



Sydney Keller

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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Scott Martin of Baker City.

Sports, 5A

Baker got its point guard back and got back into the win column on the same night.

This was no coincidence. Junior Gabe Gambleton, the Bulldogs' second-leading scorer, returned after missing one game due to an injury and he helped lead Baker to a 56-38 win Friday evening at Ontario.

Sports, 3A

CALABASAS, Calif. — NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash on a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California on Sunday.

BRIEFING

Community Choir practice starting

The Baker Community Choir will start rehearsals for its spring concerts on Monday, Feb. 3. Participants are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. at the Baker High School choir practice room, 2500 E St. Rehearsals will be every Monday at 7 p.m. at BHS. Cost is \$15 per person. No experience is necessary and no auditions required. Singers in high school and older are welcome. Middle School students can join if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

WEATHER

Today

40 / 35

Rain or snow

Tuesday

44 / 29

Rain showers

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Baker City Lacking Taxi Service

Travel Troubles



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Community Connection's Baker City Trolley is one public transit option for residents who have previously relied on local taxi companies.

By Samantha O'Conner
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Baker City residents calling for a taxi cab ride are likely to end up listening to a recorded message about the number being out of service.

None of the city's licensed cab companies is operating.

"We've always had, in my time here, one or two different taxi companies. And I don't know why we don't," City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said.

"I don't know that we've ever had this problem before," said Robin Nudd, the city's Human Resources and Community Development Director.

The taxi cab company most recently licensed by the city, Polar Bear Express, announced recently on Facebook that it was closing.

The owners for other licensed firms, A-1 Taxi and Eagle Cab, could not be contacted for a comment.

The city approved A-1's license in May 2018, and granted Eagle Cab a license in February 2019.

Neither Warner nor Nudd knows why the cab companies closed.

The City Council has the authority to set taxi fares, and over the decades cab companies have occasionally asked the Council to increase fares to compensate for such things as higher gas prices.

Warner said none of the currently

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— City Manager Fred Warner Jr.

licensed companies contacted him to ask about raising fares.

"I think if that was the case, somebody would have contacted the city and said 'we need to charge more' and the Council would have looked at it," Warner said.

Warner said that although the city regulates cab companies through an ordinance, company owners do not have to contact the city if they close.

The city's taxi ordinance does state that if a licensed taxi business ceases service "for a period of ten consecutive days without obtaining permission for cessation of the operation from the City Manager, all licenses held by the person shall be automatically canceled and may be re-issued only in accordance with this chapter."

"We can suspend them but once they're licensed, it's their business to run," Warner said. "They never tell us when they leave or they very seldom do. And they've come and gone over the years."

He said he will inform the City Council about the lack of taxis in town in a future meeting.

Councilors meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

"There's a real need for taxi services in Baker," Warner said. "There's a lot of people that don't have cars."

When a business owner applies for a taxi license, the Baker City Police Department does a background check, ensuring, among other things, that taxis have sufficient insurance.

The taxi ordinance limits the number of licensed cabs to no more than once for each 1,500 residents as of the most recent census.

Based on the city's population of 9,828 in the 2010 Census, there can be no more than six licensed taxis.

The city can also issue temporary taxi licenses that last no more than one week.

Community Connection of Baker County operates a trolley, but unlike taxis, which pick up passengers on demand, the Baker City Trolley operates on a fixed schedule and routes.

Trolley schedules are available at cno.org/publictransit/baker-city-trolley-fixed-route/

Warner said he has not been approached by anyone interested in having Uber or Lyft ride-hailing services operate in Baker City. These companies generally run in cities with populations larger than Baker City's.

See **Taxi** / Page 2A

Baker City Woman Regional Contact For Just Serve Website

A place for volunteers to start

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Maure Albert went looking for opportunities to volunteer, and now she's helping others find places to donate their time.

Albert is the regional contact for Just Serve, a website that helps organizations put out a call for volunteers.

Those looking to give back can peruse those listings and choose one that fits their time commitment and interest.

"I truly believe any service we do can help," Albert said. "We're building com-

munity. That's the goal."

It's simple to get involved. Go to the website www.justserve.org and type in the local zip code.

Currently there are 12 opportunities. Organizations seeking help include the Baker County Historical Society, Heart 'n Home Hospice; Memory Lane (polishing nails for residents); Best Friends of Baker; CASA of Eastern Oregon, Baker County Library; Citizens on Patrol, Baker County Community Literacy Coalition, Bread of Life food bank, and the National Historic Oregon

Trail Interpretive Center.

All listings are for ongoing programs or projects. For instance, the Historical Society is seeking writers to help preserve local history. The Interpretive Center needs volunteers to help prepare supplies for ragdoll workshops.

Each opportunity includes information about the agency and who to contact about volunteering.

Albert is willing to talk to groups about how to advertise for volunteers on Just Serve. To be eligible, organizations must be nonprofit, faith-based, com-

munity, or government.

"Anywhere volunteers are needed that are nonprofit," she said.

She would especially like to find opportunities where families can volunteer together.

Albert, who is a retired English teacher, gives this alliterative description for the importance of volunteering: "service starts sunshine smiles."

For information about current opportunities, visit www.justserve.org.

To contact Albert, email her at maurealbert@yahoo.com or call 541-239-8333.

Murder suspect has new charge

■ Shawn Quentin Greenwood, accused of fatally shooting Angela Parrish on Jan. 13, is also charged with trying to elude police

By Chris Collins
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A Baker County grand jury on Thursday added an additional charge against a Vale man accused of shooting his former girlfriend to death in Baker City on Jan. 13.

Shawn Quentin Greenwood, 48, has been held without bail in the Baker County Jail since his arrest that day on one count of second-degree murder in the death of Angela Parrish, 30, also of Vale. According to the grand jury indictment, the state alleges that at the time of the shooting, Greenwood and Parrish were household members as defined by Oregon law: "persons who have cohabited with each other or who have been involved in a sexually intimate relationship."

Greenwood also is being held on \$100,000 bail on each of two charges of second-degree assault, a Class B felony, for allegedly shooting Nathaniel Leeland Brown, 37, a Baker City transient, in the hand on Jan. 13.

Thursday's grand jury indictment includes the additional charge of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, a Class B felony, to the list of accusations against Greenwood.

Parrish's body was found in a large warehouse designated as Building D at the northwest end of the Bureau of Land Management property at 3100 H St., Baker City Police Chief Ray Duman said in court Jan. 14, during Greenwood's arraignment.

The investigation began about 11:45 a.m. Jan. 13 when Brown showed up at the BLM office saying that he'd been shot in the hand.

Police cordoned off the area and began looking for the suspected shooter and a second victim who Brown said was in one of the buildings.

Brown identified Greenwood as the person who shot him and Parrish, Duman said.

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Greenwood



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