

It's Little League tournament time

■ Baker City hosting District 3 Little League baseball, softball tourneys starting today, continuing through June 24

By **Corey Kirk**
ckirk@bakercityherald.com

A total of 34 Little League baseball and softball teams from across Eastern Oregon will gather in Baker City Saturday, June 19 through June 24, for the District 3 tournament.

Games will be played at the Baker Sports Complex and Wade Williams Elks Memorial Park.

The tournament includes seven divisions:

- Baseball: ages 8-10, 9-11, 10-12 and juniors
- Softball: ages 8-10, 10-12 and juniors

In addition to the Baker teams, there will be squads competing from Harney County, Hermiston, La Grande, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Wallowa Valley, Grant County, Pilot Rock and Columbia.

Baker Little League was scheduled to host the 2020 district tournament, but those plans were derailed when the Little League season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That gave Baker Little League officials additional time to prepare for the event.

"We've known about the tournament for a couple of years now, approaching two years," Baker Little League President Jason McClaughry said.

This is the first major tournament Baker City has hosted since the 2018 state softball event.

"The planning of course



Baker Little League/Contributed Photo

Little League baseball earlier this spring at Wade Williams Elks Memorial Park in Baker City.

starts at the Baker Little League level. As the host we have to plan concessions, we have to plan out field maintenance, who is going to do the score keeping as far as scorebooks and scoreboards," McClaughry said. "Any training that we've done to do those things, hosting the umpires, finding accommodations for them. Just kind of the basic supplies that go into hosting an event, whether it's trash cans to trash bags, spoons, forks, baseball equipment to chalk, to lining fields, there's a lot of little details that go into it."

McClaughry credits the constructive feedback and advice of other leagues, and the District 3 administrator Matt Martin for help in preparing for the tournament.

"He's got a big role in connecting with the western region of Little League and

Little League International, down to us at the local league, so there's all sorts of planning that person does to make sure everything is in place as well," McClaughry said.

He said volunteers are crucial for putting on the tournament, with parents and community members contributing in many ways.

"Without the community, it doesn't happen," McClaughry said. "That's even in the local season without the tournament, without all the volunteers that we have spending many hours, the local season doesn't happen. When we have a week-long tournament, where we are going to have that variety of teams with multiple games happening at two venues, it's going to take a lot of people."

Through the website SignUp.com, volunteers are able to register for a wide

variety of jobs throughout the tournament. McClaughry encourages those interested in offering their help to go to that website — there's a link on the Baker Little League Facebook page — to see where they can help.

"We will continue to take volunteers throughout the week and we will flood people in where they can help," he said.

With more than 400 ball-players and more than 100 coaches in town for the next several days, McClaughry said he can't help but feel excited.

"Everybody is really looking forward to it; the season was a fantastic success of having all the kids back out playing baseball for a month and a half," McClaughry said. "Until you go out to the practices and games, and you see all the excitement the kids brought to it just to be back on the field and playing baseball. It's just been an amazing thing to have those types of experiences back, and you realize how much is lost after putting it to the side for a year."

Although spectators are not required to wear masks, they are encouraged to conduct themselves safely in regard to social distancing as they see fit.

More information is available at the Baker Little League Facebook page, including a link to full tournament coverage at <https://tourneymachine.com/R92074>.

Baker All-Star Teams

BASEBALL

• Ages 8-10: Zane Hansen, Carson Johnson, Mason Radford, Welker Benson, Brand Bingham, Judah McBride, Ceder Hassmiller, Blake Stevens, Brennan Stevens, Joel Anderson, Lane Collier, Tucker Horn, Bryce Thompson Manager, Levi Spriet; Coaches Austin Plumbtree, Tristan Robertson, Levi Isham. First game was today, June 19 against Wallowa Valley at 11:30 a.m. at the Sports Complex

• Ages 10-11: Beau Briels, Landon Marlia, Tucker Reid, Antonio Govern, Coleman Ingram, Joseph Warbis, Wyatt Carey, Ambrose Rexroad, Liam Jobes, Cooper Bain, Ty Price, Gavin Meyers, Keller Barr. Manager Brandon Briels; Coaches Brandon Reid, Jim Ingram. First game was today, June 19 against Union County at 9 a.m. at Wade Williams.

• Ages 10-12: Cooper Briels, Logan Meyer, Waylon Gibbons, Wyatt Arriola, Ethan Keller, Henry Kamerdula, Lane Weaver, Sylus Watkins, Ashton Palmer, Braden Whitebread, Ethan Rayl, Ryder Nimmo, Henry Smith Manager Nick Rayl, Coaches Kenny Keister, Nathan Rayl. First game is today, June 19 at 7 p.m. against Harney County at Wade Williams.

• Juniors: Aldo Duran, Ethan Fletcher, John Garcia, Julian Garcia, Talon Gyllenberg, Jake McClaughry, Ethan Morgan, Zane Morgan, Paul Novak, William O'Connell, Gerik Orzulak, Andrew Richards, Clay Stevens. First game was today, June 19 against Wallowa Valley at 11:30 a.m. at the Sports Complex.

SOFTBALL

• Ages 8-10: Afton Albert, Hannah Sullivan, Grace McClaughry, Bostyn Baxter, Addison Hester, Vanessa Heitz, Romie Spooner, Mackenzie Dennis, Ayla Kamerdula, Mira Cole, Mackenzie Moothart, Raevyn Whiting, Kinley Downing. Manager Krisi Wilde-Brinton; Coaches Luke Albert, Charlie Brinton. First game is today, June 19 against Union County at 2 p.m. at the Sports Complex.

• Ages 10-12: Bailey Sangster, Raegan Gulick, Reagan Ritter, Maddy Rudi, Kellee Dixon, Jazlynn Culley, Colbi Bachman, Macey Morgan, Maylee Martin, Jocelyn Rayl, Claire Collier, Emily Sullivan, Kate Nilsen. Manager Sonny Gulick; Coaches James Bachman, Jimmy Sullivan. First game is today, June 19 against Harney County at 4 p.m. at the Sports Complex.

Class 1A basketball state tourney in Baker City, North Powder

By **Davis Carbaugh**
The (La Grande) Observer

In what has been a tumultuous indoor sports season, Class 1A basketball teams will still get a proper postseason experience this year.

Baker High School and Powder Valley High School will welcome 16 boys teams and 16 girls teams for the Class 1A state tournament from Monday, June 21, through Thursday, June 24. The double-

elimination tournament will be hosted at both schools and run simultaneously in the early rounds, leading up to a champion being crowned.

"My approach has been, I want to

do the best I can for my seniors and my families because they're missing these opportunities," said Buell Gonzales Jr., athletic director for the Baker School District.

The start of the 2021 indoor

sports season was delayed several times and the season has been a challenge with spring sports and events going on at the same time.

See **Tourney** / Page 6A



Take Care of You

Get the vaccine now, for your best protection against COVID-19.

Let's end this pandemic and get back the life we all want.

*It takes all of us,
and it starts with you.*

