



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Ray Scott, left, and Bill Harmon, center, in the ditch, work on installing a pipeline that will extend seven miles between Baker City's existing wastewater storage lagoons and a new lagoon under construction northeast of the airport.

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The city had to choose a lagoon site more than 10,000 feet from the Baker City Airport, because the lagoon could attract flocks of geese and other birds that can pose a danger to aircraft.

The city bought the 51-acre property in 2019 for \$123,000. The site is at the eastern end of Baker Valley, south of Highway 203. The city also paid \$37,900 for an easement across another property that the pipeline will cross.

Construction on the pipeline leading from the current lagoons to the new lagoon is underway on Lee Lane, north of the airport.

The seven-mile pipeline will have to dip beneath both the Powder River and Interstate 84. The pipeline will be about 10 feet beneath the freeway, said Jeremy Wilson of Anderson-Perry and Associates, the city's engineering firm on the project.

Wilson expects the pipeline to be finished by this fall based

on current installation rates.

Owen said the pipeline will be gravity-fed from the current lagoons to the new lagoon.

"When it comes to irrigation season, this pipeline that we're constructing can be pressurized so it can go either way because there's an irrigator on the lagoon end and on the storage pond end," Owen said. "So the pipeline can be pressurized so it can serve those irrigation needs during that irrigation season."

That will allow wastewater to flow by gravity from the current lagoons to the new lagoon, and also to be pumped the opposite direction.

Owen said treated wastewater will be used for irrigation at both sites.

In November 2020 the City Council agreed to have the city borrow as much as \$7.5 million from the state to pay for the wastewater project. The city will repay the loan over 30 years with a 1.36% annual interest rate. Annual payments would be about \$300,000.

The loan agreement is for up to \$8 million, but Owen said the program includes a loan forgiveness of \$500,000, so the maximum the city would actually borrow and finance is \$7.5 million.

Based on the bid amount from Gyllenberg Construction, the city likely won't need to borrow the full amount.

Owen said the city initially had hoped to finish the work in October or November of this year.

But delays in obtaining permits and some materials — including the pipe issue related to the Gulf Coast winter storms — have pushed back the estimated completion date to next spring.

Some parts of the construction, including installing the liner for the new lagoon, can't be done during cool weather, she said.

"So the goal was to have it done this fall," Owen said. "If we had a really warm November, maybe. But I think more realistically we say it'll be May of 2022."

Sports

Informal track meets planned at Baker High

By Corey Kirk
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Every other Tuesday for the next five to six weeks, track and field athletes are welcome to gather at Baker High School to make friends, compete and have fun.

"It's an open event to anybody, most of it is being able to get some practice so the high schoolers can come practice the high jump or pole vault and even the junior highers can do the same," said Suzy Cole, BHS track and field coach and the lead organizer for this summer's open events. "For the younger kids we do some warm ups and some fun runs, and have whatever races they want to run."

She hopes the summer open track Tuesday events will become a staple during summer vacation.

"We've tried different things over the years, we've tried having more formal track meets, and that didn't work as well and we tried having formal practices," Cole said. "This is the first year we've tried having things like this. We

thought we would give it a try, see how it goes doing an open event every other Tuesday."

Cole said she fondly remembers similar events in La Grande, where she grew up, and how they helped spark her interest in running.

"I think I was six and seven when I ran them and I loved them," she said. "That was the introduction to track for me and that's what I want the kids to know and that's what I want the kids to know, it could be fun for all ages."

Open track Tuesdays will start around 7 p.m. and continue through the third week of August. The events are free. The next is set for July 20.

"It's a great opportunity to meet other people in the community for parents, it's a great opportunity for kids to socialize with all the different age levels with the different kids that come together," Cole said. "It's just a positive event socially, emotionally, and physically."

For more information, email Cole at suzy.cole@bakersed.org.

Djokovic wins 20th grand slam

By Howard Fendrich
AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — The Wimbledon final was locked up at a set apiece after nearly 2 1/2 hours, and Novak Djokovic's bid for a record-tying 20th Grand Slam title was at a critical juncture, when he faced two break points while thousands in the full-capacity crowd at Centre Court chanted his opponent's first name.

Bothered, perhaps, by the challenge he was facing between the lines Sunday, and, perhaps, by the support being thrown behind

Matteo Berrettini, and, perhaps, by the weight of the milestone he was pursuing, Djokovic shrugged all of that off and steeled himself, as he's done so many times at so many moments on so many stages.

On each of the next two points, Djokovic, known for his baseline supremacy, charged forward. On each, Berrettini's passing attempt found the net.

An hour later, the match was finished — Djokovic won 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 — and so, too, was his stated desire to equal the total of major championships col-

lected by his biggest rivals, Roger Federer (who reached 20 in 2018) and Rafael Nadal (who did it last year). No other male tennis player has more than 14.

"I consider myself best, and I believe that I am the best, otherwise I wouldn't be talking confidently about winning Slams and making history," said Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia who is ranked No. 1 and has spent more weeks in that top spot than any other man. "But whether I'm the greatest of all time or not, I leave that debate to other people."

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