



GO! Magazine Your guide to upcoming arts and entertainment happening around Northeast Oregon

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Virginia Orr of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Stop B2H Coalition plans workshop in Baker City on Thursday

The Stop B2H Coalition, which opposes a proposed power transmission line that Idaho Power Company wants to build, including through Baker County, is sponsoring a workshop in Baker City on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. at the Churchill School at Broadway and 16th streets. The event will help people develop comments for the Oregon Department of Energy public hearing June 19 in Baker City. More information is available at www.stopb2h.org

Cornhole tourney supports CASA

CASA of Eastern Oregon will hold a cornhole tournament on Friday, June 14, at 6 p.m. at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St. Entry is \$50 per two-person team. Play is double elimination. Spots are limited. To sign up, email info@casaeo.org.

The evening also includes music, food, silent auction items and kid activities. Proceeds from the evening support CASA — Court-Appointed Special Advocates, who help advocate for children in court and other settings.

WEATHER

Today

88 / 56



Isolated storms

Thursday

84 / 51



Mostly sunny

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Missoula Children's Theater Returns To Baker City

Summer Stage

■ This week's performance is the first of 3 scheduled this summer



Youngsters in the Circus Band group include Zayne Hills, 9, front center, Madi Cooper, 8, right, and plenty of other children, who are eager to perform their roles on stage.

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Tatjana Moore knows how to work with kids.

She toured with Missoula Children's Theater for two years, from 2013 to 2015.

After that, she taught preschool in Chicago.

"I had 15 two-year-olds," she said.

She also performed a children's puppet show at Chicago's public libraries with Jake Moore — who became her husband.

Now she is back with MCT, touring "Jack and the Beanstalk" with her husband as her partner actor/director.

They are joined by Seth Holten, an assistant for the show who will start his own tour in



Tatjana Moore is with the Missoula Children's Theater.

the Midwest and Northeastern United States in several weeks.

This week the trio is in Baker City working with 53 youth from ages 7 to 18 to create an entire musical in just five days.

Yes, five days.

It all began with auditions on Monday. By noon, all youngsters had their parts and a rehearsal

schedule for the week.

Performances are 6 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday at the Baker High School auditorium. Admission is \$5, although all dads will be treated to free entry in honor of Father's Day.

The community is welcome to attend. Admission helps ensure MCT comes back to the community again, a tradition now in its 10th season through Crossroads Carnegie Art Center.

"We want everybody to bring their friends and come see the show," said Ginger Savage, Crossroads executive director.



Jake Moore

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County officials: Smith issue is money, not work

■ Two commissioners say they were pleased with Greg Smith's economic development work, but a major drop in lodging taxes makes the contract unaffordable

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey and Commissioner Bruce Nichols say their decision to not extend the county's contract with economic developer Greg Smith is based on declining revenue, not on Smith's performance as the county's contractor over the past several years.

Both commissioners also said they were not concerned about potential conflicts of interests based on Smith's contracts as an economic developer with adjacent counties, or his service as a state legislator.

The Baker County Economic Development Council, which advises Harvey, Nichols and the third commissioner, Mark Bennett, voted Thursday not to renew Smith's \$96,000-per-year contract when the new fiscal year starts July 1.

The reason, both Harvey and Nichols said on Monday, is that revenue from a tax collected from guests at motels and other lodging establishments has dropped substantially over the past fiscal year.

That lodging tax revenue is the source of the money for Smith's contract.

The contract, which took effect July 1, 2018, was slated to continue through June 30, 2022. The contract includes a clause allowing either party to cancel the agreement with 60 days written notice. That clause also allows the county to end the deal if "funding from federal, state or other sources is not obtained and continued at levels sufficient to allow for the purchase of the indicated quantity of services."

Harvey said Smith "did very good work for us for many years."



Harvey



Nichols

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City Council approves fees for nonresidents

■ Fee for some fire department responses only for people who don't live, or own property, inside the city

By Samantha O'Conner
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The Baker City Council on Tuesday approved the first two readings of an ordinance imposing fees on nonresidents for some fire department emergency services.

Fire Chief John Clark and Finance Director Jeanie Dexter presented the ordinance to councilors.

The fees, as much as \$250 per

hour plus labor costs for incidents in which a fire engine or ladder truck responds, do not apply to people who live within the city or who pay city property taxes.

The ordinance does not affect fees for ambulance runs. The city already charges both residents and nonresidents for that service.

The new fee would be assessed in situations such as a car accident

that blocks traffic or starts a fire that requires the fire department to send equipment other than an ambulance.

Councilor Doni Bruland asked if the ordinance would apply to visitors.

Clark said it would, so long as the person doesn't own property within the city limits.

He said the idea behind the ordi-

nance is that the city has no way to recoup some of its costs from people who don't pay property taxes to the city. Those taxes are a major source of revenue for both the fire and police departments.

Gross asked how aggressive city officials would be in trying to collect fees from out-of-state residents.

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TODAY
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FRIDAY — HIKING TRAIL AN ANTIDOTE TO THE LINGERING SNOWDRIFT