

12-unit apartment complex planned near hospital

Baker City Herald

The Baker City Planning Commission will consider an application for a 12-unit apartment complex near Saint Alphonsus Medical Center.

The commission has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, July 20 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. Eva Henes filed the application on

behalf of Ber and Kristen Anderson and the owners of the 0.62-acre property, Kevin and Terri Bell, according to a public notice from the Baker City-County Planning Department.

The vacant lot is on the east side of Midway Drive, the street that starts at Pochontas Road, just east of the hospital, and runs south, becoming 13th

Street near the Powder River Correctional Facility.

The parcel is between Mountain Valley Dental Clinic to the north, and the USDA Service Center to the south. It's also across Midway Drive from the hospital emergency room.

The application proposes six 3-bedroom units and six 2-bedroom units,

along with 10 private garages, a common open space and a playground.

The complex would consist of two apartment buildings, each measuring 42 feet by 110 feet, with six units and five single-car garages.

The property is in the general-commercial zone. A planning department staff report

for the commission will be available for the public to review at the department, Suite 131 in the basement of the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St., by July 13. A digital copy can be emailed for no cost by calling Madison Brossett at the planning department, 541-523-8219, or by email at mbrossett@bakercounty.org.

2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt begins July 6 for bottle redemption

East Oregonian

SALEM — The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is hosting the 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt from Wednesday, July 6, to Friday, July 10, by hiding six commemorative bottles in parks and trails throughout the state. Clues for the statewide hunt will be available daily on the Oregon BottleDrop website, www.bottledropcenters.com, leading treasure hunters to the final hiding places. "Last year's Hidden Bottle Hunt

was the first of its kind, hosted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Bottle Bill," said Eric Chambers, external relations director for OBRC, the not-for-profit cooperative that serves as the operational steward of the Bottle Bill and operates the BottleDrop network. "It was so much fun and was so successful at raising awareness about the legacy of Oregon's Bottle Bill that we decided to do it again."

Like last year, the 2022 Hidden

Bottle Hunt comprises six separate, simultaneous hunts, geographically dispersed in parks and trails across Oregon. OBRC will release one clue per bottle per day, leading hunters to the final hiding spots. The lucky winners will get to keep the commemorative bottle and select a BottleDrop Given on profit partner to receive a \$1,000 donation through BottleDrop's Containers for Change program. More than 5,000 nonprofits across Oregon raise funds for

their organizations through BottleDrop's Give program.

July marks the 51st anniversary of the Oregon Bottle Bill, which Gov. Tom McCall signed into law July 2, 1971. It established the nation's first beverage container redemption system, and it has helped keep Oregon clean and litter free for more than five decades. Oregon's Bottle Bill also is among the most successful in the nation. In 2021, OBRC's redemption rate was 83.9%, with Ore-

gonians returning nearly two billion containers for Grade-A domestic recycling.

"Our Hidden Bottle Hunt will be a fun opportunity for individuals and families to get outside and connect closely with the Bottle Bill's mission of protecting public spaces," Chambers said. "Best of all, the winners get to 'redeem' their bottle for a nice donation to one of over 5,000 participating nonprofits serving communities across Oregon."

Bear

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Cloyd, who grew up in Baker City and moved to Moses Lake, Washington, about four years ago, was visiting for the Fourth of July weekend with her children, Nicholas Cloyd Jr., 10, and Scarlett, 11.

Bouchard said she watched the bear rumble through a field near her home, cross Foothill Drive and climb the birch tree between two apartment buildings directly across the street.

"It was so cute while it was running," Bouchard said.

Bouchard, who has lived on Foothill Drive for about a decade, said she's never seen a bear in the neighborhood.

Two Baker City Police Department officers responded, along with a Baker County Sheriff's Office truck and two Oregon State Police troopers.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash also drove to the scene.

Baker City Police officer Lance Woodward directed traffic along Foothill Drive. A car rolled through every few minutes, most driven by curious residents wanting to get a look at the bear in his conspicuous perch.

Police stood guard near the base of the tree, one with a gun ready in case the bear leaped to the ground, where it could pose a danger to people and dogs.

At one point the bear made a few tentative moves down the tree, but yells from the officers' dissuaded the bruin from continuing.

A little later the bear climbed several feet higher to what seemed to be a more comfortable spot.

Ratliff arrived about 9:45 a.m.

He prepared a tranquilizer dart and, with his gun resting on a barbecue near the base of the tree, fired a dart, hitting the bear around 10 a.m.

