

Baker City Herald

April 26, 2019

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Pedaling through the Burnt River Canyon

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robin Stone of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Prescription drug take back day set for Saturday

Residents can dispose of unneeded prescription drugs this Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Baker County Sheriff's Office, 3410 K St.

National Day of Prayer set May 2

A gathering for the annual National Day of Prayer is set for May 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Geiser-Pollman Park. Everyone is invited to the annual gathering to pray for the nation, state, counties and cities.

Truffle Shuffle set for Saturday

The 6th-annual Truffle Shuffle 5K run/walk and 10K run, a fundraiser for Baker City Young Life, starts at 9 a.m. at First Street and Washington Avenue. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for the kids race (12 and younger).

WEATHER

Today
62 / 32
Partly sunny

Saturday
62 / 30
Partly sunny

Sunday
56 / 30
Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Senator Answers Questions At Baker City Senior Center

Merkley In Town



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Sen. Jeff Merkley speaks during a town hall meeting Wednesday afternoon at the Baker City Senior Center. Merkley discussed climate change, immigration and other topics.

By Jayson Jacoby
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The national debate over last week's release of the Mueller report on the Trump-Russia investigation extended to Baker City on Wednesday afternoon at the conclusion of Sen. Jeff Merkley's town hall at the Senior Center.

Whitey Bloom of Halfway asked the final question of the hour-long event, which attracted about 50 people.

Bloom, who contends that the redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report exonerated President Trump, asked Merkley, a Democrat and a frequent Trump critic, whether the junior senator was "ready to accept those results and move on."

Merkley, who fielded questions from about 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., disputed Bloom's contention.

"The report doesn't absolve President Trump," Merkley said.

Bloom countered: "That's up for debate."

Merkley responded by noting

that the report lists 10 separate incidents that could constitute attempts by Trump to obstruct the investigation.

Merkley described these as "various forms of intimidation, obstruction."

These included Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey and his efforts to remove Mueller as special counsel.

"They certainly look inappropriate to me," Merkley said.

Bloom asked Merkley again whether he would "let it go?"

Merkley answered that he won't have any direct involvement immediately because it's up to the House of Representatives to decide whether to proceed with impeachment hearings.

Only if the House impeached Trump — analogous to a grand jury indictment in a criminal case — would the Senate become involved, in the form of a trial in which senators would decide whether to remove the president from office.

"As a potential member of the jury, I don't think it's appropriate for me to render judgment

(now)," Merkley said. "I'm going to leave it up to the House to wrestle with."

Merkley, who was elected to the Senate in 2008 and re-elected in 2014, didn't win a majority of votes in Baker County in either race. Baker County's electorate generally leans heavily toward Republican candidates in statewide and national races.

In 2014 Merkley polled at 33.2 percent in Baker County (his Republican challenger, Monica Wehby, received 60.2 percent), and in 2008 Merkley won 26 percent of votes cast in the county, while incumbent Republican Gordon Smith garnered 66 percent.

On Wednesday Baker City Mayor Loran Joseph introduced Merkley.

The senator then recognized Best Friends of Baker, a nonprofit that has helped find homes for about 6,200 dogs, cats and other animals since its founding in 1986.

See Merkley / Page 5A

County officials to visit road gate location

By Chris Collins
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The Baker County Commission agreed Wednesday during a special meeting to arrange to visit the site of a possible alternate public travel route bypassing a section of road blocked the past two years by locked gates installed by a private landowner near Lookout Mountain.

The alternate route would give hunters and other recreationists a way to travel from the Daly Creek Road to the Connor Creek Road, which leads to the Snake River Road and Brownlee Reservoir at the eastern end of the county.

In February, the county filed a complaint in Baker County Circuit Court against Todd D. Longgood and the Dennis Omer Hansen Revocable Living Trust demanding that two locked gates be removed near the western end of the Connor Creek Road, near its junction with the Daly Creek Road. The gates block access along what the county contends is public right of way through Longgood's property. The county's claim is based on the historic use of the route as allowed by a 19th century law, Revised Statute 2477.

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City working to make parks all-accessible

By Samantha O'Conner
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Baker City is working to make its parks ADA accessible.

The project includes building accessible sidewalks at Cedar Acres Park, South Baker Park, and the traffic island at the end of River Park. The city bought ADA-accessible tables from Natural Structures in 2016, and installed them the next year.

"Somewhere along the way we lost the fact that they were actually ADA-accessible tables but we didn't have any ADA access to them," said Joyce Bornstedt, the city's technical administrative supervisor. "So we thought, being as we haven't had any really big projects in the parks department this year, so we have a little bit of money still available in the fiscal year, that we would go ahead and put those accesses in so they could be utilized the way they are supposed to be."

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Local weaver's work featured in 'Missing Link' movie

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

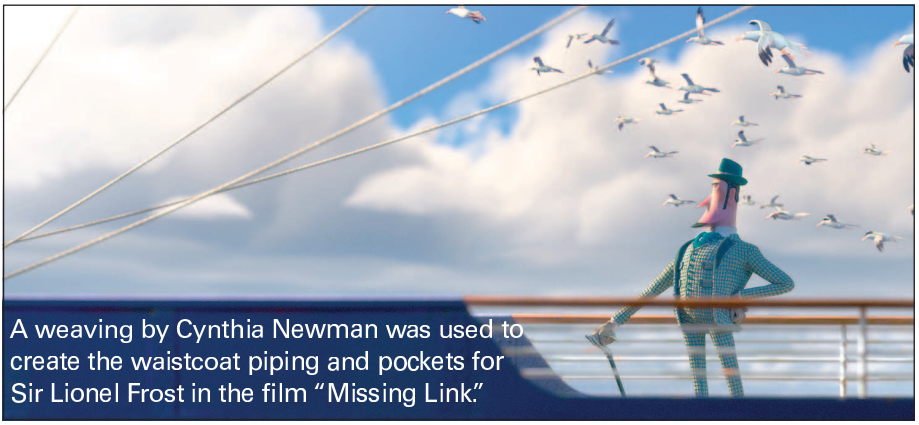
Cynthia Newman didn't know much about LAIKA, but she does know weaving.

The film studio, based in Hillsboro, was looking for a weaver to create fabric. They sought Newman via the Handweavers Guild of America.

"That weekend I wove up a gamp with the finest thread I had and mailed it off," Newman said.

"Gamp" is a sample of fabric woven with different patterns. Newman, who splits her time between Baker City and the Olympic Peninsula, has earned master weaver status through the Handweavers Guild of America.

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A weaving by Cynthia Newman was used to create the waistcoat piping and pockets for Sir Lionel Frost in the film "Missing Link"

Photographer-Videographer Steven Wong Jr.

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MONDAY — TREASURE TROVE OF PHOTOS DOCUMENT BAKER HISTORY



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