



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Baker's Isaiah Jones goes to the basket against Fruitland on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, in the Baker gym.

Bulldogs

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The lead changed hands twice early in the fourth quarter. Grant Gambleton had a 3-pointer to give Baker a 60-59 lead, and Quintela's 3-pointer tied the score at 63 with 5:05 left.

Jebon Jones said he was pleased to see that neither Gambleton nor Quintela hesitated to take a shot at a crucial time.

"I want them to feel confident to take good shots," he said.

Jones said he was happy with Baker's ability to play at a

fast pace throughout the game. That's possible in part because he's able to substitute frequently. Nine Bulldogs played significant minutes against Fruitland, and eight scored.

"We have a lot of guys who can run," Jones said.

Long and Isaiah Jones each had 14 points, and Spike and Logsdon added eight each.

Baker was slated to travel to Central Oregon this weekend, playing at Madras on Friday, Jan. 7, and at Crook County in Prineville the next day.

The Bulldogs open Greater Oregon League play on Tuesday, Jan. 11, by playing host to La Grande at 7:30 p.m. The Tigers are 6-1 and ranked sixth.

Lions

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Another parkway project was to help local resident Tom Clement clean brush along the pathway in October 2021.

A major focus of all Lion Clubs is to provide support for sight and hearing.

On the same day they put up lights in the park — Dec. 2, 2021 — local Lions were also in every Baker City school to help with vision screening.

This service — to check students' eyesight — dates back nearly to the start of the Lions Club. In 1925, Helen Keller appealed to the Lions Club to be "Knights of the Blind" during a national meeting.

Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, were made honorary Lions — the first women to receive the honor. A story of the club's work with sight can be found online at www.lionsclubs.org/

en/discover-our-clubs/interactive-timeline.

In addition to the vision screenings, Lions Clubs collect eyeglasses and hearing aids that can be repurposed for those in need, and also accept applications for those who can use extra help with sight or hearing expenses.

The club also supports a diabetes camp in Idaho, which provides a camp experience for youth who have type 1 diabetes.

Another local project is "Shoes for Kids" — in December, the club provided \$4,500 worth of coupons to local schools for shoes.

"We serve. That's our motto," Nelson said.

The club also donates to other organizations in town and awards a college scholarship every year.

To support these community and national projects, the local club raises funds through the Jubilee breakfast, Radio Days campaign, a calendar featuring birthdays and anniversaries (this has been



Gregg Hinrichsen/Contributed Photo

Members of the Baker City Lions Club helped local resident Tom Clement clean brush along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway in October 2021.

paused during the pandemic), and working the beer garden during the bull and bronc riding at Miners Jubilee.

The club has also received several grants from the Leo Adler Foundation to help fund larger projects, such as the pathway and park improvements.

Although the club paused meetings for awhile, members are again meeting in-person at noon on Thursdays at The Little Pig, 3685 10th St.

Updates are also posted on the club's Facebook page.

Those interested in learning more about the Lions Club can call Nelson, 541-403-2003.

Shelter

Continued from A1

She said emergency preparedness is a wise pursuit for the county but "this is not an emergency at this point."

Smith said she has concerns about opening a shelter at the fairgrounds, noting that multiple groups, such as 4-H archery club, has events there.

"They also have monthly meetings by one or more groups in the event center and those are a lot of kids that run around inside and out and it could be dangerous having homeless people there. We don't know who we are serving," Smith said.

Mark Johnson, a member of the Baker County Fair Board, told commissioners that the Cockram Arena is not a suitable location for a shelter, but the open air beef shed could be.

"There's still a lot of opposition to it," Johnson said.

Nichols asked county attorney Kim Mosier about the legal issues involved with people camping on public property.

Mosier said the county

does not have an ordinance about removing people from public property.

"We have to be really careful and do it in a very specific way," Mosier said.

She said they can go through a process to ask people to move on, needing to give specific notice and working with individuals.

In November 2021 Duby said he plans to ask the Baker City Council to approve an ordinance limiting where, and when, people can camp on public property within the city limits.

Duby said he was prompted to act by a bill that the Oregon Legislature passed earlier this year and that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed into law on June 23.

The law — introduced as House Bill 3115 and passed by the Democratic majorities in both the state House and Senate — is based on a 2019 federal court ruling in a Boise case that in effect prohibited cities and counties from making it illegal for people to sleep outdoors in public spaces if the jurisdiction doesn't provide indoor alternatives.

Housing options

Nichols, who is a member of the board for both New Directions Northwest and Community Connection, said he has had conversations with officials from both agencies about the homeless issue. He said they had a rent program that was only allowed to put people up in motel rooms for three days. The program ended Dec. 31.

"Community Connection also has a program called Stable Housing. They can put somebody up someplace for up to 30 days and no longer as long as the person is willing to get signed up for services and move forward," Nichols said.

He said what they are finding at New Directions and Community Connection is most people who are thought to be homeless do not want any services, they do not want to be told what to do, they do not want their lives infringed upon by law enforcement.

"Mental health issues are becoming worse and worse all the time because of drug activity and what is going on in the whole country right now," Nichols said. "And it's not just Oregon, it's the whole

doggone country. So, there's been a lot of discussions on this and nobody, and I mean nobody, has any answers on this."


He noted that the warming shelter in La Grande has moved since it first opened in 2017. He said he doesn't believe it's feasible to transport people from Baker City to La Grande, even if people wanted to go.

"It's difficult for us to get anywhere with this other than just a temporary solution and throwing a whole bunch of money at this problem without a permanent solution, I think, is a bad road to go down," Nichols said. "It makes no sense to throw a whole bunch of money at a problem and two years later the problem still exists and there's no funding to continue that program."

He said he doesn't like the idea of setting up a shelter at the fairgrounds, or buying or renting a building elsewhere for that purpose.

"Mark's idea, I think, by having people have to go to law enforcement and actually apply for these things, I think it's the right way to go," Nichols said.

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