# Baker High School expects more than 30 foreign students

#### By SAMANTHA O'CONNER Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — A variety of accents will be heard during conversations in the hallways at Baker High School starting this fall.

The Baker School District has enrolled 43 foreign students through its Oregon International School charter school program.

Ten of those students, from the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel between England and France, will spend about a month in Baker City this fall.

A group of Baker High School students, and one staff member, will travel to Jersey to study there for a month.

The remaining 33 foreign students are enrolled at BHS for the entire school year, said Lindsey McDowell, public information and communications coordinator for the school district.

Students are from the following countries:

- Ukraine, nine.
- Cambodia, seven.
- Thailand, six.
- Italy, six.
- Spain, four.
- Taiwan, one.

Mark Witty, former school district superintendent who now works as executive director for the International School, a one-third



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald, File

The Baker School District in March 2022 bought this historic home at 1706 Washington Ave., Baker City, as housing for visiting students attending Baker High School through the Oregon International School program.

time position and one of four OIS staff, said the Ukraine students, whose country has been roiled by the invasion of the Russian army, are getting their F-1 visas approved in Poland.

The contingent includes six girls and three boys, he said.

Seven female students will be living in one of the homes the school district bought earlier this year to house OIS students.

Five male students will

live in the other house, McDowell said. The remaining students

will live with individual host families.

The district is still looking for host families for three girls and one boy from the Isle of Jersey during their one-month visit, McDowell said.

#### International School history

The Baker School District started the OIS program

PRECIPITATION

Month to date

<u>Year to date</u>

Pendleton

Sunrise today

Sunset toniah

Moonrise today

Moonset today

First

Aug 5

Last year to date

Normal year to date

WINDS (in mph)

Boardman WSW 12-25

**SUN AND MOON** 

Full

Aug 11

Today

W 12-25

Last

Aug 18

24 hours ending 3 p.m

Normal month to date

about four years ago, but the pandemic interrupted progress.

The district also had to wait for approval of its application for a student visa program under which Oregon will pay the district the standard per-student rate for each visiting student.

That revenue is part of the district's projection that the OIS will bring in more in revenue for the district than it will spend. A financial projection the school board reviewed this spring estimated a surplus of \$28,000 from the first year, with surpluses rising to \$134,000 the second year and to \$248,000 the third year.

Those projections include the district's payments on the two homes the district bought, one for \$295,000 and one for \$490,000. The district estimates it will spend about \$85,000 more for renovations of the two homes.

In addition to bringing international students to Baker City, a goal of the OIS is to make it easier for local students to study abroad.

"We just need to build those pathways for those opportunities and that's what we're doing right now," Witty said. "The next three months will be building more of those."

Among the countries local officials have had discussions with are Germany, Ecuador, Wales and Japan.

"The benefit of what we're doing now is using that momentum and, let's be honest, any revenue that comes in above the tuition that we invest back into this program is really dedicated then in sending our kids abroad and all of these unique opportunities," said Thomas Joseph, OIS principal and instructor and its only full-time employee.

Joseph said he is looking at potential exchange agree-

ments with schools in Ecuador.

"It's a phenomenal fit. Most schools are in the capital of Ecuador and both schools want to take students from the United States," he said.

Joseph said he has wanted to engage South America, and one of his visions is to bring students together in a college-level course, writing 121, to discuss world issues in a research-based course.

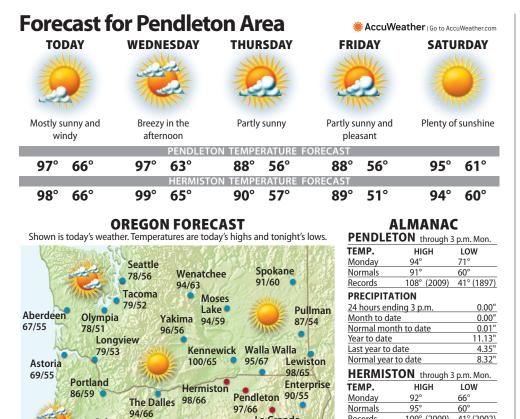
He said issues such as agriculture are of common interest in Eastern Oregon, South America and Mexico.

"Just bring kids together around targeted issues that affect us regionally and just have kids meet kids, the entrepreneurial aspects of that probably speak for themselves. This is exciting," Joseph said.

Witty said they OIS staff have had conversations with officials from a high school in Japan. He said an agreement with that school would be a boon for the program.

"We're stoked about having that potential because in Oregon, that is tied to the third language taught in Oregon, especially around the Portland Metro suburbs," Witty said.

He noted OIS will be working with students across the state, not only in the Baker School District.



