



In SPORTS, 6A

Wrestlers qualify for state

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Joan George of Baker City.

State, 3A

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature gave final passage Wednesday, June 9 to a bill to protect homeless campers in public spaces.

The measure, which goes to Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, mandates that any city or county law must be reasonable if it regulates "sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property."

BRIEFING

COVID vaccine clinics scheduled

Free COVID-19 vaccination clinics are planned in several places in Baker County over the next few weeks. All three vaccines — Moderna, Pfizer (for ages 12 and older) and the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine — will be available. You can sign up online at www.bakercounty-covid19.com/vaccine-information/ or by calling 541-523-8211. The schedule:

• June 17, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Richland, next to City Hall

• June 24, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Huntington Lions Park

• July 2, Sumpter. Time and place will be announced on the website above.

Vaccines are also available at Rite Aid, Bi-Mart, Safeway, Albertsons, Pine Eagle Clinic, Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke's EOMA.

WEATHER

Today

72 / 40



Mostly sunny

Wednesday

76 / 44



Sunny

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

County may survey Pine Cr. Rd.

Property owner sued county in late April claiming there is no public right-of-way on the road

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County Commissioners could start a process this week intended to establish as a public road a mountain route that is the subject of a civil lawsuit a resident filed against the county on April 30.

The Pine Creek Road — also known as Pine Creek Lane — follows its namesake stream into the Elkhorn Mountains about 12 miles northwest of Baker City.

The unimproved road, which is mainly used by all-terrain vehicles and hikers, passes through a 1,560-acre parcel of private land on its way to Pine Creek Reservoir.

The owner of that parcel, David McCarty, is suing the county based on his contentions that there is no public right-of-way on the 2.5-mile section of the road through his property, and that the county has encouraged people to travel the road despite the lack of legal access rights.

During their meeting Wednesday, June 16, commissioners will consider a resolution "declaring the necessity for the legalization of Pine Creek Lane."

Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

The resolution, citing McCarty's claim, states that "there is doubt as to Pine Creek Lane's location and its legal establishment or evidence of its legal establishment as a public County Road. This resolution initi-

ates the statutory process of legalizing Pine Creek Lane pursuant to ORS 368-201-368.221, in order to eliminate doubts as to the location and its legal establishment as a public County Road."

The resolution calls for the county roadmaster to have the road surveyed and to file a written report, including the survey, with commissioners.

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City Planning Commission Sets Public Hearing For Wednesday, June 16

What Are Baker's Housing Needs?



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

A house under construction in Baker City. A recent housing needs analysis projects the city will need between 235 and 460 home units, including duplexes and other multi-family dwellings, by 2040.

By Samantha O'Conner and Jayson Jacoby
Baker City Herald

The Baker City Planning Commission wants to know what residents think about the city's housing situation, including zoning rules.

The Commission is inviting the public to attend a hearing on that topic on Wednesday, June 16 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

The public hearing is part of the city's effort to update its comprehensive plan and development code, with a focus on housing issues including:

- Updating the housing chapter of the comprehensive land use plan.
- Consider which housing policies will be most effective for the city in the future.

- Easing restrictions for duplexes in residential zones, making review standards the same as for single-family dwellings.

Earlier this year, consultants finished two studies for the city related to this process — a housing needs analysis and a buildable lands inventory.

Those studies conclude that based on the city's projected growth rate, it will likely need between 235 and 460 more homes by 2040, including single-family homes, townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes and apartments.

According to the housing needs analysis, done by Johnson Economics of Portland, Baker City has added just over 300 new housing units since 2000, a growth of about 7%.

During that same period, the number

of new households in the city is about 440, "indicating that housing growth has not kept pace with growing need."

The analysis noted that the number of households in the city has grown at a faster rate than the population, due to a decreasing trend in the average number of people per household.

"As of 2020, the city had an estimated housing stock of roughly 4,738 units for its 4,313 estimated households," the housing needs analysis states. "This still translates to an estimated average vacancy rate of over 8%. Much of this discrepancy is likely due to second home and short-term rental units, which are counted as vacant as they have no permanent resident."

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COVID rate up, but still below 2021 average

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County's rate of new COVID-19 cases has risen during the first two weeks of June, but infections remain well below the average for the previous six months.

From June 1-13, the Baker County Health Department reported 23 cases.

For the final 13 days of the May, the county's total was 10 new cases.

June's daily average of 1.77 cases per day is only slightly above May's 1.65. April's daily average was 5.4 cases.

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Senior Center eager to reopen

By Samantha O'Conner
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Community Connection of Baker City is making preparations to reopen the Senior Center and welcome people back for in-person lunches and other events that have been canceled for more than a year due to the pandemic.

"We've been talking about it but we're still restricted by the governor," said Joe Hayes, Community Connection manager in Baker City.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has said she will lift all statewide mandates once 70% of residents have had at least a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The state is likely to reach that threshold before the end of June.

See Seniors / Page 3A

Kids parade set to return July 1

Parade on downtown sidewalks will have a theme of 'Salute to Super Heroes'

By Lisa Britton
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Baker City Events is bringing back a July tradition with the 2021 Kids Sidewalk Tribute parade on Thursday, July 1. This year's theme is "Salute to Super Heroes."

This is open to kids of all ages and family chaperones.

Categories are: groups and clubs; floats; individuals; wheels (bikes, wagons, strollers); and pets. Line up for the walk starts at 5 p.m. at Main and Court streets. Judging of entries begins at 5:30 p.m. Cash prizes — provided by local sponsors — will be awarded to first, second and third place. All children

will receive a participation ribbon.

The walk starts at 6 p.m. and follows the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street to Church Street, then east to Resort Street and to Geiser-Pollman Park.

At the park, participants will have a chance to win prizes from the Baker

Elks, who will organize games. Free treats will be provided by Gregg and Jo Hinrichsen from State Farm Insurance.

Anyone who would like to help sponsor this event can do so for \$75. Donations can be mailed to Baker City Events/Tribute, 2545 College St., Baker City, OR 97814.



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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE