



In STATE, 5A

Rancher hopes to thwart wolves

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Roy Cole of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Al-Anon Support Group forming

A local Al-Anon support group will have its first meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 4 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. Al-Anon is a support group for people who are worried about someone who has a drinking problem.

The local group will meet Wednesdays at the same time and place. There will not be meetings on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

More information is available by calling 509-420-0010.

Keating pinochle potluck season underway

KEATING — Bi-weekly pinochle and potluck gatherings have begun at the Keating Fire Hall, 26502 Keating Grange Road. The potluck starts at 6 p.m., and participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share, table service and \$2 for pinochle. Lemonade, coffee and tea are provided. Events are scheduled for Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and 28, Jan. 11 and 25, and Feb. 8 and 22. More information is available by calling Cammie Miller at 541-523-6108 or Patti Pickard at 541-523-2943.

WEATHER

Today

45 / 18

Mostly sunny

Thursday

45 / 12

Mostly sunny

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.

Baker County's Recycling Rate Relatively Steady

Ready To Reuse

■ Baker Sanitary Service hopes to expand recycling of organic waste



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Cardboard is one of the items Baker Sanitary Service collects for recycling at its center at 12th and Campbell streets.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Recycling remains a challenge in Baker County, but a proposed test project could turn some types of trash into compost rather than burying it in the landfill.

David Henry, president of Baker Sanitary Service, said the recycling situation has been relatively stable for the past year or so.

But that comparative tranquility followed a period of upheaval during which Baker Sanitary, which owns both a recycling center in Baker City and the county's major landfill about five miles southeast of town, stopped accepting certain types of plastic containers (September 2017) and mixed paper (December 2018) at the recycling center at 12th and Campbell streets.

In both cases the issue was

China's decision to stop importing those materials from the U.S.

The lack of domestic buyers for those recyclables forced Baker Sanitary, and many other garbage collectors across the state and nation, to start burying the materials in landfills instead.

That hasn't had a major effect on Baker Sanitary's landfill, Henry said, since plastics and mixed paper constitute relatively small volumes.

Although the tonnage of trash disposed of at the company's landfill increased by 11.6% in 2017 — from 12.43 tons in 2016 to 14.10 tons — Henry said the increase was due more to a busy construction market, which produces considerable amounts of garbage.

The reduction in recycling of plastics didn't have a large effect since it started toward the end of 2017.

"We haven't noticed a substantial effect at the landfill" due to the inability to accept the plastics and paper products at the recycling center, Henry said.

(Although Baker Sanitary stopped accepting mixed paper in December 2018, the company, under an agreement with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had been taking the paper to the landfill for several months prior.)

The DEQ, which compiles waste disposal and recycling statistics, hasn't released a report for 2018.

Although Baker County residents sent more garbage to the landfill in 2017 than the year before, they also recycled more material — 3.55 tons compared with 3.11 tons in 2016, according to DEQ.

See Recycle/Page 3A

BOARD TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON \$7.5 MILLION PROPOSAL DURING THURSDAY MEETING

School bond idea on board's agenda

The Baker School Board is inviting public comment this week on an 11-member committee's recommendation to seek voter approval in May 2020 of a bond measure to raise money to improve schools.

The board will discuss the proposal and accept public comment when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 1655 First St. The regular Board meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

The public is being asked to comment on a plan that calls for a \$7.5 million bond measure to help fund measures to correct overcrowding at the elementary and middle school levels. The money also would help fund safety and security improvements throughout the District.

See Schools/Page 2A

Suspect arrested in multiple crimes

By Chris Collins
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A Baker City man who police say is a suspect in multiple person crimes in the city is being held at the Baker County Jail on charges ranging from illegal weapon possession and drug crimes to first-degree burglary.



Martinez-Moschella

See Arrest/Page 5A

Unusual autumn dry spell ends

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County's abnormally arid autumn was interrupted early Tuesday.

And the brief barrage of rain, which also ushered in cooler air, might turn out to be the vanguard of winter.

See Dry Spell/Page 5A



TODAY

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