

Baker City Herald

May 20, 2019 Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com



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

City to have look at new budget

Baker City's budget board will have its first look at the proposed spending plan for next fiscal year when it convenes this evening, and the document will be familiar to those who went through the process a year ago.

"The revenues and expenditures for the year have stayed in line with the budget that was adopted last year," City Manager Fred Warner Jr. wrote in his budget message to the board.

He describes the proposed 2019-20 budget as "once again a status quo budget." The city is not proposing to hire any new employees during the fiscal year.

The budget board, which consists of the seven elected City Council members and seven city residents appointed by the Council, will meet at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

The board is slated to meet Tuesday at the same time, and the deliberations could continue on Wednesday and Thursday, also at 6 p.m., if needed.

The City Council alone has the final authority to adopt the budget. That must happen by June 30. The city's new fiscal year starts July 1.

In the budget message, Warner writes that the city's cash balance at the end of the current fiscal year will be an estimated \$160,000 more than was budgeted.

The main reason is lower-than-expected personnel costs in the Police Department.

The Department has had several vacant positions at times during the fiscal year. Chief Wyn Lohner retired in May 2018, and there were multiple other positions that went unfilled.

Warner writes that the Police Department should be at full staffing by the end of June.

The situation is different with the Fire Department, where the hiring of three firefighters with a federal grant has not reduced overtime costs as much as expected, Warner wrote.

Personnel costs in the Fire Department have been consistent with the adopted budget, however. Through March — 75% of the fiscal year elapsed — personnel costs were 73.5% of the budgeted total. Police Department personnel costs at that point amounted to 65.6% of budget.

See **Budget**/ Page 2A

Students Painting Murals at Baker High School

Colorful Creations



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Johnny Zhang, an exchange student from China and sophomore at Baker High School, paints a pronghorn antelope as part of a mural in the science hallway at BHS.

By Samantha O'Conner
sococonner@bakercityherald.com

Baker High School is adding color to its interior walls, beginning with students painting a mural in the science hallway, representing the various sciences.

Jill Nelson, who monitors the computer lab at BHS, said other teachers proposed the mural and students started work on the project last year.

She got together with her class to brainstorm possible ideas for the mural. They had smaller groups who collaborated to get some ideas going. As a large group, they decided on the design.

The mural begins with six scientists painted in the Pop Art theme of Andy Warhol — Amy Mainzer, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Stephen Hawking, Bill Nye, Jane Goodall and Michio Kaku.

See **Mural**/ Page 2A



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Koedi Birmingham puts the finishing touches on a cow that's part of a mural at Baker High School.



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

The new mural at Baker High School features profiles of six famous scientists.

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Chelsea Blatchford of Baker City.

Sports, 5A

Baker's boys and girls tennis teams each placed seventh Saturday at the Class 4A/3A/2A/1A state tennis tournament at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Sports, 5A

PORTLAND — With Kevin Durant out, Draymond Green has taken it upon himself to boost Golden State.

And boy, has he.

Green had 20 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, and the Warriors beat the Portland Trail Blazers 110-99 on Saturday night for a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

BRIEFING

Work continues on Washington Ave.

Drivers should expect delays and possible detours this week on Washington Avenue between the Powder River and Clark Street as crews install a new, larger water line in the area. Workers this week will bore under the river. They will be working from about 40 feet west of the river east to Clifford St. The work is being done in advance of a street repaving project this summer.

WEATHER

Today

61 / 41



Rain showers

Tuesday

56 / 43



Rain showers

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.



TODAY
Issue 4, 16 pages

Calendar 2A
Classified 4B-9B
Comics 3B

Community News 3A
Crossword 5B & 7B
Dear Abby 10B

Home 1B & 2B
Horoscope 5B & 7B
Lottery Results 2A

News of Record 2A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A

Senior Menus 2A
Sports 3A, 5A & 6A
Weather 10B

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE