

WOLVES

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Dailey went to the site the next morning, Sunday, Feb. 16. His son, Shondo, put down the bull due to the animal's severe wounds.

Dailey said the bull was worth about \$2,500.

He put the 600-pound steer's value at around \$1,000.

Justin Primus, assistant district biologist at ODFW's Baker City office, investigated the case and examined the bull's carcass on Sunday.

In his report confirming that wolves killed the bull, Primus wrote that "fresh wolf tracks were found at the scene."

He estimated that the bull had been attacked three to four days earlier, which would put the attack one or two days after Dailey's friend had last brought hay to the cattle.

Primus, in examining the bull's carcass, found numerous "bite scrapes" and muscle tissue trauma up to 9 by 6 inches across and 3 inches in depth. The number, location and direction of the bites and the associated depth of injuries on the bull are consistent with other confirmed wolf attack injuries on cows."

Primus said he deemed it "probable" rather than "confirmed" that wolves also attacked the steer only because the steer's carcass had been mostly consumed, with no muscle tissue remaining to allow him to examine wounds in the same detail as with the bull.

"The steer was largely consumed, and only a small piece of the hide, skull and pelvis remained," Primus wrote.

He did find numerous wolf tracks near the steer's carcass, as well as tooth scrapes up to 1/4-inch in diameter and up to 3 inches long on the steer's hide. Those marks "appeared to be postmortem," Primus wrote in his report.

Given that the bull and the steer had been traveling together, and that he confirmed that wolves had attacked the bull, Primus said even in the absence of wounds to examine on the steer he could conclude that it's "probable" that wolves attacked both animals.

"The steer died at the same location and time as the injuries to the bull occurred," he wrote in his report.

Specifically wolves from the Keating pack, which ODFW believes consists of at

least six wolves, said Brian Ratliff, district biologist at the agency's Baker City office.

Ratliff said that tally is based on ODFW trail camera images of wolves, tracks found by biologists, as well as reports from citizens.

The Keating pack wolves have roamed this winter over an area from roughly Eagle Forks north into the Eagle Cap Wilderness and west to near Medical Springs, Ratliff said.

Ratliff said the pack had at least two pups last year.

None of the wolves has been captured and fitted with a tracking collar, however, so ODFW can't monitor the animals' movements in detail.

One of the wolves appears to have an injured left hind leg.

Ratliff said biologists have found wolf tracks this winter that were likely made by an animal with an injured leg.

Kylee Simonis of Baker City, who said he had four trail cams set up earlier this winter about 6 to 8 miles from where Dailey's cattle were attacked, captured a video of two wolves, one of which trots past the camera with a gait clearly affected by its left hind leg.

Simonis said he shared that video and other images of wolves in the area with ODFW.

Three animals uninjured

Dailey's two other bulls and the cow were not injured, and he said Wednesday morning that he hoped to bring that trio back to his ranch later in the day.

Dailey said he reported the incident to the Baker County Sheriff's Office on Sunday.

Sheriff Travis Ash said his office "responds in all wolf depredations" and conducts its own investigation in addition to ODFW's work.

Deputy Adam Robb traveled to the site Sunday to meet with Dailey.

Snow had fallen during the previous night, and Dailey said he found what he believes were wolf tracks that had no fresh snow in them Sunday morning.

"I think they heard us coming," he said.

Dailey said he had no doubt that ODFW would conclude, based on the size and depth of the fresh wounds on the bull, that wolves attacked the animal.

"It's the only thing that could have caused it," he said.

DAMS

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OTEC officials are "extremely disappointed with Governor Kate Brown's stunning decision to support the removal of the four lower Snake River dams," said Joseph E. Hathaway, the cooperative's communications coordinator.

The press release notes that Brown, in a Feb. 11 letter to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in which Brown endorsed the removal of the dams, wrote the letter while the Oregon Legislature is debating a bill that is designed

to reduce the state's carbon emissions.

"Governor Brown supports a course of action that is estimated to increase CO² emissions by over 2 million metric tons — every year," the press release reads.

"Governor Brown's decision to remove the Snake River dams completely contradicts and undermines the State of Oregon's claim they are serious about carbon reduction and also undermines the integration of renewables onto our transmission grid, as the federal hydro system is flexible, carbon-free and complements intermittent

resources such as wind and solar power. The Governor's call could have dangerous consequences for our mission to provide the nearly 60,000 residents of Baker, Grant, Harney and Union counties with competitively priced electricity."

In her letter to Inslee, Brown contested the contention that removing the four dams was contrary to a goal of reducing carbon emissions.

"This can be done while preserving the foundation of the low cost, carbon-free hydropower system that has helped fuel Oregon's economy for the last century, and will

help us to integrate more wind and solar to achieve our long-term climate goals," Brown wrote.

The governor wrote that she supported the removal of the dams because doing so would help restore salmon and steelhead runs as well as help killer whales in the ocean that depend on salmon for food.

"The science is clear that removing the earthen portions of the four lower Snake River dams is the most certain and robust solution to Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery," Brown wrote.

CONTRACT

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Commissioner Bruce Nichols agreed with Bennett, saying he was concerned with both the timing and the potential legality of awarding the visitor services contract.

Nichols cited the county's Transient Lodging Tax ordinance, and he read from a section that defines the lodging tax committee's authority.

"The Committee may, from time to time, determine that contracted professional consultation may be necessary to perform a variety of tasks such as conducting an annual audit, updating the Tourism Marketing and Development Plan, assisting with tourism marketing and promotion, or other endeavor the TLTC may determine appropriate. In such case, any Request For Proposals, Request for Qualification, or resulting contracts shall be adopted by the Commission Prior to enactment."

"Postponing this decision is the right thing to do," Nichols said. "We shouldn't be doing something very quickly without knowing exactly what we're doing, make sure we don't break the law in our own ordinance."

Commissioners decided to schedule public meetings at locations across the county to solicit comments from residents about the visitor services contract.

In an email to the Herald Wednesday afternoon, Johnson wrote: "ALMR is dedicated to promoting tourism and economic development throughout Baker County, regardless of the vote to table the decision. We look forward to working with all community partners moving forward to help promote tourism and economic growth in our County."

Cutler said she appreciated the consideration the commissioners put into the decision.

"We look forward to a strong 2020 and everything that comes with it," Cutler said on Wednesday. "We look forward to continuing to do good work for Baker County."

Commissioners didn't discuss the contention Cutler made recently regarding the potential effects on the Chamber's coordination of Miners Jubilee should commissioners award the contract to Anthony Lakes.

Cutler said that if that happened, the loss of the lodging tax revenue would force the

Chamber to eliminate one of its two full-time positions and to reduce her position to part-time.

In that case, Cutler said, she doesn't think the Chamber could continue to coordinate Miners Jubilee.

The visitor services contract is solely for operating the visitor center, and not for coordinating events.

In other business Wednesday, commissioners discussed the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance that county voters approved 5,432 to 2,736 in the November 2018 election.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey read a statement in support of the voter-approved ordinance.

"Commissioners today recognize the ordinance approved by the people and ensuring the ordinance is documented in court records," Harvey said. "That's our only action. We support it and we're making sure all records are correct as voted on. There is no change, no request for change, and there is nothing else that we are doing other than recognizing and supporting."

The statement followed concerns expressed by officials

from the Baker County Republican Party, three of whom — Suzan Ellis Jones, Jake Brown and Tom Van Diepen — were the chief petitioners for the 2018 ordinance.

They reacted to the county removing that ordinance from its website and posting instead a proposed new Second Amendment preservation ordinance.

Bennett said that resulted from a clerical error that led he and Harvey to believe, mistakenly, that the county didn't have a robust protection ordinance in place.

When they recognized the error, they withdrew the proposed ordinance, leaving the voter-approved ordinance from 2018 as the official Second Amendment preservation document.

Also on Wednesday, commissioners:

- approved placing renewals for the vector control local option and weed control local option levies on the May 20 ballot.
- appointed Don Williams as Justice of the Peace Pro Tem. Williams is a former Justice of the Peace
- appointed Candis Lee to the Early Learning Regional Council

LOCAL BRIEFING

Barbecue, worship Saturday at Ruda Ranch

Guests are invited to a barbecue potluck, with music and worship, a guest speaker and fellowship, Saturday starting at 5 p.m. at the Ruda Ranch, 18070 West Campbell Loop. Please bring a side dish or dessert. More information is available by calling 541-519-6261.

Bill Davis celebrates 81st birthday

William Fred Davis, a longtime North Powder resident, celebrated his 81st birthday on Feb. 6 with his wife, Marilee. Bill was born Feb. 6, 1939, at Baker, and he grew up on his parents' ranch in North Powder, working there with his parents for 41 years. He attended public school in North Powder and was active in 4-H, FFA, orchestra, basketball and football during high school.



