

School District secures \$4 million

■ State grant would be available if voters approve a bond measure in May 2020

By Chris Collins
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If the Baker School District wins voter approval of a bond measure in the May 2020 election, the state will throw in a matching \$4 million grant.

The District announced Monday that it has received commitment of the matching grant from the Oregon Department of Education. The Baker School District is one of eight to qualify for the grant under the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program, Superintendent Mark Witty stated in a press release. The program has \$35 million available for the May election cycle.

In August, Witty appointed

a 12-member committee to review how to help meet the District’s building needs with a plan that would cost less, be for a shorter payment term, and place priority on remodeling existing buildings over new construction. The committee was appointed after the Board considered public comment about why a \$48 million bond measure was rejected by two-thirds of District voters in November 2018.

Committee members are Martin Arritola, Tori Brown, Jess Blatchford, Travis Cook, Stacy DeLong, Riley Hall, Coby Mastrude, Bob McKim, Lynette Perry, Wes Price, Angela Robb, and Dana Simonski.

The group is expected to make a recommendation

to the Baker School Board before Nov. 1. The Board has rescheduled its customary third Thursday of the month session to Monday, Oct. 21. The meeting will take place as usual at 6 p.m. in Council chambers at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St.

Witty says he expects the committee to recommend a bond measure of between \$5 million and \$10 million. This would meet requirements to secure the \$4 million OSCIM grant.

Additional money also might be available through the Student Success Act (House Bill 3427), which has student health and safety as one of its four priorities, Witty said.

This spring’s lower-cost

bond request will focus on safety and security, as well as seeking to alleviate overcrowding at Brooklyn and South Baker schools by shifting grade levels, Witty said. This would include remodeling Baker High School to accommodate seventh- and eighth-graders.

The November 2018 bond measure would have been paid for over 30 years. That plan also would have included building a new elementary school and addressed additional issues of providing a 21st century learning environment, operational costs and energy efficiency, deferred maintenance and repair costs, community facilities, technology, and limiting transitions for children and families.

GOODRICH

Continued from Page 1A

Last week workers installed a new outlet pipe that’s protected by steel plates, said Michelle Owen, the city’s public works director.

Crews also built a retaining wall consisting of concrete blocks with layers of textile mesh between them.

Workers also connected the existing drain lines, which are intended to prevent water seepage from destabilizing the slope, and linked those lines to a pipe near one end of the wall.

This winter the city will work with engineers to design an improved drainage system for the site. Owen said that system is slated to be installed in 2020.

According to a report written by Dwayne M. Weston, chief of the engineering and construction division, and dam safety officer for the Corps of Engi-

neers’ Walla Walla, Washington, District, the July slide of dirt and rocks covered an area about 150 feet by 75 feet.

“There were multiple active seeps from the slope failure area that appeared to be running clear water, and picking up sediment as it flowed down the face of the slope failure,” the report reads.

The city usually starts using water from Goodrich around late July or early August, when water demand rises and the flow of springs and streams in the city’s 10,000-acre watershed, on the east slopes of the Elkhorns, drops.



Photo by Tom Fisk, Baker City Public Works
Baker City Public Works employees build a retaining wall on a slope that slid in early July. The site is below Goodrich Dam.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

A proposed contract included in councilors’ packets Tuesday called for a one-year contract that would continue Warner’s current annual salary of \$101,959.

The city would save an estimated \$6,000 in PERS contributions it would not have to make after he retires.

Councilor Doni Bruland suggested scheduling a work session on the topic, and the other councilors agreed.

In other business Tuesday, councilors postponed action on a proposed amendment to the city’s truancy ordinance.

Police Chief Ray Duman said the Baker County Justice Court and Baker County Juvenile Department requested the amendment, which would allow the Justice Court judge to fine juveniles cited for being truant.

Now, the judge can fine only parents or guardians of children who are truant.

Councilors want to meet with officials from the Juvenile Department before deciding whether to change the ordinance.

Warner said the city will suggest language allowing the judge to impose community service on juveniles in place of a monetary fine.

“When I discussed this with

the mayor, we talked about should we add language; \$100 for the first conviction or some other sanction that the judge would impose and we can put that down on all three,” Warner said. “The impression that I didn’t want to have is that this was just monetary. I mean we’re trying to get the kids in compliance.”

Also on Tuesday:

- The council approved ordinance 3848, which gives the city the authority to conduct criminal background checks for prospective city employees, taxi drivers and certain volunteer positions.

Duman said an audit conducted in July showed that

the city, because it lacks such an ordinance, is out of compliance with the Oregon State Police/Law Enforcement Data System.

- Councilors awarded a bid for \$186,339 to Michels Corporation of Salem for a Cured In Place Pipe project.

The city has used this process for the past decade. The contractor, rather than digging up and replacing sewer or stormwater pipes, installs a liner.

This year’s project includes 2,879 lineal feet of lining including along Hillcrest Drive, Seventh Street, Grove Street, and six alley and backyard line sections.

Traffic restrictions over Hells Canyon Dam on several days

OXBOW — Travel will be restricted across Hells Canyon Dam on several days later this month. The closure schedule, which is subject to change (all times are Pacific):

- Oct. 14-15 — access closed between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. for spillgate repairs
- Oct. 22-23 — access closed from 7 a.m. to

11 a.m. and noon to 4 p.m. for line work and intake gate inspection

- Oct. 24 — access closed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for line work and intake gate inspection
- Oct. 25 — access might be closed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for line work and intake gate inspection (this closure will be canceled if the work is finished the previous day)

HEART TO HEART

Salt Lick Auction is a wonderful event

You certainly put on a wonderful fundraiser Sept. 21 at the Churchill School. This was your 13th auction and I learned that over this time \$140,000 of salt licks have been sold. This amount was given to the Parkinson’s Foundation for research. You had a splendid turnout of around 200 buyers who knew in advance that the primary purpose of the Salt Lick Auction was to raise money for Parkinson’s Disease research.

