onoria, RaeLynne's mother. Third from left is their mother, Maria, followed by Top Lohachaichana, who is visiting from Portland, and Yeni's son, James.

PINE CREEK PACK IN EASTERN BAKER COUNTY

Wolves attack COW

■ Cow was euthanized due to injuries that state biologists attributed to wolves

By Jayson Jacoby
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An adult cow in eastern Baker County was euthanized on Tuesday due to injuries inflicted by wolves from the Pine Creek pack, according to a report from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The cow's owner, Barry DelCurto, found the animal Tuesday morning on a 300-acre private land grazing pasture in the North Pine Creek area east of Halfway. DelCurto, who lost one calf to wolves last April, declined to talk about Tuesday's attack.

He saw two wolves, one of which had a tracking collar, while checking on cattle at about 7:30 a.m., according to ODFW.

ODFW biologists inspected the cow and noted a piece of flesh, 8 inches long and 4 inches across, was missing. There were multiple tooth scrapes near the edge of the wound "showing clear evidence of attack from a predator," according to the report.

Biologists found cow tracks and wolf tracks less than half a mile from where the rancher found the injured cow. The report describes this as a "chase scene" with blood on the ground and on vegetation.

"The number and canine spacing of the bite marks, the location of the injury, and the wolf tracks present in the attack scene are clear evidence of a confirmed depredation by wolves of the Pine Creek Pack," the report concludes.

The Pine Creek pack consists of eight wolves, based on the most recent estimate from ODFW.

The pack killed four calves and injured seven others in April 2018. ODFW officials killed three wolves from the pack during that month.

See Wolves / Page 3A

Soggy spring puts damper on prescribed burning plan

By Jayson Jacoby
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Steve Hawkins is ready to burn, but the forest floor is not.

The cool and frequently damp spring has delayed the prescribed burning season on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, where Hawkins works as fuels program manager, by at least a few weeks beyond the typical start.

In some years the forest floor is dry enough to carry flames — but not too dry that the fire will spread more rapidly than managers would prefer — by early March.

This is not one of those years.

"It usually takes five days of dry weather and warmer temperatures to dry things out enough," Hawkins said on Wednesday. "We haven't really had more than two days without moisture in the last several weeks."

See Burning / Page 3A



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TODAY
Issue 148, 14 pages

Calendar 2A
Classified 4B-7B
Comics 3B

Community News 3A
Crossword 5B & 7B
Dear Abby 8B

Horoscope 5B & 7B
Jayson Jacoby 4A
News of Record 3A

Obituaries 2A & 3A
Opinion 4A
Outdoors 1B & 2B

Senior Menus 2A
Sports 6A
Weather 8B

MONDAY — BAKER HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND SPORTS ROUNDUP