# Remembering one of La Grande's finest

#### By DICK MASON The Observer

LA GRANDE — The legacy of Doug Trice, a man who tirelessly lifted Special Olympians to new heights, was solidified during the weekend.

Trice died May 6, 2020, at the age of 68. A celebration of life saluting the revered community volunteer included a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, July 30, for a field named in Trice's honor.

The La Grande City Council renamed the field for Trice on Sept. 7, 2020, but the pandemic delayed the ceremonies until the weekend.

Trice's sister, Gwen, said the service helped her bring a sense of closure she had not



Dick Mason/The Observer A photo of a young Doug Trice was on display at his celebration of life service Saturday, July 30, 2022, at Pioneer Park, La Grande.

him get mad, even once," he said.

Gwen Trice credited her brother with treating everyone like a family member.

Trice was hard to tackle because he was quick and elusive and strong.

"He was tough as nails. He could take a hit like nobody else," Davis said.

#### Going overseas

After graduating from Western, Trice returned to La Grande and took a job with Union Pacific Railroad where he worked before retiring. Trice, who studied education at Western, put his college education to work while serving as a Special Olympics coach in Union County. He was so successful he was named assistant coach for Team USA at the World Games in Shanghai, China, in 2007. That same year, he received a Governor's Gold Award from then Gov. Ted Kulongoski for his work in Special Olympics. Four years later, Trice was selected as a Special Olympics coach for Team USA in Athens, Greece. Davis said to watch Trice work with athletes was to see a master at work.

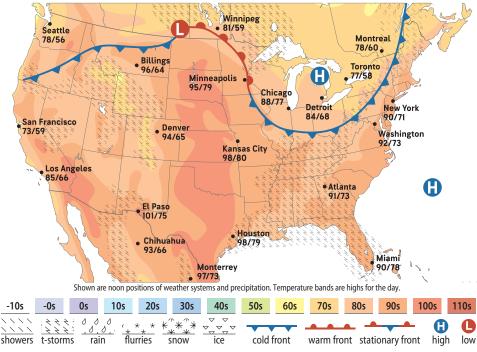


## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 107° in Ontario, Ore. Low 35° in Afton, Wyo.

#### **NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY**



experienced until now.

0.00"

0.00'

0.01"

7.48'

2.46

5.15'

Wed.

WSW 10-20

W 8-16

5:40 a.m.

8:23 p.m. 10:41 a.m.

10:51 p.m.

New

Aug 27

"It was hard to put a lid on the grief, spirit and emotions," she said.

Gwen Trice said her brother was a man of remarkable humility.

"He never sought the spotlight. He always focused the shine of the spotlight on others," she said.

Frank Thomas, of Cove, who grew up with Trice, described him as his best friend, a man who had remarkable concern for everyone and an uncommon temperament.

"In 68 years, I never saw

"Doug belonged to all of us," she said.

Trice was a star running back at La Grande High School in the late 1960s before leaving for Monmouth where he attended Western Oregon University, then named Oregon College of Education. Trice enjoyed a sterling football career at Western and was later named to its athletic hall of fame. His teammates at Western included Kurt Davis, who now lives in Central Oregon.

"Doug was an amazing football player and an even better person," Davis said at the celebration of life service. "It was just a gift," he said. Davis said Trice was able to connect with people of all types.

"He made people feel special," he said.

Scott Hansell, a classmate of Trice's at LHS, said he had a good naturedness about him that few others share.

"He deserved an angel and now is an angel," he said.

# **IN BRIEF**

## La Grande woman dies in crash with wrong-way driver

PENDLETON — A La Grande woman died Friday, July 29, in Umatilla County in a head-on crash on Interstate 84 with a wrong-way driver.

Kari Lindeman, 44, was killed when the Ford Fiesta she was driving collided with a Dodge 3500 pickup driven by Gabriel Velasquez, 55, of Kennewick, who was traveling in the wrong direction in the eastbound lane near milepost 216, 5 miles east of Pendleton, according to preliminary data from Oregon State Police.

Lindeman died at the scene, OSP reported. Velasquez suffered serious injuries. An emergency helicopter flew him to Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla.

The westbound lanes were closed for six hours during the investigation. OSP was assisted by the Umatilla Tribal Fire Department, Umatilla Tribal Police Department and Oregon Department of Transportation.

— EO Media group

**CORRECTIONS**: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN - Founded Oct. 16, 1875	Circulation Dept. For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214 SUBSCRIPTION RATES		ADVERTISIN Regional Sal • Karrine Brog 541-963-316	
211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211 333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211 Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed major holidays			Multimedia • Angel Aguil	
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FO FO	52 weeks	\$135	42 percent	541-966-0822 • Audra Work
	26 weeks	\$71	39 percent	• Audra Work 541-564-4538
East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday,	13 weeks	\$37	36 percent	Business Off
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