



Baker City Herald

March 23, 2021

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In SPORTS, 5A

Baker rallies to nip Nyssa

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Bill Lee of Baker City.

Local, 3A

SALEM (AP) — Five wolves were found dead in Northeast Oregon in February, according to law authorities.

On Feb. 9, a collar on a wolf indicated a mortality signal in the Mt. Harris area in Union County, Oregon State Police Capt. Timothy R. Fox said in an email on Friday, March 19, when asked about it by The Associated Press.

Oregon, 3A

VALE — Anthony Montwheeler sat in clean street clothes with a fresh haircut and stared straight ahead Friday morning, March 19 as more than a dozen people delivered statements at his sentencing at the Malheur County Courthouse.

The session was the final chapter on a four-year-long legal case that began in the early morning hours of a cold, overcast January day 2017.

Sports, 5A

Led by a dominating defense, the Baker boys soccer team beat Nyssa 5-1 Saturday afternoon, March 20, at the Baker Sports Complex to improve its record to 2-4.

Sophomore Diego Quintela had a hat trick to lead Baker, which improved its season record to 2-4.

WEATHER

Today
48 / 24



Sunny and breezy

Wednesday
50 / 34



Afternoon rain

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Baker City Bull And Bronc Riding, Canceled In 2020, Slated To Return In July

Return Of Rodeo?



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald File, 2018

Bull riders know they risk the dangers of a ride. Mason Cooley narrowly escaped several close attacks and serious injury after being thrown during the Baker City Bull Riding event in July 2018. A bullfighter stepped in to help distract the irate bull.

By Jayson Jacoby
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The organizer of the Baker City Bull and Bronc riding competition, one of the signature local summer events, has added the two-night contest to his list of rodeo events for 2021.

The bull and bronc riding, which traditionally happen at the Baker County Fairgrounds arena in Baker City during the same July weekend as Miners Jubilee, were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virus spoiled what would have been the first year of the events as part of the Coastal Farm & Ranch Challenge of Champions Tour.

That's the series of rodeo competitions that Jason Mattox, a former bull rider who lives in Roseburg, puts on.

Mattox was prepared to assume responsibility for organizing the Baker City events from the group of volunteers, led by Ken McPheron, who had overseen them for the past 25 years under the nonprofit Baker City Bronc & Bull Riding Inc.

Mattox had announced in January 2020, less than two months before Oregon began to impose restrictions on events

due to the pandemic, that the Baker City events were not only part of the Challenge of Champions Tour, but that they would be televised for the first time.

In a Friday, March 19 post on the Baker City Bronc and Bull Riding Facebook page, Mattox wrote that "we are excited for 2021 and bringing Bulls & Broncs back to the great community of Baker City."

"We know life is so unpredictable but we are focused and ready to bring the biggest Bulls & Bronc Riding back to the Northwest after a one year delay. Both events will have a total of \$25,000 for the top contestants around to compete for. Baker City look out we are pumped and ready to shine this year."

Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which organizes Miners Jubilee, said she's excited about the prospect of the bull and bronc riding events returning.

She said she talked with Mattox on Friday and told him she appreciated his efforts.

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S. John Collins/Baker City Herald File, 2018

Cheyne Olney of Toppenish, Washington, hangs on for a full ride during the 2018 Baker City Bull Riding event.

Council could declare crisis

Resolution calls COVID-19 rules 'draconian'

By Samantha O'Conner
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The Baker City Council this evening will consider approving a resolution declaring an "economic, mental health and criminal activity crisis" resulting from Oregon COVID-19 mandates that the resolution deems "arbitrary, ineffective, and draconian."

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

Mayor Kerry McQuisten, who drafted Resolution 3881, said that it, along with a letter the City Council agreed on March 9 to send to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, is in part a response to the concerns that a Baker City couple, Whitney and Shannon Black, raised in a letter they sent to the City Council in late January.

The Blacks expressed their concerns about how state COVID-19 mandates are harming local businesses and the economy.

See Council/Page 2A

Man, 19, jailed in crash

A Baker City man was jailed after he allegedly crashed his car into another vehicle early Saturday morning, March 20 and then drove away.



Arenas

Josiah Arenas, 19, of 930 East St., is charged with felony hit and run, reckless driving and three counts of recklessly endangering another person. The incident happened about 2:01 a.m. at Auburn Avenue and Oak Street, according to a press release from the Baker City Police Department.

See Jailed/Page 3A

Saturday fire destroys home in New Bridge

By Jayson Jacoby
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A fire that started Saturday afternoon, March 20, destroyed a home in New Bridge, about three miles north of Richland.

Neither of the two people who live on the property, Carmelita Holland and her son, Gary, was hurt, nor were any of the 25 or so volunteer firefighters who worked on the blaze, said Dave Kingsbury, chief of the Eagle Valley Rural Fire Protection District.

That was "very fortunate," Kingsbury said, because the abundance of vehicles and other items on the property were obstacles that posed hazards for firefighters, particu-

larly given the dense black smoke the fire produced.

Kingsbury said several people reported smoke around 1 p.m. on Saturday. The Holland property is at 43080 Main St. in New Bridge, an unincorporated community along Eagle Creek.

The black smoke was due in part to tires burning on several vehicles on the property, Kingsbury said.

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Sherrie Kvamme/Contributed Photo

Fire destroyed a New Bridge home on Saturday afternoon, March 20.



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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE