

Baker City Budget Board starts working through spending plan

By Samantha O’Conner
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The Baker City Budget Board pored over the proposed spending plan Monday and Tuesday nights and was set to reconvene this evening at City Hall to possibly approve the budget.

Tonight’s meeting starts at 6 o’clock at City Hall, 1655 First St.

During its first meeting Monday the 14-member board, which consists of the seven elected city councilors and seven appointed city residents, elected Randy Daugherty, a former city councilor, as chairman, and current Councilor Doni Bruland as vice chair.

In a written message to the board, City Manager Fred Warner Jr. described the proposed budget, for the fiscal year that starts July 1, as “status quo.”

Police Chief Dustin Newman told the board that his department, after having vacancies for much of the past year, is now fully staffed.

Newman said the department has received a federal grant to install a switch and pad for an electrical generator at the police department in case the power goes out.

In discussing the fire department budget, Warner noted that all employees there will switch to a 56-hour shift with

a goal of reducing overtime costs.

The department will not replace a firefighter/paramedic who will be retiring soon.

Fire Chief John Clark said the department’s biggest needs are replacing aging ambulances. The newest ambulance is a 2014 model, and the two others are from 2005 and 2006.

Clark said ambulances typically last about a decade.

In his budget message Warner wrote that the hiring of three firefighters through a three-year federal grant has not curbed overtime in the fire department as much as city officials had hoped.

RINGS

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“It means so much to me and the whole team,” said Rose Gwillim, one of the team’s three seniors, after the hour-long ceremony that brought about 75 people to the BHS gym.

“That’s what makes this thing so special to us. We play for our whole community. They do so much for us. It’s just awesome.”

But before Gwillim and her teammates received their rings, Sand gave them one final test to see what they retained from the dozens of hours of time they spent together, working toward the ultimate goal that ended with a 51-48 win over Marist in the state championship game on March 9.

As Sand talked about the team’s magical season he told the audience the two basketball terms he had repeated endlessly — “rebounds and free throws.”

And then he turned to his players, who were seated in purple and gold Baker Bulldog chairs arrayed in a semicircle near midcourt, and asked them to explain what those two basketball skills do.

They immediately responded in unison — albeit with a few raised eyebrows indicating just how often they had heard this particular mantra.

“Win games.”

Sand smiled.

“See, they were listening.”

“I can’t say enough about this team and how they bought into the philosophy, the teaching.”

— **Mat Sand, Baker girls basketball coach**

he said.

And that, the fourth-year coach said, epitomizes this group.

“I can’t say enough about this team and how they bought into the philosophy, the teaching,” Sand said.

“This team is off the charts from any team I’ve coached in basketball IQ.”

Before handing out the rings to each player individually, Sand had one more piece of instruction, although it was really more of an order.

“You cannot look at your ring until everybody has one,” he said.

Sand spoke about each player in turn, highlighting each of their unique contributions to what became Baker’s first girls state championship basketball team.

He talked about Sydney Keller’s tenacity and Lauren Benson’s selflessness and Sydney Younger’s growing confidence and Averi Elms’ heart.

Sand reminisced about what he’ll miss from the team’s three seniors — Alayna Calaway, Jayme Ramos and Gwillim — and he talked about how excited he is to coach the returning players again next season.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald
The rings feature “Class 4A state champions.”

In summarizing Gwillim’s statistical prowess — she scored 549 points and snared 240 rebounds in her career — Sand lamented that she arrived in Baker City only in time to play two seasons.

“I wish I had her for more than two years, but the two years were great,” he said.

“The most amazing thing about Rose is her personality. She always has fun, and she’s a fierce competitor.”

Sand introduced Ramos last, calling it a “sentimental moment for me.”

Ramos is the only player Sand has coached every year at BHS.

“I couldn’t ask for a better representation of what I was trying to teach,” he said of Ramos, who scored 1,024 points during her career.

He said Ramos epitomized everything he expected from his players, “on the court and in the classroom.”

Sand also introduced and awarded rings to assistant coaches Amy Younger, Jason Ramos and Shawn Berry, and

he thanked others who had coached the players in middle school and earlier, as well as their parents.

“I want to thank our community for being such a great supporter for our program, and our great student body,” Sand said.

When he had distributed the last ring he told the players to open their boxes.

Each ring has a No. 1, “4A State Champions,” “Baker” the team’s season record of 25-1, and the player’s last name.

Sand also urged the players to look at the single word inscribed inside each ring.

That word, he said, is one the team chose at the start of the year to define what they hoped to achieve.

The word is “unity.”

“I believe we did a great job,” he said.

Sand also recognized Rocky Brown, who helped organize the fundraising campaign that paid for 18 rings, each of which cost \$250.

Brown, who had spearheaded fundraising to buy rings for Baker’s state championship football teams in 2010 and 2012, said eight families each donated money to buy one ring for a girls basketball player.

Brown said he also collected donations at Lew Brothers Les Schwab Tires, with amounts ranging from \$5 to \$300.

“It was a real community effort,” Brown said.

MOSAIC

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Trinity Frye, a junior, chose to depict birch trees in her square and worked on the skies in the larger mosaics using clay and glass pieces.

Students’ works ranged from touching on Baker’s mining legacy, the Oregon Trail, and local camping and hiking areas.

Chania Miller, a senior, depicted a wagon with trees on the side and mountains in the back.

“I thought it was fun,” she said.

Junior Baylee Hatfield designed her square with Anthony Lakes as her inspiration, and fellow junior Jocelyn Wellman chose inspiration from the Eagle Mountains.

