



INSIDE
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Arts and entertainment magazine



SPORTS A6
Seattle Seahawks shake up lineup

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Cheryl Colwell of North Powder.

BRIEFING

Wyden online town hall set for March 12

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., will have a live online town hall for Baker County residents on Saturday, March 12, at 3:30 p.m. To sign up, go to <https://m.facebook.com/PeoplesTH/>

Workshop on trimming, pruning fruit trees

The OSU Extension Master Gardeners program will offer a workshop on trimming and pruning fruit trees on Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baker County Event Center, 2600 East St. Cost is \$15. The speaker is David Cowan, who has been an OSU Extension Master Gardener since 2005.

Learn more about foster care at March 16 event

A virtual event for those who want to learn more about foster care is planned for Wednesday, March 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It is sponsored by Every Child, the Oregon Department of Human Services, and GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.) To register, go to <https://everychildneoregon.org>. Click on "Upcoming Events" and search by county. The official title of the event is "Virtual Explore Fostering — Every Child NE Oregon."

WEATHER

Today
38/17
Sunny

Friday
43/23
Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

County Fair's Windfall

Baker County gets \$2 million from state for fairgrounds work

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The Baker County Fair Board received an unprecedented financial boost to turn the ideas into reality with its 5-year plan for improvements to the fairgrounds in Baker City.

A \$2 million boost, to be specific.

The Oregon Legislature allocated that amount to the Baker County Fair in House Bill 5202.

That's the 114-page spending bill, approved during the Legislature's short session that adjourned last week, that allocates tens of millions of dollars for a variety of projects statewide.

"It's very exciting for the Fair to have this opportunity," Ron Rowan, chairman of the Fair Board, said on Tuesday, March 8.

See, **Fairgrounds/Page A2**



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Replacing the dilapidated wooden fence around the perimeter of the rodeo grounds at the Baker County Fairgrounds in Baker City is one of the priorities in the Fair Board's 5-year master plan.

"It's very exciting for the Fair to have this opportunity."

— Ron Rowan, chairman, Baker County Fair Board



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Baker County has received \$2 million from state legislation for improvements at the Baker County Fairgrounds in Baker City.

Saint Alphonsus-Baker City names new president

Baker City Herald

Dina Ellwanger, president of Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Ontario, will add the Baker City hospital to her list of responsibilities.

Ellwanger will replace Priscilla Lynn, president and chief nursing officer at Saint Alphonsus in Baker City, who is ending her four-year tenure on May 6.

"Priscilla has spent many years of dedicated service to Saint Alphonsus Health System, and it is with mixed emotions that we bid her farewell and wish Priscilla well in her new endeavors," Odette Bolano, president and CEO of Saint Alphonsus Health System, said in a press release.

"Dina knows Baker City well and will be a valuable leader as we continue meeting the healthcare needs for the community."

Ellwanger has been president and chief nursing supervisor at the Ontario hospital since August 2020.

She served as chief nursing officer at the Baker City hospital from 2010-14.

During Lynn's tenure, Saint Alphonsus-Baker City was named one of the top 100 critical access hospitals for five straight years, 2017-2021.

She oversaw a major remodeling of the emergency department, outpatient rehabilitation services and The Cafe.

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City is a 25-bed, critical access, acute care hospital.

The hospital was founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1897 and became part of the Saint Alphonsus Health System in 2010.



Ellwanger



Lynn

City Council deadlocks on filling vacancy

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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The Baker City Council, which is back down to six members, deadlocked again in an effort to fill its one vacancy Tuesday evening, March 8, at City Hall.

Councilor Heather Sells resigned

March 1 because she is moving outside the city and thus no longer eligible to serve.

During Tuesday's meeting, Councilor Dean Guyer made a motion to appoint Ray Duman to replace Sells, whose term continues through the end of 2022.

Guyer noted that the City Charter allows councilors to fill a vacancy without going through a formal application process. Duman applied for a vacancy last fall, one eventually filled when councilors appointed Guyer on Dec. 14.

"I would like to defer on the application process and move to an actual selection," Guyer said. "Raymond Duman actually applied for the position that I applied for back in December. He is someone who has knowledge about city governance, also is very knowledgeable about the police department, also



Guyer



Duman



McQuisten

Youth chess players to play at state

BY LISA BRITTON
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Chess players from Baker City are heading to compete at the state tournament April 8-9 at the Portland Expo Center.

The regional and state competitions are part of Chess for Success, a program that funds chess clubs in eligible schools where more than 50% of the student population qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch.

This is the third year Chess for Success has been offered in the Baker School District, which offers clubs at Brooklyn Primary (grades 1-3), South Baker Intermediate (grades 4-6) and Baker Middle School (grades 7-8).

The chess program is part of Baker School District's FridayPlus programming. Chess for Success funds a position for a chess coach, provides boards to all players, T-shirts, supplies, and pays for registration to the regional competition.

Ian Wolfe is the chess coach. The club at each school practices weekly from October to May, with a tournament in June.



Ian Wolfe/Contributed Photo

Baker students competed in a regional Chess for Success tournament on Feb. 26, 2022.

Brooklyn has two sessions a week — one for beginners and one for advanced players. Every Friday features an open practice for all ages.

The regional tournament took

place Saturday, Feb. 26, in Hermiston.

"I'm really proud of the dedication and commitment these kids have had to the chess program," Wolfe said. "They chose to get on a bus at 6 a.m. on a Saturday and travel two hours to Hermiston to mostly play against each other."

Students participating at regionals were:

Baker Middle School
Jacob Burton, Weston Burton, Dallin Stocks, Elias Taylor, Jace Whitford and Christopher Dall-stream.

Grades 6-8, Haines
Drew Benjamin

Grades 6-8, South Baker
Joseph Chastain

Grades K-5, South Baker
Jozellynn Barnett, Madison Cooper, Jaxxon Chesterman, Evan Carroll, Layla Sexton, Isabella Moyes

See, **Chess/Page A3**

See, **Council/Page A3**

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



TODAY
Issue 126
28 pages

Business.....B1	Community News.....A2	HoroscopeB2 & B4	OpinionA4	Sudoku.....B5
Classified.....B4-B6	Crossword.....B4 & B6	Lottery Results.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Turning BacksA2
Comics.....B7	Dear Abby.....B8	News of Record.....A2	SportsA6	WeatherB8