For the “city folk” I will explain the salt lick program. Cattle need salt in their diet, so the owners always have these blocks in the pastures for them to lick on. Interesting molds are created and the salt licks with the most unique licks sell at a higher price than the others.

The first 10 salt licks sold for \$500 or more. The high-selling salt lick sold for \$1,000. I brought in 3 entries — one for Harrell Hereford Ranch, one for Bob Harrell and one for me that Wannie Mackenzie had found in Medical

Springs. My 3 “licks” auctioned off for a total of \$3,000. The total amount of the Sept. 21 auction was around \$17,000 for Parkinson’s!

The Churchill gym was an excellent place to host this event. The free appetizers, beer and wine, were delicious and beautifully displayed. Mib Dailey was an excellent

auctioneer. He was entertaining and very amusing, as he urged the buyers to “pay attention!” Each entry was sold with a poem written by the contestant. They were read before each item was sold. We have good poets and good people in Baker County and this is why the 2019 Salt Lick Auction was so successful.

Please encourage others to participate next year. Thank you all for your efforts in providing this function for our community. We appreciate everything you did. I look forward to next year’s Salt Lick Auction with interest and enthusiasm.

Edna Harrell
Baker City

Fall is here! Cold weather can mean icy spots in shaded areas!



Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.
2390 Broadway, Baker City
541-523-5223

Best Friends of Baker Saturday Market

Open EVERY Saturday 8 AM - 2 PM

COME IN COSTUME AND RECEIVE 10% OFF!

2950 Church St, Baker City (first left after Broadway turns into 10th)
We accept debit, credit, cash & checks!
Donations accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 9-1
(All proceeds benefit the animals of Baker County)



LOCAL BRIEFING

AAUW district meeting set for Saturday

The Northeast District of the American Association of University Women will have a free training session during its meeting Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St.

The training’s theme is “Learn It — Grow It — Be It.” It will be facilitated by Georgia Applegate, state AAUW president, and Pat Lehman, president-elect. You don’t need to be an AAUW member to attend Saturday’s training.

Lucy Hutchens, Northeast District director, said the session is an interactive leadership workshop designed to develop the best leadership qualities and in collaboration with members of community groups.

High school and college-age women are encouraged to attend as the principles can be applied in every area of leadership opportunity.

The training program outline is available by contacting Hutchens at lucymhutchens@gmail.com or 208-739-6954.

Cowboy Action Shoot Saturday at Virtue

A Cowboy Action Shoot event is set for Saturday, Oct. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Powder River Sportsmen’s Club’s Virtue Flat Range about 6 miles east of Baker City off Highway 86.

Entry fee is \$10 per person. Legal firearms are single-action revolvers and lever-action rifles predating 1896 (or replicas), double-barrel or Winchester Model 97 shotguns.

The course of fire includes five or six stages, 25 to 30 rounds per stage, with steel targets and clay birds.

All participants are encouraged to dress in period western wear or B movie dress.

More information is available by calling Chuck Buchanan at 541-519-8550 or Dan McGuire at 541-212-5840.

Baker County Garden Club meets Oct. 16

The Baker County Garden Club will meet Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 10:30 a.m. at Community Connection, 2810 Cedar St.

Helen Leonnig will make a presentation for club members regarding Medicare issues.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$4.50.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Andy Dean Dennis: 60, of Haines, was found Oct. 6, 2019, near East Eagle Creek. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray’s West & Co. To light a candle in memory of Andy, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Willard Hubert Jr.: 73, of Baker City, died Oct. 5, 2019, at his home. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Willard, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.graywestco.com

Robert Lee Cutshall: 65, of Baker City, died Oct. 6, 2019, at his home. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray’s West & Co. To light a candle in memory of Robert, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Dorothy or to leave a condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Evan Simonski-Davis: A celebration of his life will take place Saturday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1995 Fourth St. in Baker City. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the YMCA through Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Evan, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Marjorie Ann Miller: Memorial service will be Saturday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at the North Powder Grange. To light a candle in memory of Marjorie, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.graywestco.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Dorothy Thora Miles Wooters: A celebration of Dorothy’s life will take place Friday, Oct. 11, at 11 a.m. at Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. A reception will follow in the multipurpose room at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2625 Hughes Lane. Memorial contributions may be made to the City of Baker City Skate Park Fund or a charity of one’s choice through Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations

DRIVING WHILE OPERATOR’S LICENSE SUSPENDED and FAILURE TO CARRY OR PRESENT LICENSE: Andrew Jay Culley, 30, of Baker City, 4:35 p.m. Monday, in the 2200 block of Resort Street; jailed and later released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASS: Brandon Culbertson, 31, of 3219 Court Ave., 11:03 a.m. Tuesday, in the 2300 block of 14th Street; jailed.



Angela is “Brushing Us Off” and Moving On!

Baker Dental Group is excited to support Angela as she embarks on her new adventure.

We wish her luck and thank her for her 20+ years of service.



And like Angela always says, “Only floss the ones you want to keep!”