



OUTDOORS B1
A wintry walk on a spring day



LOCAL & STATE A5
Illegal pot farms expand indoors



SPORTS A6
Four Bulldogs advance to state tennis tourney

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • OUTDOORS & REC • SPORTS

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022 • \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Scarlett Soto of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Baker County Garden Club meets May 18

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.

Ballot return just below 20%

Almost one in five Baker County voters had returned their ballot for the May 17 primary election as of Friday morning, May 13, Baker County Clerk Stefanie Kirby said. The county mailed 12,850 ballots, the most for any election in county history. As of Friday morning, the county had received 2,547 ballots. The number of eligible voters in the county has risen substantially over the past five years, due in large part to Oregon's "motor voter" law, which took effect Jan. 1, 2016, and automatically registers people after they visit a DMV for any transaction.

WEATHER

Today
62/42
Rain showers



Sunday
74/45
Rain showers



Monday
67/40
Rain showers



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Kai Ogan, sitting, used laser etching to create his cutout and keychain designs at his booth during the Baker High School Market Day on May 11, 2022.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Baker High School student Gracie Morris had an abundance of humorous stickers and jewelry of her own design for sale at the BHS Market Day on May 11, 2022.

Students Make Their Best

SALES PITCHES

First Market Day at BHS allows students to show their creativity

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com

The price tags gleamed only half as bright as sellers' smiles on Wednesday, May 11, as students at Baker High School launched their own vending booths for the very first BHS Market Day.

See, Market/Page A5

Kids try out North Powder's newly restored playground

BY DICK MASON

THE OBSERVER
NORTH POWDER — The restored playground at North Powder's city park is now formally open thanks to about 60 energetic children.

Students from nearby North Powder Elementary School participated in a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 12. The children cut through a crepe paper ribbon on the edge of the playground by running through it.

The ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened a renovated playground that features a swing set with six swings (two designed for small children and four for older children), a double teeter-totter, a merry-go-round,



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Students from North Powder Elementary try out the play structure and other features at North Powder's new playground on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

See, Playground/Page A3

Safe Families for Children hosts forum May 19

BY LISA BRITTON

lbritton@bakercityherald.com
Safe Families for Children, a local faith-based ministry with families that help care for children while their parents are struggling with issues, is hosting a community forum on Thursday, May 19, at New Directions Northwest, 3452 13th St. in Baker City, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The community is welcome to attend. Register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-community-forum-registration-304116268947.

The event features psychiatrist and author Dr. Curtis Thompson. The main session will be livestreamed, followed by a breakout session with those in attendance. The forum also includes local suc-

cess stories and several national panelists.

Safe Families started in Baker City in November 2019. Andy Micka became program director in February 2021.

The program, he said, has six host homes available to help struggling families.

"Parents, if they're struggling, can volunteer for this," Micka said. "We can host the child while the parents work

on making a safe home."

He said the program has a 92% rate of children returning to home, rather than entering the foster care system.

Long-term hosting, up to six months, is available, as well as day hosting or respite care for a weekend. Host homes go through a background check through the Oregon Department of Education, and also complete various trainings.

"It's a lengthy process to get a host family approved," Micka said.

The program, he said, uses "circles of support" to assist families.

"There's a whole circle of support wrapped around that family," he said. "Our approach is to include the parent in everything."

To learn more, visit <https://safe-families.org/>.

See, Wolves/Page A2

City Council discusses reply on ambulance service

Councilors concerned about parts of county's request for proposals, but commissioners say those are unfounded

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

soconnor@bakercityherald.com

Baker City Manager Jonathan Cannon will present the City Council with a draft response to Baker County's ambulance service request for proposals at the Council's May 24 meeting.

Councilors met in a work session on Wednesday, May 11, to discuss the request for proposals (RFP) and how the city should respond.

The county set a June 3 deadline for proposals.

Councilors had decided during their meeting on Tuesday, May 10, to respond to the county's RFP, which covers the Baker Ambulance Service Area. That includes Baker City as well as about two-thirds of the rest of the county, including the Baker and Sumpter valleys.

The Baker City Fire Department is the current ambulance provider for that area, although the city and county do not have a contract for the service.

The Council's decision preserves the possibility that the fire department will continue to operate ambulances beyond Sept. 30, 2022. That's the date the city set for ending ambulance service in a notice the City Council voted to send to the county on March 22.

Under Oregon law, the county, not the city, is legally responsible for ensuring ambulance service. If the city does curtail its ambulance service, the county would need to find a replacement provider.

In response to the city's notice, county commissioners approved the RFP in April.

Cannon has told city councilors, including at the March 22 meeting, that he doesn't think the city can afford to continue operating ambulances because the city isn't collecting enough revenue from ambulance bills.

See, Council/Page A3

ODFW confirms another livestock wolf attack

Calves injured near Richland

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Wolves from the Cornucopia pack injured two calves north of Richland recently, the third attack on cattle in that area in the past few weeks, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

ODFW biologists investigated the latest incident on Monday, May 9, in the Summit Road area.

A rancher found two injured calves while checking cattle on a 5,400-acre Bureau of Land Management grazing allotment. Biologists estimated the calves were injured one to two weeks earlier.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, who also responded to the incident, said earlier this week that he thinks one calf, which had the largest open wound, would be euthanized.



TODAY
Issue 2
12 pages

Classified.....B2-B4	Crossword.....B2 & B4	Jayson Jacoby.....A4	Opinion.....A4	Sports.....A6
Comics.....B5	Dear Abby.....B5	Lottery Results.....A2	Outdoors.....B1, B2 & B6	Turning Backs.....A2
Community News.....A2	Horoscope.....B2 & B4	News of Record.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Weather.....B5