

Baker City Herald

May 3, 2019

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IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV

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In SPORTS, 7A

Baker softball

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Glen Vandenbos of Baker City.

History, 5A

Part one of a four-part series by Baker City historian Gary Dielman about the Founding Fathers of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Family day at Sumpter Dredge

Visitors are invited to have a free hot dog lunch Saturday and meet with a team of maritime archaeologists who are assessing the condition of the Sumpter Dredge's hull. The Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area has planned a variety of family activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. These include tours of the dredge, guest speakers and the unveiling of a new trail through the tailings.

BTI seeks board member

Baker Technical Institute is accepting applications from volunteers interested in serving on the BTI board. Applications are at the Baker School District office, 2090 Fourth St. Application deadline is Friday, May 10 at 4 p.m.

WEATHER

Today

68 / 32

Mostly sunny

Saturday

75 / 38

Mostly sunny

Sunday

76 / 37

Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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ODOT Career Day Brings Hundreds Of High School Students To Baker City

Lots Of Job Options



Lisa Britton / For The Baker City Herald

Devon Stokes, a sophomore from Grant Union High School in John Day, worked with a culvert camera at ODOT's Career Day on Thursday. More than 500 students from across Eastern Oregon attended the event, which takes place every other year. Students had firsthand experience with some of the skills they would need to qualify for a variety of jobs.

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

Drew Terteling hopped down from the front end loader, grinning at his Baker High School classmates. "Did you see all that imaginary dirt?" he said. Terteling, a senior at BHS, had the chance to explore a variety of jobs in construction and utilities at the ODOT Career Day Thursday at the Oregon Department of Transportation facility just east of the North Baker exit on Interstate 84. This event started in 2011, and is held every two years. This is the third time it has been in Baker City, said Tom Strandberg, public information officer for ODOT's region 5. More than 500 students from 25 schools across Eastern Oregon attended the event, which ran from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ODOT's Sandy Lowe coordinated the event. "It's to spread the world about what ODOT is and what we do," she said. Others on site included OTEC, Cascade Natural Gas, and Vemco. It's sometimes difficult, Lowe said, to fill jobs in Eastern Oregon. "It's giving them options," she said of the event. "You can stay (in Eastern Oregon) and be successful." Groups rotated through 23 stations. Some were observation only, such as the post driver that drills posts into the hard ground. Others had students driving excavators, maneuvering a robot through a culvert, and blasting rocks.

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Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Maddy Sturm, a freshman at Union High School, operated a Vactor to move a bowling ball with the guidance of ODOT employee Justin Plumbtree.

Beautify Baker looks to expand

By Samantha O'Conner

sococonner@bakercityherald.com

The scraps of trash and patches of weeds convinced Rocky Brown. He had been noticing these blemishes on Baker City's beauty while walking its sidewalks, and in 2017 he decided to try to do something about them. Brown called City Manager Fred Warner Jr. "It seems like we should do something about kind of cleaning up our pretty little town, it didn't always look like this," Brown told Warner, who agreed. During the winter of 2017-18 Brown met with volunteers a few times and in the spring of 2018 their group, Beautify Baker, began.

Warner's assistant, Robin Nudd, was assigned to help organize the group and she "brought in all the players" including Baker City Downtown, the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, Baker County Parole and Probation, Baker County Juvenile Department and others.

See Beautify / Page 6A

Parents discuss health curriculum

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

About 18 parents, including two who identified themselves as grandparents, turned out Tuesday to learn more about the health standards being taught to Baker students in Grades 4-8. Lessons have become more detailed at a lower level, and human sexuality lessons, which prior to 2017-18 were introduced to sixth-graders, now are taught at fifth-grade.

See Health / Page 6A

Baker City woman joins Herald news staff

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

Samantha O'Conner has been on a sabbatical of sorts for the past year or so. "Sam," as she is better known, took time off from pursuing a career in journalism, which has beckoned her since the age of 13, to work in retail sales. The 25-year-old O'Conner is a 2012 Baker High School graduate and a 2016 graduate of Eastern Oregon University at La Grande. She holds a bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in writing and a minor in journalism.

During her college career she worked on the The Voice, Eastern Oregon University's student-run newspaper. She served as arts and entertainment editor and later moved up to editor-in-chief for part of her junior year. O'Conner said she stepped down from the position when her studies began to suffer. One of her poems, titled "Ode to My Papermate Pen," was published in the 2016 edition of Oregon East, a college magazine.



O'Conner

Another, "Summer in Winter," was selected for publication in the 2013 edition of "In My Lifetime Sentiments," as part of a nationwide poetry contest. O'Conner was featured in the Herald in a story by Lisa Britton for that honor. O'Conner had met Britton earlier while shadowing her as a school assignment during her senior year at BHS. "I loved journalism even more as I watched her talking with people and read the article afterward," O'Conner said. "I watched what she did and she told me more

about the process." After college, O'Conner returned back home to Baker City and her grandmother, Linda Button, informed her that the Baker County Press was hiring writers. O'Conner applied for work with the weekly newspaper in June 2016 and began her career as a journalist. "That's when I got to meet Kerry McQuisten (editor and publisher of the newspaper) and I got to work with her until her paper dissolved," O'Conner said.

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TODAY

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Community News....3A

Crossword.....5B & 7B

Dear Abby.....10B

Horoscope.....5B & 7B

Jayson Jacoby.....4A

News of Record.....3A

Obituaries.....2A

Opinion.....4A

Outdoors.....1B & 2B

Senior Menus.....2A

Sports.....7A & 8A

Weather.....10B

MONDAY — LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WEEKEND ROUNDUP