The bear scrambled several feet higher in the tree but became stuck between



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Residents watch as officials remove a black bear from a tree along Foothill Drive in Baker City on Sunday, July 3, 2022.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A Baker City Police officer stands beneath a birch tree on the east side of Foothill Drive in case the bear in the tree came down or fell, on Sunday, July 3, 2022.

branches, its head hanging down as the tranquilizer took effect within a few minutes.

Jeff Smith, who owns J2K Excavating and lives on Foothill Drive, walked down the street and offered to let officials use his bucket lift to retrieve the bear.

He drove the machine down Foothill, arriving at

about 10:25 a.m.

Ratliff and Ash climbed into the bucket along with Noodle Perkins, Baker County roadmaster, who operated the lift.

Ratliff used a handsaw to cut several branches, allowing Perkins to maneuver the bucket to just below the bear.

Ratliff secured the bear with a rope before bringing

Another backyard Baker bruin

The black bear captured on Foothill Drive on July 3 wasn't the first bruin to end up in a Baker City yard, and to be safely trapped.

In November 2015, a 110-pound, cinnamon-colored black bear was tranquilized near a home near 11th and Myrtle streets, below Hillcrest.

Brian Ratliff, the state wildlife biologist who tranquilized the Foothill Drive bear, also was involved in capturing the bear in 2015.

Both bears were yearlings. Ratliff said in 2015 that bears after their first birthday tend to disperse from their mothers, and are capable of roaming significant distances.

Although the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will euthanize bears that have acted aggressively toward people or shown a propensity for raiding garbage cans for food — as happened in Sumpter a few years ago — bears that make their first foray into town are usually trapped and released in the wild so long as they act appropriately frightened. That was the case with both the bear in 2015 and the Foothill Drive bruin.

the animal into the bucket.

Perkins lowered the bucket and drove the machine to the cage, where Ratliff and others transferred the still unconscious animal into the cage around 10:45 a.m.

Ratliff and Ash both thanked Smith for donating the use of the bucket lift.

But before Ratliff could drive away, hauling the bear to a location well away from town, he had to field congratulations from many in the audience, who were happy that the bear survived the ordeal.

There had been murmured speculation among the crowd that the bear would be euthanized.

"Another day in Baker," Cloyd said with a laugh as the crowd dispersed.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Logan Nedrow explains how fabrics were colored using natural items, such as berries, during a station at the Eastern Oregon Museum camp. Nedrow and Chris Aldrich directed the camp, which was held June 27-30, 2022, at the museum in Haines.

Campers

Continued from A1

High School, is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Eastern Oregon University and also working as a paraprofessional at North Powder.

She didn't hesitate to help direct the camp when Aldrich — her former teacher — approached her with the idea.

"It's been fun," Nedrow said. "I just want the kids to have fun and have something to take away from it."

They offered 30 spots for students in grades 3-6. Children attended from North Powder, Haines and Baker City.

To fund the camp, the Eastern Oregon Museum received grants from the Buerkel-Zoellner Foundation and the Edna E. Harrell Community Children's Fund.

Themes

Activities for each day centered around a theme.

Monday was about rocks and minerals, and members of a Huntington mining camp taught the youngsters how to pan for gold. Each child went home with a gold pan and vial of gold.

"I'm a hands-on learner," Nedrow said, explaining her goal with designing the activities. "If I'm doing something I'm more likely to remember it."

Tuesday was all about art. Stations included quilting, tie dye, pioneer toys and

games, and the sun prints that had Sandberg so excited.

Street teaches art at North Powder, and created her own UV sensitive paper for the project.

"It's a very old process — blueprints, basically," she said.

Street gave the kids a history lesson about Anna Atkins, a botanist who in the 1850s invented this process of combining minerals to make paper sensitive to the light. Atkins used it to document types of plants.

"She made the first book of photographs," Street said.

Wednesday was Oregon Trail history paired with the importance of local agriculture, and on Thursday the campers made a history board.

Throughout the week, during breaks the youngsters explored the treasures inside the museum — which organizers hoped would create interest and return trips.

"History is interesting and cool," Aldrich said with a smile.

Visit the Museum

The Eastern Oregon Museum, 610 Third St., is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission is free, although donations are welcome.

The museum is open through Labor Day weekend.

'Doc'

Continued from A1

The family moved to a little town near South Bend, Indiana.

