

Baker City Herald

September 11, 2021

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In SPORTS, A6

Baker sweeps Bucks

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Steve Olsen of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Baker City reduces water restriction

Starting today, Sept. 11, Baker City returns to stage 1 of its water curtailment plan, meaning outdoor watering can be done at any time, rather than limited to between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The city had been at stage 2 since July 12. Water use has declined over the past few weeks. The city continues to request residents limit their water use.

Rummage sale benefits Baker High School Class of 2022

A community rummage sale set for Friday, Sept. 17 and Saturday, Sept. 18 will raise money for the Baker High School Class of 2022 alcohol-free graduation night celebration.

The sale is by donation only. The sale will take place at Leo Adler Field, Clark and D streets, on Sept. 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sept. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

People who want to donate items for the sale can drop them off at Leo Adler Field on Wednesday, Sept. 15 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., or on Thursday, Sept. 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WEATHER

Today

74 / 39
Sunny



Sunday

77 / 38
Partly sunny



Monday

75 / 35
Partly sunny



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



SURREAL SEPTEMBER

Robert Giroux /Getty Images

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, a coordinated terrorist attack saw two hijacked commercial airplanes crash into New York City's Twin Towers, a third plane into the Pentagon, and a fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

Local residents share their recollections of the 9/11 terrorist attacks

By JAYSON JACOBY, LISA BRITTON and SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Baker City Herald

Whitney Black remembers the horror and the fear and the disbelief.

But what she remembers even more vividly from the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, is the frustration.

How helpless she felt, with most of a continent between her and New York City, where two great buildings had collapsed, where so many people had died and so many more were suffering.

"As soon as I found out, I felt like I should be there, helping people, protecting," Whitney said on Thursday, Sept. 9, two days shy of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

"It drove me nuts." Whitney, now 49, was at home in Baker City that sunny late summer morning with her husband, Shannon, and their two young children. They didn't have a television.

She first learned of the tragedy when her brother-in-law, Chris Black, telephoned. "Check the news," he told her.

Whitney recalls watching on TV as the second airliner struck one of the Twin Towers. She thinks she was at her parents' home in Baker City.

She's not sure about that. But she absolutely recalls her reaction to seeing that improbable collision, the fire and the smoke, the tiny dots on the screen

that were people, leaping to their deaths.

"Surreal," she said. "We were all so afraid, just trying to sort it out," Whitney said. "We got to see it in real time. Your heart aches."

Later in the day, when the scale of the catastrophe became clear, she said she felt compelled to act.

She started by calling Baker City churches. And she phoned other people she knew.

Her goal was to gather supplies that people in New York City might need, or that might offer them some meager comfort in a terrible time.

"It was a channel for my frustration," Whitney said. "I think a lot of people responded that way."

Within a day, Whitney was watching about 30 volunteers sort through donated items at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, stacking them into piles on tables.

There were gloves and clothes and toys to brighten a frightened child's day.

She remembers talking with a man in New York City who was coordinating the donations that arrived from across America.

She recalls how gratified she was at the sheer volume of donations that Baker City and Baker County residents collected, and how shocked her New York City contact was when she told him what the population here is.

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Trailhead Stewardship Project/Contributed Photo

The Martin Bridge trail, following clearing by members of the Trailhead Stewardship Project.

Clearing a path

By JAYSON JACOBY
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Sections of several hiking trails in the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains were improved this summer — and in one case, revealed — thanks to a new partnership between The Trailhead in

Baker City and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The Trailhead Stewardship Project's goal is to maintain and improve mountain trails that have suffered from infrequent maintenance over the past decade or more.

The Trailhead is the bike, hike and ski shop opened several years ago in downtown Baker City by Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

The private, nonprofit corporation that owns the

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County OKs visitors center RFP

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Baker County Commissioners voted 2-1 during a special session on Wednesday, Sept. 8 to approve a final version of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for operating a visitors center in Baker City.

The county, which has postponed awarding a contract several times since early 2020, hopes to choose a contractor in early October.

During a work session with the Baker City Council on Aug. 25, commissioners showed a timeline that called for adopting the final RFP on Sept. 8, with a deadline of Sept. 24 for interested parties to submit proposals.

Commissioners intend to choose a contractor at their Oct. 6 meeting, and sign the new contract Oct. 20.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey cast the lone dissenting vote on Wednesday.

Harvey said he believes the county should have kept one sentence in the RFP, dealing with the contractor's involvement in managing local events, that was deleted from an earlier draft.

That sentence reads: "Manage any internally sponsored new and existing community events."

The RFP that Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols approved Wednesday includes this sentence related to events: "Coordinate with external event sponsors who are hosting events in Baker County."

Harvey said he's concerned that by deleting the other sentence, the county might put at risk some

popular summer events that bring visitors to Baker City and benefit local businesses. He mentioned Miners Jubilee, the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally and the Baker City Cycling Classic.

Bennett pointed out, though, that the county's previous contractor for operating the visitors center — the Baker County Chamber of Commerce — manages only one of those events, Miners Jubilee.

(Although the Chamber's contract with the county ended Aug. 31, the Chamber continues to operate the visitors center at 490 Campbell St. Officials from both the Chamber and from the nonprofit corporation that owns Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort said they intend to submit proposals for the new visitors center contract.)

Bennett said he believes it's important for the county to ensure the new contract is specifically for operating the visitors center, and not for directly managing events. The contractor would be expected, however, as stated in the RFP, to "coordinate with external event sponsors."

In addition, Bennett said organizers of any event can apply to receive money from the county's lodging tax. That tax, which is paid by guests at motels, bed and breakfasts, vacation rentals and other lodging, also pays for the visitors center contract.

Bennett said he agrees with Harvey that the community's roster of summer events are important economic drivers and should continue, including, potentially, with financial

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TUESDAY — BAKER HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND SPORTS ROUNDUP