

# Baker City Herald

May 15, 2019

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In OREGON, 5A  
Medal of Honor  
winner dies

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Richard Holden of Baker City.

#### Sports, 6A

Stephen Curry knocked down nine 3-pointers on his way to 36 points, leading Golden State past the Portland Trail Blazers 116-94 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

### BRIEFING

#### Prescription drug drop off event set for Friday

The Baker County Sheriff's Office is hosting a prescription drug take back event Friday, May 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Community Connection, 2810 Cedar St. The event is free.

Residents can also drop off unused or unwanted prescription drugs, for no charge, at the Sheriff's Office, 3410 K St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Unity/Burnt River Fire/EMS receives \$2,000 grant

The Unity/Burnt River Fire/EMS has received a \$2,000 grant from Northwest Farm Credit Services.

The department will use the money to buy new boots for firefighters and emergency kits for first responders. The next deadline for grants is June 1. For information go to northwestfcs.com/Stewardship/Rural-Communities

### WEATHER

#### Today

66 / 44



Scattered showers

#### Thursday

64 / 44



Rain showers

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### Tuesday Fire Severely Damages Baker City Home

## Fiery Afternoon



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Firefighters from Baker City and from several other departments worked on a fire that severely damaged a home at 2389 Baker St. Tuesday afternoon.

#### By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

When Stephenie Murdock learned that her neighbor's house was on fire Tuesday afternoon she couldn't simply run out the front door to safety.

Murdock and her husband, Steven, operate an adult foster care in their home at 2355 Baker St., just south of St. Elizabeth Towers between Fourth and Fifth streets.

The couple care for two people in their home, one of whom is immobile and the other nearly so.

Stephenie Murdock said she initially heard a loud "pop," which she thought might have come from a different neighbor who has been doing some construction work.

But a few minutes later someone pounded on her front



Photo courtesy of Steven Murdock

Next-door neighbor Steven Murdock took this photo of the fire.

door. It was her neighbor, Michelle Budd, alerting her to the fire.

Murdock credits Budd, who knows the Murdocks care for

people confined to wheelchairs, with acting quickly to alert the couple.

See Fire / Page 3A

## Schools may seek \$10 million bond in May 2020

#### By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

The Baker School Board is considering asking voters to approve a \$10 million bond to fund school improvements in a May 2020 election under a plan presented by consultants Tuesday night.

The bond would be paid off in 10 years at an estimated rate of 88 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Superintendent Mark Witty said the plan has not been finalized.

"That is where they land now," Witty said of the Board. "Until they make a resolution and vote on it, there is room for adjustment."

The District is working to devise a plan that would be more palatable to voters than the \$48 million, 30-year bond measure that would have been paid at a rate of \$1.97 per \$1,000 of assessed value that was defeated by a wide margin in the November 2018 election, Witty said.

See Bond / Page 3A

## Blaze burns near Durkee

#### By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

A rare May wildfire burned about 102 acres near Durkee on Tuesday.

Fire crews from the BLM and the Burnt River Rangeland Fire Protection Association fought the blaze near Shirrtail Creek about five miles southeast of Durkee and about a mile south of Interstate 84.

The fire started on private land and spread onto public land managed by the BLM, said Al Crouch, fire mitigation and education specialist for the agency's Vale District.

"It's a little surprising that we get a fire on May 14 in that area," Crouch said Tuesday afternoon.

See Wildfire / Page 3A

## ODFW probes possible wolf attack on calf

Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) investigated a possible wolf attack on a domestic calf Tuesday near Halfway.

As of this morning officials had not determined whether wolves killed the calf, said Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at ODFW's Baker City office.

See Wolves / Page 3A

## City Council approves garbage rate increase

#### By Samantha O'Conner

sococonner@bakercityherald.com

The Baker City Council approved an 18.75% increase in garbage collection rates Tuesday.

The new rate schedule for Baker

Sanitary Service, which boosts the monthly residential fee for weekly pickup of a standard rollcart from \$16 to \$19, takes effect July 1.

The schedule includes a new option, at \$15 per month, for customers

who only need to have their rollcarts emptied once every two weeks.

Councilors approved the rate hike by a 5-2 vote, with Arvid Andersen and Randy Schiewe opposed.

Andersen said this morning that

he opposed the increase because he's "disappointed" with Baker Sanitary for not looking at different options for processing recyclable plastics.

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TODAY  
Issue 2, 24 pages

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Horoscope.....6B & 7B  
Letters.....4A

Lottery Results.....2A  
News of Record.....2A  
Obituaries.....2A

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FRIDAY — UNUSUALLY LONG DRY SPELL INTERRUPTS SOGGY SPRING