

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A
“She did a fantastic job,” Murdock said of Budd. “Her priority was to get everyone out of our home.”
No one was injured in the fire, said Baker City Fire Chief John Clark.
He said the cause of the fire is undetermined and under investigation.
The blaze started in the rear of Budd’s home, at 2389 Baker St., near the ground level, Clark said.

The fire caused structural damage but Clark said it’s not clear whether the home can be repaired.
The 1,200-square-foot home, built in 1930, is owned by Alan and Linda Schmeits, according to Baker County Assessor’s Office records.
Clark didn’t know whether the home was insured.
He said Budd and her son, the only two people living in the home, were both in the house when the fire started.
Clark said about 10 people from the Baker City Fire

Department worked on the blaze, along with four from the Baker Rural Fire District, four each from Haines and North Powder, and two from the Greater Bowen Valley Fire Protection District.
Murdock praised the rapid arrival of fire crews.
“I’m very, very happy with the fire department,” she said this morning. “They did an awesome job. If the fire people weren’t there so quickly our house would have been up in flames too.”
Murdock said that while

she was evacuating along with her husband and their two residents, she could see flames on the ground near the fence between the two homes.
But the fire didn’t cross the property boundary.
Murdock said she was able to return to her home, with her two residents, on Tuesday evening. The couple also have three children.
“Thank goodness they were at school during all this,” Murdock said.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A
Andersen said companies can turn certain plastics into refined crude oil.
“Instead of just raising rates and burying more plastic in the landfill, let’s start thinking ahead of the curve,” Andersen said. “There’s more than one way to skin a cat.”
During Tuesday’s meeting Andersen asked Baker Sanitary President David Henry about plastic recycling.
Henry said milk jugs are the only materials that his company can get value from as a recyclable.
“Other than that, they literally don’t want any sort of like mixed plastic,” Henry said.
In a recent letter to the City Council, Henry wrote that China’s decision in 2018 to stop importing some plastic items from the U.S.

has made it difficult for his company to accept those items at its recycling center at 12th and Campbell streets in Baker City.
Henry told the Council Tuesday that he is “happy to explore any option” in finding an alternative way to recycle mixed plastic.
Schiewe asked Henry when he expected to request another rate increase.
Henry said he didn’t have a forecast for that, but if he had to make an estimate it would likely be four to five years, and the proposed increases would be smaller than the current version.
The franchise agreement that gives Baker Sanitary the exclusive right to collect trash in Baker City allows the company to raise rates by up to 5 percent annually without City Council approval. Larger increases require the endorsement of

councilors, however.
The increase the Council approved Tuesday is Baker Sanitary’s first since 2007.
Also attending Tuesday’s meeting were members of Baker City Trash Talk, a local group that advocates for recycling, composting and other ways to reduce the amount of material that goes to Baker Sanitary’s landfill a few miles southeast of town.
Gretchen Stadler, a member of the group, asked the Council to call for Baker Sanitary to “establish a formal waste management education and outreach program as a condition of their rate increase.”
Stadler said she “appreciates Baker Sanitary’s consideration of input from the council, customers and from Baker City Trash Talk.”
However, Stadler contends that residents need “clear information and accurate

instruction in order to recycle correctly.”
Baker City Trash Talk member Susan Triplett said the Baker Sanitary franchise agreement will be up for renewal in 2021 and it “seems like a very good time to look at what the Baker City residents may want and what they may expect and what the state may be wanting and they expect of us and Baker Sanitary’s role in recycling.”
Mayor Loran Joseph said the franchise renewal is the time “where we would be able to change the requirements for Baker Sanitary” — a separate matter from the company’s rate schedule.
In other business Tuesday, councilors discussed the ongoing effort to work with the Forest Service to reduce the risk of wildfire in the city’s 10,000-acre watershed in the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles west of town.

WOLVES

Continued from Page 1A
The Pine Creek pack, the only designated wolf pack in Baker County, generally travels in that eastern part of the county.
Ratliff said recently that it’s likely the Pine Creek pack’s breeding female has given birth to a litter of pups for the second straight year.

The breeding female moved into a den recently.
Biologists probably won’t know for a while, though, how many pups were born.
Ratliff said they will set up game cameras near the den to try to capture photographs of the pups when they venture out.
Biologists can usually say with considerable confidence that a breeding female has

dened, even before the pups appear, based on what tracking collars reveal about the movement of the female and other wolves in the pack, Ratliff said.
The breeding female, naturally, tends to stay in the den.
But other wolves in the pack travel back and forth from the den, creating what biologists call the “wagon wheel” pattern — the travel routes of the wolves functioning as the

spokes of the wheel.
The Pine Creek pack’s breeding female, which ODFW designated as OR-36, gave birth to seven pups in mid April 2018.
The Pine Creek pack killed four calves and injured seven others in April 2018.
Wolves from the pack also injured a calf in April of this year. The calf was later euthanized.

