



**HOME B1**  
Put some spice into your grilling game



**LOCAL A2**  
OTEC official talks about recent outage



**SPORTS A6**  
Scenes from the Baker City Cycling Classic

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • HOME & LIVING • SPORTS

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 • \$1.50

**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Frank Peterman of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Leo Adler Day celebration June 21**

Everyone is invited to celebrate the birthday of Leo Adler, the late philanthropist who left \$20 million to Baker County for college scholarships and community projects.

Adler was born on June 21, 1895. He died on Nov. 2, 1993.



The Leo Adler Day celebration is set for Tuesday, June 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Adler House Museum, 2305 Main St. Residents can stop by for a piece of cake, a tour of the museum, which is in Adler's former home, and games and activities by CASA of Eastern Oregon and the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. All events are free.

Attendees are encouraged to honor Adler by bringing a new, unopened toy or game to donate to CASA — Court-Appointed Special Advocates — whose volunteers help represent children in the court system.

The Adler Museum will also be selling burgers for \$5 and hotdogs for \$4 (chips and water included) as a fundraiser for a "Save the Nat: Next Generation" project to replace the Baker Heritage Museum's leaking roof.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
77/45  
Sunny

**Wednesday**  
84/49  
Sunny

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

## Fire union chief: Morale at 'all-time low'

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Morale in the Baker City Fire Department is at "an all-time low," as it transitions from a dual-role department that responds to fires and ambulance calls to a firefighting only agency, the president of the local firefighters' union chapter said on Thursday, June 16.

"We come to work and we realize we don't have the support of the administration, and that is a very depressing place to be," said Casey Johnson, who is a firefighter/paramedic. Johnson said three of his co-workers have left the department for other jobs since early April.

Two others are mulling job offers,

he said.

Johnson said the departing employees were motivated by the City Council's decision to have the city stop operating ambulances Sept. 30.

Councilors notified Baker County about that plan on March 22.

They voted to do so after City Manager Jonathan Cannon told councilors

he doesn't think the city can afford to continue the ambulance service because the city isn't collecting enough from billing to cover its costs.

Under Oregon law, the county, not the city, is responsible for providing ambulance service throughout the county.

See, **Firefighters** / Page A5

## Human Library brings personal stories to life



Gretchen Stadler/Contributed Photo

BY LISA BRITTON  
lbritton@bakercityherald.com

Ma'Lena Wirth wasn't sure what to talk about when Gretchen Stadler asked her to "share her story."

"My initial thought was to share my culture," said Wirth, who is Latina. "I said 'where do you want me to start?'"

Stadler's request to Wirth was to be a "book" for a Human Library event in Baker City.

The Human Library was founded more than 20 years ago in Copenhagen, Denmark. Now an international program, its motto is "unjudge someone."

The format mimics a library, but with real people as the books, which readers can "borrow" to learn more about a topic through conversation.

Human books are volunteers who have unique experiences with prejudice, stigma, or stereotypes.

The Baker City event took place April 9. But work began much earlier when, in 2021, Gretchen Stadler and Perry Stokes decided to organize a local Human Library.

Stadler helped establish Neighbors of Baker, which is a story sharing project for Baker County. Stories from local residents are then published on the website neighborsofbaker.org.

Stokes is the director of the Baker County Library District.

**Recruiting books**

A library in all forms requires books. The April 9 event had five human books who, over the course of three hours, had 30-minute conversations with readers.

See, **Library** / Page A3

From left, Heather Rudolph, Alex Castillo, Barbara O'Neal, Andy Micka and Ma'Lena Wirth shared personal stories during a "Human Library" event this spring at the Baker County Library.

## GEISER-POLLMAN Donated benches to be installed at park

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
soconnor@bakercityherald.com

Baker City Events will be working with Baker City to place seven donated benches at Geiser-Pollman Park soon.

Lynette Perry, treasurer and event planner for Baker County Events, a nonprofit organization, said in a press release that the group is working with Robert Collins Construction, RD Mac, Natural Structures, Baker City Manager Jonathan Cannon, the city parks department and city councilors to move the project forward.

"It has been a long process organized by Baker City Events volunteers, but nearing fulfillment," Perry said.

One challenge is building the concrete pads to which the metal benches, which cost \$1,750 each, will be anchored.

Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, said a concrete truck is so heavy it could cause damage in the park, so concrete for the pads will have to be brought in by other means, potentially by wheelbarrow.

"The benches have to be secured to a concrete pad — they can't just be loose in the park because people would just take them or throw them in the river," Owen said.

The rainy spring has delayed work on the concrete pads, she said.

See, **Park** / Page A3

## Logging is planned at Elkhorn Wildlife Area

**Project intended to boost forage for deer, elk, reduce fire danger**

BY IAN CRAWFORD  
icrawford@bakercityherald.com

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is planning a logging project this year at the Elkhorn Wildlife Area west of North Powder that's designed to spur the growth of forage for elk and deer.

The logging will also yield about 2 million board-feet of timber from 414 acres in the Rogers Creek watershed and north of the wildlife area headquarters about nine miles west of North Powder, said Dan Marvin, who manages the Elkhorn Wildlife Area.

The logging area, which includes ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests, is between the Anthony Lakes Highway and Tucker Flat Road, which passes Pilcher Creek Reservoir.

See, **Logging** / Page A3

## North Powder looks to expand market

BY LISA BRITTON  
lbritton@bakercityherald.com

**NORTH POWDER** — Shoppers perused the offerings while children crafted walking sticks at a library program during North Powder's farmers market on Friday, June 17.

The market started June 10 and runs Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon in North Powder's community park, next to the library and just below the water tower.

Six vendors set up booths on June 17, and manager Lindsey Thompson said the park has room for many more.

"We're hoping to expand," she said. "We're welcoming anyone who wants to attend."

Offerings on Friday included local beef, pottery, locally spun yarn, artwork, crafts and more. "Anything is welcome," Thompson said.

Cost to be a vendor is 10% of a booth's daily sales, with a cap of \$20. This is donated back to the market to support additional activities.

See, **Market** / Page A3



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Vendors offered food, arts and crafts at the North Powder farmers market on Friday, June 17, 2022.



**TODAY**  
Issue 17  
14 pages

Classified.....B3-B6	Crossword.....B3 & B5	Horoscope.....B3 & B5	Opinion.....A4	Sudoku.....B7
Comics.....B7	Dear Abby.....B8	Lottery Results.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Turning Backs.....A2
Community News.....A2	Home & Living.....B1-B3	News of Record.....A2	Sports.....A6	Weather.....B8