

Baker City Herald

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\$1.50 Andrew Zellars

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Mark Lepley of Baker City.

Local, 2A

Three people were arrested on a variety of drug and weapons charges early Sunday in Baker City after an Oregon State Police trooper stopped their car because the front passenger was not wearing a seat belt.

State, 3A

ONTARIO — Lawyers and advocates say that the sweeping court order requiring reforms in Snake River Correctional Institution's COVID protocols is a landmark. The case, they say, not only raised questions about the quality of medical care at the prison but also exposes problems endemic to the Oregon Department of Corrections' handling of the pandemic.

State, 5A

BEND — The udders appeared to have been removed with precision — straight, even cuts, as if made by a sharp object.

The reproductive systems had been cut out cleanly as well, and without disturbing other organs.

There was no indication of predator activity and perhaps strangest of all, scavenging animals appeared to have hardly touched these six cow carcasses found in a seven-day span this year on ranchland in rural Crook County.

WEATHER

Today

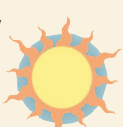
61 / 27



Sunny

Wednesday

67 / 30



Sunny

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

City Installs Security Cameras In Two Parks

Eyes In The Sky



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Baker City recently installed six security cameras in Geiser-Pollman Park (above) and six other cameras in Central Park, beside the Powder River between Washington and Valley avenues.

By Samantha O'Conner
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Baker City has installed six security cameras in Geiser-Pollman Park, the city's largest park, and six more cameras in Central Park.

The latter park is beside the Powder River between Washington and Valley avenues.

The cameras are intended to help prevent vandalism and other criminal activity in the parks, said Joyce Bornstedt, the

city's technical administration supervisor and parks department director.

"They're pretty amazing," Bornstedt said of the cameras. "They're going to be a really valuable tool not only for the parks department but for the police department as well as we're trying to get a handle on the unfavorable behaviors and crimes that are happening in our parks. We're excited about that."

City Councilor Johnny Waggoner Sr., who is the Council's representative on the city's parks board, told councilors during their April 13 meeting that he's optimistic that the cameras, and the closer police scrutiny they make possible, will reduce vandalism to playground equipment and the Powder River Pavilion in Geiser-Pollman Park, and other items in the two parks.

See Cameras/Page 3A

Ballots for May election go in the mail April 28

The Baker County Clerk's Office will mail ballots on April 28 for the May 18 election, which includes a \$4 million bond measure for the Baker School District and a measure in Halfway that would allow recreational and medicinal marijuana businesses in that city.

Voters in the Baker School District will decide whether to approve the \$4 million measure, which the district would combine with a \$4 million state grant and \$4 million from the district's budget to replace heating, cooling and ventilation systems and improve security at all schools.

See Election/Page 3A

Man accused of assaulting his mother, tussling with police

By Jayson Jacoby
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A Huntington man was arrested Saturday evening on multiple charges for allegedly assaulting his mother and then struggling with police after they were called to the scene of a disturbance near Huntington.

William Cody Crews, 46, of 29886 Malheur Line Road, is in the Baker County Jail. Crews was charged today with fourth-degree assault and interfering with a peace officer, both Class A misdemeanors, and harassment, a Class B misdemeanor.

District Attorney Greg Baxter said he is considering other potential charges against Crews, including assaulting a police officer.

The case will go to a grand jury, Baxter said on Monday afternoon, April 19.

A press release issued Monday morning by the Baker County Sheriff's Office stated that Crews had been charged with assaulting a public safety officer.

Baxter said he decided not to include that charge initially because he couldn't, for now, substantiate that Crews "intentionally or knowingly" harmed a police officer.

The incident started with a 911 call at about 8:49 p.m. Saturday regarding an "active disturbance" happening at 29886 Malheur Line Road, according to the press release from the Sheriff's Office.

That property is owned by Crews' parents, and Crews lives in a camp trailer on the property, according to a written report Sheriff's Deputy Talon Colton.

See Arrest/Page 5A

BMS, BHS students state champions in FFA

By Samantha O'Conner and Jayson Jacoby
Baker City Herald

Several Baker Middle School and Baker High School students were named state champions after the recent virtual Future Farmers of America convention.

Students competed in career development events via Zoom prior to the convention, said Nicole Merchant, agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor.

"The week of convention Oregon FFA ran two livestreamed sessions a day announcing results, keynote speakers, and retiring State FFA officer addresses," Merchant said. "All in all, the convention worked well

although many of my students missed the experience of a traditional in-person convention, which I have to agree with them. However, Oregon FFA did a good job offering something for our students during these unusual times."

Baker Middle School

Lance Kerns, a seventh-grader, placed first in the food products and processing category for his project studying the effects of different methods of storing tomatoes.

Kerns said he initially planned to study the effects on plant growth of different types of manure before deciding to compare the longevity of tomatoes depending on storage methods.

For the project last fall, Kerns said he stored three tomatoes in open plastic containers, and three in bags. Some were stored in a cool room — lower than regular room temperature — some in a refrigerator and some at room temperature. He said he photographed the tomatoes daily to document their condition.

Kerns said he expected that the tomato stored in a paper bag in the refrigerator would fare best.

But he said it turned out that storage in a cool room was the best method for preserving tomatoes, whether kept in a bag or a plastic

container, he said.

Tomatoes stored at room temperature became moldy relatively quickly, said Kerns, who is in his first year with FFA.

He was "excited, very excited" to learn that he had won the state competition and qualified for the national competition, which usually takes place in the fall.

Jose Armenta placed first in the plant systems category for his project studying pH levels and germination of grass seed.



Kerns



Armenta

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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE