



GO! Magazine
Your weekly guide to arts and entertainment events around Northeast Oregon

Baker City Herald

October 14, 2021

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Cindy Carpenter of Baker City.

State, A3

Oregonians will get 17% of their 2020 Oregon income taxes back as a kicker credit when they file their 2021 taxes next year, the Oregon Department of Revenue announced Tuesday, Oct. 12.

Revenue officials determined more than a month ago that Oregon's unique kicker rebate law would generate a jaw-dropping \$1.9 billion. But they needed to finalize and certify exactly how much each tax filer would be entitled to.

The official answer is 17.341% of 2020 state income taxes paid. Taxpayers can find their 2020 tax liability on line 22 of their 2020 Form OR.

Region, A5

BOISE — Conservation groups in Idaho are speaking out against the "inhumane" killings of eight wolf pups in the wild that were part of a Boise high school's adopted wolf pack.

Following the killings, representatives from several Idaho groups in August sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack asking that he "immediately suspend the killing of wolf pups on all public lands by the USDA's federal agents."

WEATHER

Today

51 / 29
Partly sunny



Friday

60 / 31
Partly sunny



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

COUNCIL DEADLOCKS on train quiet zone proposal

By **SAMANTHA O'CONNOR**
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The Baker City Council came to two deadlock votes Tuesday night, Oct. 12 as it considered a proposal from a citizens group to pursue a railroad quiet zone in town.

Two motions were made, and both failed with 3-3 votes, with the same trios of councilors at loggerheads.

The first motion was to put the quiet zone matter on the May 2022 primary election ballot.

Mayor Kerry McQuisten and Councilors Johnny Waggoner Sr. and Joanna Dixon voted in favor.

Councilors Shane Alderson, Jason Spriet and Heather Sells voted against the motion.

The second motion was for the city to move ahead with the quiet zone application, as the citizens group, with support from more than 400 residents and more than 50 local businesses and organizations,

requested. The group has said it would raise the money to make required safety improvements to public crossings, alleviating the need for the city to spend any money on the project.

The vote on the motion was divided the same way. This time the trio of Alderson, Spriet and Sells were in favor, and the three of McQuisten, Waggoner and Dixon were opposed.

There were no other motions, and the issue was not resolved Tuesday.

Peter Fargo, a representative from the group that is promoting a quiet zone — a designation both La Grande and Pendleton already have — wrote in a message to the Herald on Wednesday morning that "we would like to thank Councilors Shane Alderson, Heather Sells, and Jason Spriet for their moral leadership on Tuesday night. They put the safety of our kids and neighbors before politics. They supported a simple solution that will benefit

everyone in our community — improving the safety of our railroad crossings, reducing harmful train horns, still allowing train engineers to use the horns when necessary, and continuing to having horns outside of town, so we can all enjoy them from a safe distance."

Sells questioned the benefit of the city taking the matter to voters since the citizens group has offered to raise the money for crossing improvements.

McQuisten referenced the May 2002 election, when a measure asking city voters whether they supported a quiet zone — at a cost to the city estimated at \$40,000 to \$60,000 — failed by 82% to 18%.

McQuisten also said she conducted a straw poll on Facebook, and that the poll explained the quiet zone wouldn't cost the city any money, and that most people were opposed.

See, **Trains**/Page A5

S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

A local group wants Baker City to pursue a quiet zone designation, in which freight trains would no longer blow their horns before every crossing. Trains would still use their horns in emergencies.



A. Lakes pulls visitor center proposal

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
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Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association has withdrawn its proposal to operate a visitor center in Baker City.

Anthony Lakes, along with the previous contractor, the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, had been vying for a new contract with Baker County.

County commissioners, who have the final say on awarding

See, **Visitors**/Page A5

Budget board member says mayor defamed him

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
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Jason Bland, a member of Baker City's budget committee who sometimes speaks with slurred speech due to multiple sclerosis, contends Mayor Kerry McQuisten defamed him by suggesting that he was drunk when he left voice mails on her cellphone recently.

See, **Mayor**/Page A3

Former Baker man convicted of stealing from business

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
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A jury convicted a former Baker City man of felony theft for stealing money in 2017 from a local assisted living center he co-owned. Jeremy Gale Thamert, 49, was convicted on Oct. 8 of three counts of first-degree theft, a Class C felony, and one count of second-degree theft, a Class A misdemeanor, after a five-day trial in Baker County Circuit Court.

The jury also acquitted Thamert, who moved from Baker City to Prineville in 2017, of one count of first-degree theft and one count of second-degree theft.

See, **Theft**/Page A3

Book Buddies

Friends of the Library donate hundreds of hours of volunteer work

By **LISA BRITTON**
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Although not often seen, the Friends of the Baker County Library work hundreds of hours sorting books, staffing the annual book sales, and making sure the book shop has new offerings every few weeks.

"There's some amazing stuff in there right now," Jen Albright, president of the Friends, said on a recent after-

noon in the library's meeting room, 2400 Resort St.

And she'd like more patrons to peruse the shelves — and in turn make room for even more books.

The Friends of the Baker County Library is a group of volunteers who support the library by helping sort book donations and also raise money to help fund library services or other special requests.

So far in 2021, the Friends of the Baker County Library have logged 226 hours.

The Friends has basically two divisions: book sales and work room.

Karylann Brown, for

instance, sorts donations and figures out which books may be a good fit for the library's collection, such as a series that is missing one volume.

Books that are not needed for the collection are routed to the book sales, which are held twice a year — during Miners Jubilee in July and the winter sale in January and February.

Between book sales, the Friends rotate books through the book shop, which is located right inside the main entrance. Albright said they swap books in the shop about every two weeks.

See, **Library**/Page A3



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Karylann Brown, left, Kathy Peterson and Jen Albright keep the Baker County Library's book shop stocked as part of their volunteer work with Friends of the Baker County Library.



TODAY
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SATURDAY — RESTORING AN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BAKER BUILDING