"When I went to school there, I met Lois," said Doc, and as he spoke of this next chapter of his young life he couldn't suppress his smile.

"We got to talking, and she got to liking me. From then on we went to high school together."

For the next two years of high school, Doc and Lois, whose maiden name was Bunch, were daily companions, initially seated together by luck of alphabetical ordering.

Then, in 1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, America entered World War II.

"Well, I didn't want them to tell me where to serve if I got drafted, I was seventeen, so I joined the Navy," Doc said.

He served for the next four years, in submarine warfare.

A photograph on the wall of his Baker City residence shows the Air Gannett, a 110-foot wooden ship designated Sub Chaser 659.

Doc's duty was to listen to sonar, and listen closely, vigilant to the sounds of the sea



US Navy Archive

Sub Chaser 659 circa 1948, at its decommissioning in New York. Behind it, the Statue of Liberty.

around him. To hear enemy submarines before they heard him, he had to wait and listen for specific turbulence in the water, and collaborate with the helmsman to stay in the sonar blind spot submarines left in their wake.

"We were loaded," he said, describing his vessel's 40mm gun, port and starboard 20mm "K" guns, and the "ash cans" — anti-submarine depth charges. To his memory there was only one opportunity to use the munitions in his patrols in the Caribbean.

"I picked up the enemy," Doc said. "We had a ball that would go down into the water (for sonar). Once we caught up to him, it would give off a high ping, anything else would be a dull sound."

The equipment allowed him to track not just sound direction but to estimate the depth of a vessel.

His crew managed to fire depth charges upon the lone submarine.

"We reported that we attacked it, and presumed (it was destroyed)," he said. "But, you never know if you got them or not."

Though German submarines could endure some sustained depth charge assaults, any significant damage, combined with being so far from Axis support, likely spelled doom for the submarine and its crew.

But as luck had it the Air Gannett would soon require dry dock repairs of its own for an unrelated accident, and Doc

was permitted to briefly return home.

Not to waste a moment, he married Lois on Feb. 14, 1945, Valentine's Day.

Six months later the war had ended, and although Doc stuck on in the reserves for four more years, he was never deployed to the Korean War.

The Air Gannett was decommissioned in 1948, and research indicates it likely burned at sea in 1963.

Returning home to his wife, their family soon to include children, Doc worked through the 1950s, but some years later found himself once again reciting an oath of service, and once again spending a lot of time listening for turbulence.

But this wasn't war. Doc became an ordained minister in 1960, at the Oxnard Baptist Temple in California.

Although he and the crew of the Air Gannett might have destroyed one submarine during the war, Doc and his wife devoted their postwar life to building things up.

They rebuilt three churches that were severely dilapidated, down to bare walls with broken windows and exposed roofs.

"My wife was a brilliant woman," Doc said. "In school

they pushed her up (a grade), she just learned, it just came to her. She became a book editor for Here's Life publishing company in San Bernardino, California, where I pastored."

Lois graduated from high school in South Bend in 1941 at age 16.

The couple were together for nearly three quarters of a century.

Doc's five children grew and raised their own children, they raised children as well. He has the rare honor of being a great-great-grandfather, the youngest of his great-great-grandchildren just six months old, and twins turning two.

Lois Bryant passed away July 25, 2019, in Baker City after years of difficulty with dementia. She was 93. She and Doc would play music and sing together in church, her on electric keyboard and he on electric guitar. The guitar still sits in his room, corded and ready to play on a whim.

Doc says that though he's finally settling down, he's seen Mexico, Cuba, Guantanamo Bay, Belize, Honduras, Colombia, Aruba — a vast catalog of lands and seas reaching into South America.

When asked which was the most interesting of his travels, he reflected on a particular voyage rather than a destination, after leaving Miami aboard SC-659, the Air Gannett.

"We swung out, around Cuba, and there was a hurricane," he recalled. "We rode out that hurricane in a 110-foot wooden boat like a cork. I mean it was rolling. We went through that and for three days we didn't know where we were."

Without sunlight, stars or the grace of still water, even a sextant couldn't help until clouds parted, and soon after they resumed radio contact and returned to their patrol.

Finally, asked if his robust longevity stems from routines or just plain luck, he managed a smile and simply said, "It's just me."

Doc finds himself now in comfort, retired eight years, and living close to his daughter for care and companionship.

Though his traveling days are done and he doesn't plan to return to the rolling waves, you might still find Doc on the rolling greens of Quail Ridge Golf Course, where he still finds time to play.