



INSIDE
Go! Magazine
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SPORTS A6
Baker boys, girls golf teams qualify for state

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 • \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Wilma Suttler of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Baker County Garden Club meets May 18 at Eagle Cap Nursery

The Baker County Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, May 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the Eagle Cap Nursery, 45328 Mother Lode Road in the Keating Valley. Those who want to carpool should meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. Please bring a sack lunch. New members are always welcome.

Bigfoot town hall scheduled for May 19 at Ison House

Squatch America, an organization created by Scot and Hannah Violette of Baker City, is hosting a Bigfoot Town Hall meeting on Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at The Ison House Bed and Brew, 1790 Washington Ave. in Baker City. The community is invited to attend and share stories about experiences with Bigfoot. Attendance is free.

Learn more about Squatch America on Facebook.

WEATHER

Today
55/33
Mostly cloudy

Friday
57/42
Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



A standing room only crowd attended the Baker City Council's meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Council will respond to county's ambulance service request for proposals

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR AND JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

The Baker City Council has not precluded the possibility of having the city fire department continue to operate ambulances beyond Sept. 30, 2022.

After hearing from 18 residents who implored the city to keep its current fire department staffing, councilors voted 7-0 on Tuesday night, May 10, to send a response to Baker County's request for proposals for providing ambulance services in the Baker Ambulance Service Area, which includes Baker City and about two-thirds of the rest of the county.

The county, which is responsible under Oregon law for choosing an ambulance provider, has set a June 3 deadline for responses.

County commissioners approved the request for proposals as a key part of their preparation for finding a new ambulance provider were the city to end its service Sept. 30.

Councilors also agreed to schedule a work session for 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, to discuss the response they will send to the county.

The City Council set the Sept. 30 deadline in a notice it sent to Baker County commissioners on March 22.

City Manager Jonathan Cannon has told councilors that he doesn't believe the city can afford to continue operating ambulances because the city isn't collecting enough in revenue from ambulance runs compared to the cost of the service.

If the city ends its ambulance service, it would lose an estimated \$1 million in annual ambulance revenue. The city's budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, which the budget board approved May 3 but which the City Council, which has the final say, has not adopted, assumes that ambulance service will end Sept. 30.

The loss of ambulance revenue would prompt the city to lay off six firefighter/paramedics. The fire department is budgeted for the current fiscal year for 16.25 full time equivalent positions, although two of the positions for the 12 firefighter/paramedics who work 24-hour shifts are vacant.

All of those in the standing room only audience who spoke to councilors during Tuesday's meeting objected to the proposed layoffs. Many said they believe the cuts would reduce public safety and potentially

lead to deaths because firefighters in some situations might lack the support crew they need to enter a burning building.

People also gathered outside City Hall prior to the meeting, some carrying signs with slogans such as "Keep our firefighters and ambulance services" and "Firefighters/EMTs we need them."

After Tuesday's meeting, Councilor Shane Alderson said his goal is to continue having the city fire department operate ambulances for the next fiscal year. That could give city and county officials time to prepare a proposal to take to voters for an ambulance district that includes a new property tax levy to boost the revenue for ambulance services both inside the city and in the rest of the Baker Ambulance Service Area.

That plan could go on the May 2023 ballot.

"I want to try for a year because I'm really excited about getting a district put together," Alderson said. "I think that will alleviate the burden on both the city and the county and provide an incredible opportunity for better fire and EMS protection."

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Sheriff concerned about 'chronic' attacks by wolves

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash sees a troubling trend with wolves attacking cattle east of Baker County.

And although Ash's duties don't include managing wolves or other wildlife, he hopes the agency that is responsible will work with ranchers to curb the recent series of attacks, potentially including killing some wolves or authorizing ranchers to do so.

The agency in charge of such matters is the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Agency biologists have determined in the past week that wolves from the Cornucopia pack had killed one calf and injured two others north of Richland, and that wolves from the Keating pack injured a calf in the Skinner Road area of the Keating Valley.

The calf that died was likely attacked on May 4, according to an ODFW report. The calf weighed about 225 pounds.

The two calves in the Richland area that survived were injured about two weeks before the May 5 investigation. One calf weighs about 75 pounds, the other about 100 pounds.

The other injured calf, in the Keating Valley about 15 miles west of Richland, was found by its owner while moving cattle in a 1,000-acre public land grazing allotment on the morning of May 7.

According to an ODFW report that confirmed wolves were responsible, the calf, which was six weeks old and weighed about 125 pounds, was injured about two weeks earlier.

More recently, the Sheriff's Office received a report at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, May 9, of another possible wolf depredation north of Richland.



Ash

See, Wolves/Page A3

Baker Farmers Market has new spot, day

BY LISA BRITTON

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The Baker City Farmers Market opens June 2 at a new location and on a different day of the week.

The time is slightly different, as well.

The market is moving to Central Park — directly east of Resort Street from its previous location at Court Plaza.

The event will take place Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Last year the market was on Wednesdays.

One reason for the location change, said Jen Hettum, a member of the farmers market board of directors, is the road construction planned on Main Street that would close down the market for several weeks this summer.

That work involves upgrading more than 300 curb ramps to be accessible to people who use wheelchairs. The Oregon Department of Transportation is in charge of the project, which will involve Campbell, Main, Broadway, Dewey and Elm streets.

Central Park can be accessed from Resort Street, as well as along the Leo Adler Parkway (access points are



Travel Baker County/Contributed Photo

Vendors at the Baker City Farmers Market will set up their booths at Central Park this year, moving from the Court Plaza. The market opens for the season on June 2, 2022.

off Washington and Valley avenues).

"Walk down the path and come to the market," Hettum said.

She said the new location will hopefully encourage market shoppers to stick around a bit longer.

"Come down, get a tamale, listen to music and sit in the grass," she said.

As for the time adjustment, Hettum said shifting the hours a bit later will help hit the dinner hour and cooler evening temperatures.

There will not be a specific

location within the park — instead, vendors will choose where they'd like to set up. Hettum said booths will move each week to preserve the grass.

Vendors

Hettum said several vendors have already committed to this market season. These include Aichele's Farms, Celtic Cauldron, A Time for Art, My Roots Farm, Hedge Rose Farms, Granny Made It, Clear Creek Beef, Delicioso and a fairy garden vendor.

More vendors are welcome — cost is \$20 per market or \$340 for the season, which runs June 2 through Oct. 13. Each vendor also pays a \$15 membership fee.

Community members are also welcome to buy a membership.

"Anyone can do that to support the market," Hettum said.

Other vendor options are available to youth and community groups. For information, send an email to bakercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

For details, visit the website www.bakercityfarmersmarket.com/vendors.

Interested vendors can also

contact the market through the website, Facebook or Instagram.

"Reach out to use on any of those platforms," Hettum said.

She said the board is also seeking a market manager — find information about the position on the Facebook page or www.bakercityfarmersmarket.com.

Musicians needed

The Farmers Market board is seeking musicians who would like to play at markets this season. Pay is \$50 per market.

"We want to showcase locals," Hettum said.

Musicians can inquire by sending an email to bakercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com or sending a message through the Facebook page.

Double Up Food Bucks

The Baker City Farmers Market will again participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program, which matches — up to \$20 — the SNAP benefit for fresh fruit and vegetables (SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Learn more at doubleuporegon.org.

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