WILDFIRE

Continued from Page 1A
The cause of the fire is under investigation, said Larisa Bogardus, public affairs officer for the BLM’s Baker Resource

Area.
Four BLM engines, along with volunteers from the Burnt River RFPA, worked on the fire, which was contained at 5 p.m. and controlled at 8 p.m.
Firefighters had to hike in to the blaze,

which burned in steep terrain that wasn’t accessible to vehicles.
Crouch said the fire was burning mainly in dead, dry grass. New green grass that has sprouted this spring helped slow the spread of the flames, he said.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 2A
Baker High School students will graduate in a ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

- A report from Superintendent Mark Witty on

summer program offerings; an update on an assessment of the Central Building being conducted by the Portland firm Stantec as part of Baker Technical Institute’s Brownfield Cleanup program; and a report on legislative action taking place in Salem.
Items slated for action

include the hiring of Darcy Wood to teach third grade at Brooklyn Primary School; and these certified resignations: Elizabeth Olson, Brooklyn Primary second-grade teacher; Hope Watts, BHS/BMS band director; and Heather Yaw, Brooklyn third-grade teacher.

BOND

Continued from Page 1A
The superintendent said some people he’s talked to who opposed the last plan have told him they would support a bond that was a shorter term, less money and called for remodeling existing buildings rather than building a new school, which was included in the proposed \$48 million proposal.
Amber VanOcker, with the Boise firm LKV Architects, and Cassie Hibbert of the Wenaha Group project management and consulting firm, returned to Baker City with a revised plan for the Board to consider during Tuesday’s work session.

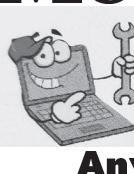
The two, along with Scott Rogers, also of the Wenaha Group, presented several scenarios during an April meeting with the Board.
The latest — the \$10 million bond to paid over a 10-year term — also would include a \$4 million state matching grant and \$2 million to be contributed by the District to pay for school improvements totaling \$16 million.
The plan was part of the April presentation, with a few adjustments.
It calls for realigning school buildings to make better use of existing space and includes district-wide safety and security improvements, energy efficiency upgrades and includes an allowance for “renovation unknowns” at each building, VanOcker and Hibbert told the Board.
Brooklyn School, which currently serves students in kindergarten through Grade 3, would be remodeled for K-2 students at a cost of \$1, 383,311. The improvements would include a new restroom addition and reconfiguration of the administrative offices and entryway.

built on the property for a cost of \$2,567,076.
At this time, seventh- and eighth-graders eat lunch, which is transported to the school daily, on the balcony level of the gymnasium at the southwest end of the building.
Other improvements call for reconfiguring the historic Fourth Street entry for the administrative area and main entry of the building, modernizing the locker rooms and replacing windows with energy efficient new windows at historic height to allow more daylight into the classrooms. Exterior upgrades also would include minor landscaping, fencing and sidewalk repair.
Seventh- and eighth-graders would move to Baker High School. Improvements to the building to accomplish that goal are estimated at \$7,242,140.
Those costs include a Grade 7-8 science classroom addition, reconfiguring the entry for safety, security and visibility, library and special education area upgrades, a locker room addition for Grades 7-8 and modernizing the existing locker rooms.
Safety, security and energy efficiency upgrades and a contingency for other renovation unknowns are estimated at \$2,189,085.
There are no plans for upgrades at the North Baker School Building, which will continue to be used by the Baker Web Academy and Early College, Eagle Cap High School and for early learning programs.
A committee formed to consider the future of the Central Building, which most recently served middle school students before it was closed in 2009, is seeking a community use for the historic building, Witty said.
Renovation of the building, if the work were to go out for bid in 2021, is estimated at \$13,620,698, VanOcker said. That does not include the unknowns that could crop up during renovation, she said.
“The Central Building doesn’t seem to be a viable option,” said Chris Hawkins, Board chair.
Director Julie Huntington agreed.
“Even though people wanted that building (preserved), I didn’t hear them clamoring for a school,” she said about earlier school improvement discussions. “They just want it to be saved.”

Baker County Weed District giving away herbicide at several events this spring

Baker County’s Weed District is again giving away pre-mixed herbicide designed to target whitetop and Scotch thistle. There are changes to this year’s event.
First, the person who picks up the herbicide must also be the one who will apply it. The applicator’s name must be affixed to the container. Applicators must bring their own chemical-resistant container, preferably one that held gas or oil, and a pair of chemical-resistant gloves. There is a 5-gallon limit per household.

- The giveaway locations and times:
- Richland, wildflower corner along Highway 86, west side of town, May 17, 7 a.m. to noon
 - Baker City, former ODOT building, 1050 S. Bridge St., May 24, 7 a.m. to noon
 - Baker City, former ODOT building, 1050 S. Bridge St., June 1, 7 a.m. to noon
 - Hereford Community Hall and Unity Community Hall, June 7, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Mobile Service

Outstanding

Computer Repair

Any issue \$40 flat rate
Call or Text 24/7
Dale Bogardus 541-297-5831

When your computer is in despair,
call Outstanding Computer Repair!

www.outstandingcomputerrepair.com
Refurbished Desktop & Laptops For Sale
House calls (let me come to you!)
Drop Offs & Remote Services are Available
All credit cards accepted





NOW OPEN

Eagle Cap Nursery

Come out & see us!
Open 7 days a week from 10 AM to 4 PM
(541) 523-6627
Located in Keating Valley
Hwy 86 to 10 mile marker Keating cut-off, 6 miles, school, stay right 3 miles.



Wallowa Lake Lodge Opens

Friday May 24!

Experience One of the Great Historic Lodges
of the American West.

Camas Dining Room Under New Management!



60060 Wallowa Lake Highway
Wallowa Lake, Oregon
541-432-9821 • wallowalake.com