Others based their designs on the seasons. Seniors Eli Lien and Andrea Pettit chose to incorporate winter into their squares.

“It reminded me of like a puzzle because you had to, like, make sure each piece fit with the next one and you just filled out an image using different pieces of mosaic tiles,” Lien said. “I did like a tree and winter is my favorite time.”

Pettit’s square has a snowman in a mining cart.

“I really like winter here because we get a lot of snow and the thing I like the

most was when my sister and I would try to make snowmen,” said Pettit. “And they wanted us to also incorporate Oregon into it, so I thought about mining first since they do that a lot for like Miners Jubilee, so I just put them together.”

Anderson said her plan is to do another mosaic maybe every two to three years.

“We have to accumulate the materials again,” she said.

Anderson said she also would like to expand on the mosaic art project, covering the length of the New Directions building and even an adjacent wall to make a large art mural in that area.

There will be a ceremony with the high school students at the mural May 29.

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NEWS OF RECORD

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POLICE LOG
Baker County Sheriff’s Office
Arrests, citations
ASSAULT II and MENACING: Christian Rod Ries, 31, of Huntington, 5:41 p.m. Tuesday at

Huntington; jailed.
Oregon State Police Arrests, citations
MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL BY CONSUMPTION, DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS and

RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING ANOTHER PERSON: Rylie J. Dickison, 20, of Baker City, 10:32 p.m. Friday, May 10, at Highway 245 and Denny Flat Road; cited and released.
MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL BY CONSUMPTION: Nykademaus Rose, 18, of Rock Springs, Wyoming, 10:32 p.m. Friday, May 10, at Highway 245 and Denny Flat Road; cited and released.



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POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU PG
FRI & SAT: (4:10) 7:10, 9:40 SUN: (4:10) 7:10 MON-TH: 7:10

THE HUSTLE PG-13
FRI & SAT: (4:20) 7:20, 9:45 SUN: (4:20) 7:20 MON-TH: 7:20

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LOCAL BRIEFING

BHS Class of 1959 planning reunion

The Baker High School Class of 1969 will celebrate its 50-year reunion on June 7, 8 and 9. On Friday night, June 7, class members will meet at the Veterans Memorial Club, 2005 Valley Ave., at 7 p.m. On Saturday, June 8, there will be a walking tour of downtown at 10 a.m., class pictures at the high school at 3 p.m. and dinner at the Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St., at 5:30 p.m. (reservations required; call Helen Pass at 541-403-0336). On Sunday, June 9, the class will have a farewell get-together at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All classes are welcome to stop by and visit. More information is available by calling Pass at the above number, or Marilyn Delashmutt at 541-523-6125.

BHS Class of 1952 has brunch Saturday

The Baker High School Class of 1952 will have a no-host brunch on Saturday, May 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sunridge Restaurant.

— *Compiled from staff reports and press releases*

POT SALES

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“People who use it are going to use it no matter where they buy it, and it would seem to me that is a lot of revenue we could generate for Baker City,” Perry said.

Huntington, where the county’s first marijuana dispensary opened in February 2016, brought in \$631,000 in pot taxes during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018. The city has two recreational pot dispensaries and a wholesale marijuana growing and processing operation.

Sumpter, which has two marijuana dispensaries, brought in about \$50,000 in taxes during the previous fiscal year.

Perry, who has worked for about 25 years with the group now known as the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition, as well as with MayDay, the nonprofit that helps victims of domestic and sexual abuse, said that although she opposed the legalization of recreational marijuana, she understands that it has a medicinal value for some people.

Perry said she plans to introduce the topic at a future City Council meeting.

Retail marijuana sales are also illegal in unincorporated parts of Baker County, a decision made by the county commissioners in 2015.

HONORS

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- Andrew Shoemake was born on July 6, 1913, at Creston, Tennessee, but he called La Grande his hometown. He graduated from Baker High School. He served from December 1941 to April 1942. He died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp on Jan. 31, 1945.
- Robert Shoemake was born on July 26, 1920, at Castleford, Idaho. He grew up in Baker City and La Grande, graduating from La Grande High School in 1941. In July 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served overseas in Italy and participated in the battles of Naples/Foglia, Northern Apennines, and Rome/Arno. He was discharged Oct. 10, 1945. He died on March 26, 2008.
- James Shoemake was born on May 23, 1925, at Castleford, Idaho. He graduated from La Grande High School in 1943 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was honorably discharged after serving in World War II in the Pacific Islands. He died on Feb. 24, 2012.
- Oscar Shoemake was born on Sept. 12, 1929, at Baker City. He graduated from La Grande High School and Eastern Oregon College of Education (now Eastern Oregon University). He served during the Korean War with an Army hospital in Japan. He died on June 13, 2001.

Temporary Farm Labor: CSS Farms, Holbrook, ID, has 3 positions, 3 mo. exp. maintaining, repairing & operating large farm equipment for cultivating, planting, spraying, harvesting & shipping potatoes, irrigation maint.; maintain building, equip & vehicles; long periods of standing, bending & able to lift 75#; must able to obtain driver’s license with clean MVR within 30 days; once hired, workers may be required to take employer paid random drug tests; testing positive/failure to comply may result in immediate termination from employment; employer provides free tools, equipment, housing and daily trans; trans & subsistence expenses reimb.; \$13.48/hr, increase based on exp. w/ possible bonus, may work nights, weekends, holidays & asked but not required to work Sabbath; 75% work period guaranteed from 7/15/19 – 11/17/19. Review ETA790 requirements and apply with JO# 1193595 at nearest OR Workforce Office or call 503-947-1659.

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