

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

MONDAY, MAY 3

■ Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. Agenda items include the new security cameras in Geiser-Pollman and Central parks, and the ongoing online parks survey, results of which will help the city update its parks master plan. To participate in the survey, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQ2KNDC.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald May 1, 1971

Possible solutions, both short term and long range, regarding where 220 third graders will be housed next fall in light of the impending razing of St. Francis Academy were discussed at a district 5J school board meeting last night. Two solutions, involving using two shifts or finding other quarters for the students, were discussed.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 1, 1996

Several Baker City residents volunteered Tuesday night to help the Baker County Vector Control Board tell people how the county kills mosquitoes, and suggest ways by which they might avoid infestations of the biting insects.

The volunteers offered during the board's meeting to help write a brochure explaining anti-mosquitoes for the vector control district.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 2, 2011

Baker County employees will begin moving back to the Courthouse this week, five months after the historic structure sustained severe water damage when two water pipe valves broke during sub-zero weather.

Many services that were available in the courthouse before the building rehab work commenced should be back there early next week.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald May 2, 2020

Julie Winton knew the thunderstorm was strong, but she didn't realize how strong until she saw the 3-foot-thick tree sprawled across her front yard Thursday morning.

Sprawled, in fact, across the very spot where she often parks her car.

Winton, who lives on a cattle ranch in Keating Valley about 15 miles east of Baker City, hadn't parked there the day before because she didn't have any groceries or other packages to carry through the nearby front door.

When she woke up Thursday morning and saw the massive box elder toppled, Winton felt fortunate.

Also a trifle puzzled.

"We didn't even hear it," she said.

Her husband, Mark, let their dog out Wednesday night, after the storm had moved off, but it was full dark by then. And the front door, when opened, partially blocks the view of where the tree had stood, she said.

Winton, who has lived on the ranch east of Keating for 14 years, said she always figured if any of the big old trees on the place finally succumbed after enduring storms over a century or so, it would be an adjacent elm.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, April 28

3 — 12 — 14 — 19 — 30 — 48

Next jackpot: \$2.1 million

POWERBALL, April 28

16 — 18 — 35 — 39 — 53 PB 21

Next jackpot: \$129 million

MEGA MILLIONS, April 27

15 — 22 — 30 — 41 — 42 Mega 25

Next jackpot: \$319 million

WIN FOR LIFE, April 28

2 — 35 — 76 — 77

PICK 4, April 29

• 1 p.m.: 9 — 3 — 9 — 4

• 4 p.m.: 4 — 9 — 3 — 0

• 7 p.m.: 2 — 6 — 6 — 2

• 10 p.m.: 1 — 8 — 0 — 5

LUCKY LINES, April 29

2-6-11-13-17-21-26-31

Next jackpot: \$16,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY (May 3):** Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn, rolls, ambrosia, cookies
- **TUESDAY (May 4):** Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, macaroni salad, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY (May 5):** Salisbury steak, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, coleslaw, pudding
- **THURSDAY (May 6):** Liver and onions, baked potatoes, corn, beet-and-onion salad, rolls, tapioca pudding
- **FRIDAY (May 7):** Baked ham, candied yams, mixed vegetables, green salad, rolls, tapioca pudding

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60. Meals must be picked up; no dining on site.

CONTACT THE HERALD

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Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Replacing the press box is one of the projects included in a proposed three-year renovation at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

STADIUM

Continued from Page 1A

The three-year project, which includes rebuilding and replanting the grass field, replacing the roof on the grandstand, installing a new press box and rebuilding the concrete walkways, stairs and ramps, would cost an estimated \$4.3 million.

Gonzales, who made a presentation to the school board about the proposal on April 15, acknowledged the financial challenges.

"The District obviously doesn't have that kind of money sitting around, so that would be something that the athletic department and the district would fundraise for," Gonzales said. "The money is going to be the hardest piece to bring to fruition, so we are just going to have to do a lot of work to get that in place."

Mark Witty, the school district superintendent, echoed Gonzales' thoughts.

"We want to be a partner — that's why we did the study," Witty said. "We recognize there's a responsibility to upgrade that stadium. But as far as funding we're going to need some serious help."

Witty said the district's top priority within its budget is, and will remain, improving its schools. That's the reason the district is asking voters in the May 18 election to approve a \$4 million property tax bond measure that would be added to a \$4 million state grant, and \$4 million in district capital project dollars, to replace heating, cooling and ventilation systems at all schools, replace the roof at South Baker Intermediate, build a cafeteria/kitchen at Baker Middle School and improve the security at all schools.

The stadium renovations, by contrast, will depend on fundraising, not on district dollars, Witty said.

Stadium project history

The project started about three years ago when a group of district officials and others assessed the stadium and came up with a list of suggested improvements.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Walter Otis Wood Jr.: 74, of Baker City, died April 28, 2021, at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center. He will be buried at the Shipman Cemetery in Shipman, Illinois. A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date in Baker City. Memorial contributions can be made to the Baker High School Trap Club through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Cracks have formed over the decades in the concrete stairs and in the grandstand at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium. The concrete would be replaced as a part of a proposed three-year renovation project.

Then, a year ago, Gonzales joined that group, which reviewed the list of renovations and came up with a formal proposal.

"They looked at the facilities, studied the plans and they came with their recommendations after they did it in their assessment piece," Gonzales said.

A major need in the 71-year-old stadium is improving access for people with disabilities.

"That's probably one of the high priorities, the ADA accessibility," Gonzales said.

After seven decades of wear and tear from weather, the stadium also has cracks in its concrete, and wood siding needs to be replaced.

"The actual physical condition of the facility itself needs to be addressed," Gonzales said.

Due to the extent of the work, the architects divided the project into three phases over three years, potentially starting in the summer of 2022 if money is available.

"They gave a timeframe, phase one, two and three that would meet those upgrades," Gonzales said.

The tentative schedule:

Phase 1: Summer of 2022

- Demolish lower eastside bleachers and lower concrete slab
- Demolish existing field and regrade/reposition.
- New retaining wall and guardrail.
- Remove shrubs.
- Install prefab press box.
- Order new sports equipment.

Phase 2: Summer of 2023

- New restrooms, concessions with all new equipment and fixtures.

- Replacing the wood siding
- Replace electric, water and sewage.
- ADA accessibility upgrades
- Upgrade signage, lighting and wayfinding
- New stone veneer in the front entryway

Phase 3: Summer of 2024

- Replace roof on west side.
- Replace bleachers on the west side.
- Replace concrete walkways, stairs, ramps.
- Demolish section AA and extend the wood wall.
- Demolish and replace upper east side bleachers.
- Demolish westside press box.

Although he concedes the fundraising challenge the project entails, Gonzales is confident he can show potential donors why the upgrades are needed.

"You have this gushing wound, you just don't want to keep putting a Band-aid over it, at some point you are going to have that's a long-term fix," Gonzales said.

In 2019 the school district replaced the railing at the bottom of the westside grandstand and removed the grassy embank-

ment behind the home team bench area.

Workers also installed a new sound system. Ash Grove Cement contributed \$15,000 and the Baker Quarterback Club \$5,000. The school district paid the remaining \$20,000 for the sound system.

He also emphasizes that the renovations will not alter the stadium's unique character and appeal, with the field in a bowl that sits below the street level.

"It still maintains its iconic bowl-shaped feature, a gorgeous grass field, a little bit wider, safer for our student-athletes, multi-purpose so it will get used more often," Gonzales said.

"The look of it will have a new appeal to it — new bleachers, new paint, the bathrooms will be upgraded, wider entrances, better signage. It will give that facility a much needed face lift but it will still be Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium."

Gonzales is ready for the long road ahead to see these plans come to fruition.

"The first step is completed, we got the assessment, we got the cost. Now the hard work is fundraising the money, and getting the money in hand," Gonzales said.

GRAY'S WEST & CO. PIONEER CHAPEL

With deepest gratitude we extend a word of thanks to those who contributed to the Go Fund Me account for Nick and to the Main Event for their generosity.

The family of Nick Ballou

"You'll love the work we do. I guarantee it." - JR

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