Davis

From a young age, Bill has had a love for animals, and can tell you many facts about cattle during a drive on the ranch. In his later years, he discovered a love for woodworking and even took the initiative to sell his pieces at local art shows, a pastime he and his wife share.

Bill retired from the University of Idaho Caine Veterinarian Teaching Facility at Caldwell, Idaho, in 2002.

Cards are welcome and can be mailed to Bill at 428 W. Washington Ave., Nampa, ID 83686.

Baker School District retirees to gather

A gathering for retirees of the Baker School District is planned for Friday, March 13, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Baker High School, 2500 E St. Attendees and their guest will be treated to a free dinner. The evening includes tours of Baker Technical Institute, various presentations, door prizes, and a raffle. If planning to attend, please RSVP to Lisa Young at lisa.young@bakersd.org or call 541-524-2260.

Diaper drive extended through February

The Rachel Pregnancy Center has extended its Diaper Drive at the request of several participating churches.

The drive, which began on Sanctity of Life Sunday (Jan. 19) will continue through February, said Vera Grove, Rachel Center director.

The Center's days of operation have changed in February to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed for lunch each day). The office, at 2192 Court Ave., is closed Mondays and Fridays. More information is available by calling the Center at 541-523-5357.

County seeking economic developer

Baker County is requesting proposals from contractors to provide research and assess the requirements for economic development in the county, provide the lead on connections with all agencies requiring economic development direction and assistance, and maintain a website and social media pages.

The county is accepting proposals through 4 p.m. on Feb. 28.

More information about the contract is available by emailing Heidi Martin, executive assistant to the Baker County Board of Commissioners, at hmartin@bakercounty.org

Herbicide application training scheduled

The Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area will have its annual herbicide application training March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in La Grande. For location and other information, call the Weed Management Area at 541-624-5353 or email to mail@tricountywma.org

Fireline Safety Refresher class March 21

Eastern Oregon Training Group will have an RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher class on March 21. The class will start at 8 a.m. at the Baker School District office, 2090 Fourth St. in Baker City. A practice fire shelter deployment will take place. This is a required class for all federal and state contractors that will be on the fire line. A certified National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) instructor will teach the class. Cost is \$100 for NWSA members and \$130 for nonmembers. Registration can be done at oregon-firetraining.com. Pre-registration is requested. More information is available by calling Laurel Goodrich at 541-403-0907 or Jeff Sherman at 541-519-6213.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the February Baker High School Kiwanis Student of the Month



Michael Zemmer



Isaac Nemec

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TOWER

Continued from 2A

The city's zoning rules allow cell towers up to 50 feet in the industrial zone without a conditional use permit. But according to Verizon's applications, engineers determined that the tower needed to be 70 feet to meet the company's goals for improving cell coverage and allowing for increased capacity in the future.

During public hearings before the Baker City Planning Commission last fall, multiple residents, including some who live near the industrial parcel, urged commissioners to reject Verizon's application.

Opponents, some of whom wrote letters to the Planning

Commission, said they were concerned that the tower would mar their views of the Elkhorn Mountains and reduce their property values, and that electronic emissions from the tower would be a health hazard.

The federal Telecommunications Act prohibits officials from using health concerns as a criteria in land use decisions involving cell towers.

On Dec. 4 the Planning Commission voted 5-2 to deny Verizon's application for a conditional use permit.

The company appealed that decision to the Baker City Council.

On Jan. 21 the City Council voted 5-2 to uphold the Planning Commission's decision to

deny Verizon's application.

That left the company with the option of appealing to the Land Use Board of Appeals, the three-member board the

Legislature established in 1979 to hear appeals of local land use decisions. The board members are appointed by the governor.

Rachel Pregnancy Center

2192 Court Avenue, Baker City • 541-523-5357

Services Provided:

- Free Pregnancy Tests
- Referrals for Free Ultrasounds
- Pregnancy Options Counseling
- Adoption Referrals
- Prenatal, Infant Care & Parenting Classes
- Maternity & Baby Clothing
- Post Abortion Recovery

Helping women & men in an unplanned pregnancy.

All services free & confidential.

A resource center for families

*Open Tues -Thurs
10 AM - 5 PM
(closed for lunch)*