



**HOME & LIVING B1**  
**Flavors from the heart:**  
**Sampling the cuisine of Ukraine**



**LOCAL A2**  
**How community health workers**  
**help local families**

# Baker City Herald

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Gail Chapman of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**March 31 last legal day to use studded tires**

Oregon's legal studded tire season continues through March 31. Starting April 1, it's illegal to drive a vehicle equipped with studded tires. Drivers with studded tires on their vehicles after the March 31 deadline can be charged by law enforcement with a Class C traffic violation.

**Lenten Retreat at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral**

St. Francis de Sales Cathedral Parish is presenting a Lenten Retreat with Fr. Bailey Clemons, starting with Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 1 at 5 p.m. and continuing on Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, call the St. Francis parish office at 541-523-4251 or email to office@sfdsc.org.

**Youth track program returning**

The Baker High School track team will again offer a youth track program for children from kindergarten to sixth grade. The first practice is April 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Practices will be held Tuesdays, and meets on Thursdays. The first meet is April 14, and the last one is May 5.

The cost is \$25 per athlete. Proceeds support the BHS track team.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
 59/32  
 Mostly sunny

**Wednesday**  
 57/28  
 Mostly cloudy

**Full forecast on the back of the B section.**

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

## Fire union head: City's ambulance plan 'crushing'

BY JAYSON JACOBY

Casey Johnson said Baker City's intention to cease ambulance service on Sept. 30, 2022, forcing Baker County to choose a new provider, would have a dramatic effect on the city's firefighting force as well.

"It's crushing," said Johnson, a firefighter/paramedic and labor union president for the fire department.

He also used the adjectives "dire" and "dramatic" after meeting on Monday morning, March 28, with City Manager Jonathan Cannon.

That happened six days after the City Council, following a report from Cannon, voted 6-0 to send a notice to Baker County about the city's intention to cease ambulance service Sept. 30.

Under Oregon law, Baker County is solely responsible for ensuring ambulance service and for choosing the provider. If the city bows out of ambulance service, the county likely would have to find a private company to do that work both within the Baker City limits and in an ambulance service area that covers

about 70% of the county outside the city.

Johnson said Cannon on Monday morning outlined the cuts to the fire department staff necessary if the city does discontinue its ambulance operation at the end of September.

Johnson said the number of firefighters on regular shifts would be cut in half, from 12 to six.

(The department has 11 people on shifts now, he said, as the city has been trying to fill one vacancy for several months.)

The six-person roster would mean two firefighters per shift, Johnson said.

If just two people responded to a fire, neither the city's rules, to go inside a home to fight a fire or try to rescue a resident.

Johnson said the city uses the "two in, two out" rule, meaning firefighters can enter a burning structure only if at least two other firefighters are on duty outside as backup.

With half as many firefighters available as now, he

said it would be much more rare for the department to be able to meet that standard.

"It would be a dramatic decrease in our emergency response," Johnson said.

Cannon said last week that he "hates" the prospect of laying off fire department staff.

"It's a miserable thing to have to do," he said. "This is not something anyone takes lightly."

Johnson said he understands the financial conundrum facing the city.

See, **Ambulance**/Page A3

## Celebrating the Haines Stampede

### New exhibit at the Eastern Oregon Museum in Haines chronicles local rodeo

BY LISA BRITTON  
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## HAINES — It all started with an outhouse.

In 2019, volunteers with the Haines Stampede Rodeo Association were cleaning up the rodeo grounds and decided the old outhouse, which once stood near the railroad depot, needed to go.

"We didn't want to destroy it," said Bill Taylor, who helps put on the annual rodeo.

The 1880s depot — and its outhouse — originally sat on the west side of the railroad tracks near Third Street in Haines. In 1963, the depot was relocated several blocks to the east, next to the Eastern Oregon Museum at 610 Third St., and the two-seat outhouse went south to the rodeo grounds.

Rather than tear apart the wooden structure, Taylor contacted Mary Jane Guyer, who is on the board for the Eastern Oregon Museum, to see if they wanted the outhouse.

Guyer said yes, and on May 1, 2021, the two historic structures were together again.

But that was just the start. Guyer found out that the Stampede had years of records and artifacts from its history, which dates to 1915.

"She said it'd be neat if you moved that stuff to the museum," Taylor said.

That comment sparked the idea to create a dedicated exhibit at the museum for the Haines Stampede and Haines Fourth of July celebration.

"We thought it'd be good to have it all together," Taylor said.



Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald, File

**Bareback rider Austin Williams hangs on for a wild ride during the Haines Stampede rodeo in July 2016.**

*"A guy who won a buckle, or has pictures — we'd like to see it and see if it'll work in our display."*

— Bill Taylor, Haines Stampede Rodeo Association volunteer

The new display will be located inside the carriage wing of the museum.

Volunteers started painting the space on March 18, and they hope to have the exhibit somewhat finished by Memorial Day weekend, when the museum opens for the season.

"It's going to be a work in progress," Taylor said.

And he hopes it grows.

He encourages anyone with memorabilia from past rodeos to contact him and see if it would fit in the new exhibit.

"A guy who won a buckle, or has pictures — we'd like to see it and see if it'll work in our display," Taylor said.

He said they are on the trail of a 1923 trophy saddle that somehow ended up

in Pennsylvania.

"We're actively trying to find that saddle," he said.

Taylor can be contacted at 541-403-0900 or through the rodeo website, www.hainesstampede.com.

The museum already has a couple Stampede ribbons — dated 1917 and 1923 — preserved inside a box made from an original window from the Muddy Creek School.

"If people have those, we can protect them," Guyer said of the ribbons. "If there's something historical, or documents, please make sure you check."

For inquiries about donating items to the museum, call Guyer at 541-519-8865 or email her at easternoregonmuseum@gmail.com.

The Eastern Oregon Museum will be open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is also open by appointment — call 541-856-3233 to set up a time.

Admission is free, although donations are welcome.

See, **Stampede**/Page A2

## Blocking quiet zone by charter change faces obstacle

Baker City Herald

A Baker City Council member who wants to ask voters to change the city charter to block a plan to establish a train quiet zone in the city hopes to add the issue to the Nov. 8, 2022, general election ballot.

But the two attempts that Councilor Joanna Dixon has made so far to put the matter on the ballot haven't met legal muster, according to the city.

And unless she can convince at least one of her fellow councilors to change from a quiet zone supporter to an opponent, the question might never make it to voters.

Although Dixon announced her plan to seek a charter change after the City Council voted 4-3 on Jan. 25 to apply for a quiet zone, she had submitted proposed initiatives prior to the meeting, on Jan. 6 and Jan. 19.

A quiet zone designation, which is approved by the Federal Railroad Administration, would mean train engineers would no longer sound their whistles at five public crossings in the city limits except in emergencies, at the discretion of the train crew.

See, **Zone**/Page A3

## North Baker street plan talks resume

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Baker City Councilors continued discussing their concerns about a major street improvement plan, and in particular the potential effects on property owners, during a work session on March 22.

The Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Project has been in the works for a few years. The Oregon Department of Transportation is the lead agency, as much of the proposed work would be on city streets that are also sections of state highways.

The plan, which is intended to improve traffic flow and safety, including for bicycles and pedestrians, focuses on these sections:

- 10th Street from Hughes Lane to Broadway Street
- Cedar Street from Hughes Lane to Campbell Street



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

**Looking north along 10th Street from Broadway Street. The Oregon Department of Transportation is proposing to build or replace sidewalks and potentially make other changes to this section of 10th Street.**

- Hughes Lane from 10th Street to Cedar Street
- Pocahontas Road from 10th Street to 17th Street/Chico Street

Councilor Shane Alderson proposed the work session following the City Council's March 8 meeting, when councilors heard from landowner Jim Ingram, who

is concerned about losing some of his farm ground due to a proposed realignment of the intersection at 10th Street and Pocahontas Road/Hughes Lane.

Councilor Joanna Dixon said councilors would like to include language in the plan urging designers to have the least effect on property own-

ers while still seeking to improve public safety.

"That kind of gives us the, yes, we realize we need this turning lane, but let's do that so that we've got the least impact on property owners," Dixon said.

Mayor Kerry McQuisten agreed.

"We can limit just about anything we want in this improvement plan before we put it out there unless it's in violation of federal or state law or crosses over into the different pools of funding," McQuisten said.

She said surveys for proposed improvements will be done by May.

After specific proposals are finished, both the City Council and the Baker County Board of Commissioners will have open houses to present ideas to the public, Dixon said.

See, **Talks**/Page A3

## County sets public hearing on Pine Creek Road dispute

### Lawsuit against county related to road also continues

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Two parallel legal processes continue in a dispute about the Pine Creek Road in the Elkhorn Mountains northwest of Baker City, a popular access route for ATV riders, hunters and hikers.

One involves the lawsuit that David McCarty, who owns land that the road crosses, filed against Baker County on April 30, 2021.

The other is the county's effort to potentially declare the disputed section of road a public right-of-way.

See, **Hearing**/Page A3



**TODAY**  
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