

# Baker City Herald

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In SPORTS, 6A

## District hoops

**IN THIS EDITION:** Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV **\$1.50**

### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dean Guyer of Baker City.

### BRIEFING

#### Library boardwalk closed for repairs

Starting Monday, Feb. 24, the pathway on the east side of the library, 2400 Resort St. will be closed south of the foot-bridge for reconstruction of the boardwalk. Visitors can detour through the park or on Resort Street. The work is expected to take up to 3 weeks.

#### BMS spring carnival raffle tickets for sale

Baker Middle School will have a Spring Carnival on Thursday, March 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Students are now selling raffle tickets for the carnival. Raffle prizes have been donated by area businesses. Tickets can be purchased from any BMS student or at the BMS Office. Winners will be announced at the Carnival or contacted by phone. You do not need to be present to win. Funds raised through this event help fund arts, humanities, field trips, physical education, improved technology, music, and other programs with limited funding. For more information contact BMS at 541-524-2500.

### WEATHER

#### Today

48 / 28



Sunny

#### Sunday

51 / 28



Rain showers

#### Monday

47 / 24



Mostly cloudy

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

# Merkley has town hall

■ Senator fielded questions on climate change, gun rights, Electoral College and other topics Thursday

By Jayson Jacoby  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Calling the event a “great American tradition” and a “good antidote to the friction in our society,” U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley spoke to about 60 people Thursday at the Baker City Senior Center.

Merkley, Oregon’s junior senator to fellow Democrat Ron Wyden, spent most of the hour-long town hall, which

started at 4:30 p.m., fielding questions on topics that included climate change, the homeless, rural health care, the Second Amendment and plastics recycling.

Baker City Mayor Loran Joseph introduced Merkley, noting that the senator has at least one town hall in each of Oregon’s 36 counties every year.



Merkley

Merkley opened the town hall by introducing Shari Selander, CEO of New Directions Northwest, and lauding the work the Baker City organization does with drug and alcohol addiction and mental health treatment. New Directions also runs the drug and alcohol treatment program at Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City.

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### Baker City Police Department's Newest Vehicle



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Sgt. Wayne Chastain talks about the Baker City Police Department's latest acquisition, an SUV designed to accommodate Capa, the department's drug-detecting dog.

# Capa's New Ride

By Chris Collins  
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A new “K9 limousine” was delivered to the Baker City Police Department this month that will allow Capa, its highly prized drug-detecting dog, to travel in style.

The shiny black 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV provides more room for the German shepherd/Belgian Malinois cross, who'll turn 6 next month, to stretch out and get comfortable when he's not actively working a case, says his chauffeur and handler for the past four years, Sgt. Wayne Chastain, 44.

Capa's new ride replaced the former K9 patrol vehicle, a 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe.

The new Tahoe matches the department's three newest patrol cars (two of which arrived in January). The Chevy Tahoe and the matching black Dodge Chargers (two 2020 models and one 2019) bear decals designed for the department by Oregon Trail Sign Co. of Baker City.

The vehicles were modified with police equipment by Emergency Respond Systems, a Nampa, Idaho, company, said Police Chief Ray Duman.

The 2019 patrol car was purchased outright for \$32,993, said Jeannie Dexter, the city's finance director. The other two patrol cars were bought on the lease-to-purchase plan at \$10,932.50 per year for four years.

None of the expense of the new K9 vehicle was paid with taxpayer money, a testimony to the region's appreciation for the services of the K9 team, Duman says.

Instead, the lease-to-buy finance plan, payments of \$20,969.82 for three years for the Chevy Tahoe, was funded by money raised during the annual BCPD K9 Drug Prevention Fundraiser, an annual banquet and auction of items donated by area businesses and other sponsors.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Capa leaps from the new SUV and jumps back inside upon command from Sgt. Wayne Chastain.

The most recent event, which took place on Dec. 14, 2019, raised \$45,000 to help pay expenses for the K9 program and to maintain the vehicle.

Minus the first lease payment for the new vehicle, the fund-raising account totaled \$67,530 as of Wednesday, Dexter said.

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# 5J board honors Randy Dodson

By Chris Collins  
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

No parking spots were open around City Hall and a standing-room-only crowd gathered in the Council Chambers when the Baker School Board met there Thursday night.

The board first recognized Randy Dodson, owner of Ryder Bros. Stationery Store as an “Outstanding Community Partner” for his dedication to helping Baker schools through his business.

See Board / Page 5A

# Taxi service coming

By Samantha O'Conner  
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Baker City will not be without a taxi service much longer. Stephanie and David Sanders have been working since January to open their business by March 15 — just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

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# Zoning changes proposed

The Baker City-County Planning Department has scheduled a pair of open houses to outline proposed changes to Baker City's development code and zoning map.

The first open house is set for Monday, Feb. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

The second event will take place Wednesday, March 4, also from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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