



INSIDE
Go! Magazine
Shaking up Shakespeare



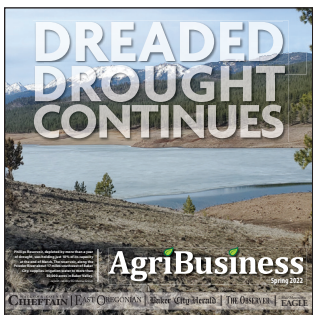
SPORTS A6
Baker track teams
dominate 5-team meet



SPORTS A8
Baker girls golf
team places second

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 • \$1.50



INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE

Special section focuses on the farming and ranching industry in NE Oregon, focusing on concerns about the ongoing drought, and rising production costs.

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Margaret Bootsma of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Presentation on human trafficking April 25

AAUW will sponsor a presentation about human trafficking on Monday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Baker High School library, 2500 E St. This talk is open to the public.

Kristen Campbell will be the presenter. She is the operations and program director for In Our Backyard, a human trafficking awareness group.

BHS baseball 'Pink Night' for breast cancer awareness

The Baker High School baseball team will have its Pink Night, to raise awareness about breast cancer and honor those affected by it, on Monday, April 25, when the Bulldogs play Hepner/Ione at 5 p.m. at the Baker Sports Complex.

WEATHER

Today
53/30
Rain showers

Friday
54/31
Cloudy

Residents urge county to

KEEP PINE CREEK ROAD OPEN

Nineteen people speak during a public hearing

BY JAYSON JACOBY AND IAN CRAWFORD
Baker City Herald



Contributed Photo, File

David McCarty installed this gate, which is sometimes locked, across the Pine Creek Road at his property boundary during the fall of 2020. The road passes through property that McCarty owns. During a public hearing on April 19, 2022, a group of local residents who enjoy visiting the area urged Baker County commissioners to preserve public access to the road.

More Inside

Response from representatives of landowner David McCarty on Page A3.

A total of 19 Baker County residents took their turn at a lectern and told county commissioners why the Pine Creek canyon west of Baker City is such a wonderful place to visit and why they believe the county should strive to ensure the public has access to the road and therefore to large swathes of public land it leads to.

The speakers, whose personal experiences in the Pine Creek area date back more than half a century in some cases, were among those who attended a public hearing called by commissioners on Tuesday morning, April 19, at the Baker County Events Center.

Commissioners were soliciting public comments regarding the county's effort to declare as a public right-of-way the road that follows Pine Creek to its source at Pine Creek Reservoir, high in the Elkhorn Mountains.

Although the road passes through private property for about two and a half miles, the reservoir itself is part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, as is much of the surrounding alpine area that's popular among hunters, anglers and hikers.

A herd of mountain goats lives near the reservoir, and an unofficial trail crosses a ridge and leads to Rock Creek Lake, the largest (35 acres) and deepest (about 100 feet) in the Elkhorns.

The county's campaign to formalize public access on the road was prompted by a civil lawsuit that a Pine Creek landowner, David McCarty, filed against the county almost a year ago, on April 30, 2021.

See, **Hearing**/Page A3



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald, File, 2017

The Pine Creek Road, in the Elkhorn Mountains northwest of Baker City, climbs to an alpine zone that includes views of Rock Creek Butte, upper right, at 9,106 feet the tallest peak in the range. Before it reaches this point the road runs through private property, and the owner, David McCarty, in 2021 filed a civil lawsuit against Baker County contending there are no records showing the road is a public right-of-way.

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

Kids meet Baker City's canine cop

Friday Academy program includes a visit with Capa

BY IAN CRAWFORD
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Local elementary students in the Friday Academy program had the chance to meet Capa, the Baker City Police Department's drug-detecting dog, on Friday morning, April 15.

The students gathered at Geiser-Pollman Park to meet not only Capa, but also his handler, Sgt. Wayne Chastain. "Why do we need dogs?" Chastain asked the students.

After a few odd guesses and anecdotes, he eventually gestured to his own nose in an overt hint.

"Yes! Their nose! A dog's sense of smell is five million times stronger than ours," Chastain said.

The students gathered about K9 training, the importance of Capa's sense of smell when detecting drugs, and as well how other dogs are trained for finding contraband in jail, chasing down perpe-



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Sgt. Wayne Chastain of the Baker City Police Department is the handler for Capa, the department's drug-detecting dog.

trators and otherwise keeping the community safe.

One by one the children were invited to gently pet Capa, a German shepherd and Belgian Malinois mix, as he busied himself gnawing on a braided toy, which by the end of the session was leaning toward replacement.

"See that? This was new this morning," Chastain said.

Accompanying the Friday Academy students were several chaperones, as well as Robin Maille, family and community health mentor for the Oregon State University Extension Service in Baker County, which arranged the event, and Katie Hauser, OSU Extension's 4-H program coordinator.

OSU's outreach specifically sets out to help students in need of additional support in matters of classwork and personal skills, as well as giving them extracurricular experiences such as museum visits and even yoga classes.

"Students are invited based on academic needs, and we provide a delicate balance of academics and fun to keep kids coming," said Angela Lattin, director of the Baker Early Learning Center.

Meeting every week, Friday Academy largely consist of kids from second through fourth grade, although the program isn't limited to those grades.

Kids enrolled are usually recommended by their teachers. The program runs through May 13, with a final trip for the school year a guided tour of the campus at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

Firefighter laments having to leave Baker City

Brian Johnson said uncertainty about future of ambulance service forced his decision

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Brian Johnson figured he might finish his career as a firefighter/paramedic with the Baker City Fire Department.

He already had four years with the department.

And he loves the community.

But in the span of just a couple weeks, Johnson had finished his final shift in Baker City and was working more than 300 miles away, in Cowlitz County, Washington.

He was still doing the job he loved.

Just not in the place he wanted to be doing it.

See, **Firefighter**/Page A3

County passes constitution resolution

Proponents of original version object to changes

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Baker County commissioners voted 2-1 on Wednesday, April 20, to pass a resolution "re-affirming the constitutional rights of Baker County citizens," four months after a local group asked commissioners to approve a similar, but more comprehensive, document.

See, **Resolution**/Page A5

Girl Scouts donate \$500 each to Best Friends of Baker and Rachel Center

BY IAN CRAWFORD

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Over the past year, members of Girl Scout Troop No. 50042 in Baker City conducted cookie sales and other fundraisers for their annual donation drive.

On Thursday, April 14, den mother Linda Snyder oversaw a ceremony during which head Scouts Becky Snyder and Penelope Simmons presented \$500 donations to two local groups.

The donation meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Girl Scout's Oath, with as many as 10 attending in the basement of the Baker Elks Lodge. The space is also shared by the local Boy Scouts.

See, **Scouts**/Page A3



TODAY
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58 pages

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