

Baker City Herald

May 24, 2019

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In OUTDOORS, 1B

Morel of the story

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Warren Houtz of Baker City.

Local, 3A

A fire destroyed a landmark building in downtown Huntington Thursday night, and a Huntington man has been arrested on a first-degree arson charge.

History, 6A

The final installment in a four-part series by Baker City historian Gary Dielman about the Founding Fathers of Baker City.

BRIEFING

BHS choirs to perform tonight and Saturday

All Baker High School choirs will present a Broadway-themed spring cabaret on May 24 and 25. Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday at Baker High School, 2500 E St., Baker City. Admission is \$5. Selections will include songs from shows such as “Chicago,” “Grease,” “Hamilton,” and “The Sound of Music.” Hannah Violette is the choir director.

WEATHER

Today
63 / 38



Rain showers

Saturday
64 / 41



Mostly cloudy

Sunday
68 / 44



Scattered showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Graduation At Baker City Head Start

Gowns & Grins

■ Students, ages 3 to 5, donned caps and gowns used at Baker High



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Elizabeth Rodriguez is all smiles as she receives her graduation certificate Thursday for completing one year of the Head Start program.

By Samantha O’Conner
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Parents and family members gathered in the gym at the former Churchill School Thursday morning, phones and cameras aimed at the stage as the Baker City Head Start students waited eagerly for their graduation ceremony.

The students ranged from ages 3 to 5 and were given something special this year — their own graduation caps and gowns.

Taren Christensen and her mother, Sandra Christensen, provided the caps and gowns. Taren said her boyfriend found the caps and gowns, from 2005, in bags beside a dumpster at Baker High School.

See **Gowns** / Page 3A



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Sandra Christensen, left, and her daughter, Taren, cut and sewed old BHS gowns to fit Head Start students.

BHS grad speaker issue settled

By Chris Collins
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Members of the 2019 Baker High School graduating class have been frustrated in their attempt to honor one of their teachers as the keynote speaker during their commencement ceremony on June 2.

That frustration has been eased somewhat, however, after a compromise was forged in meetings involving school officials, students and their parents.

“The senior leadership group did a phenomenal job working through that,” Superintendent Mark Witty said.

The issue arose after students decided last fall during Pep Week activities that they wanted to ask Adriene Oster to speak. Oster, who has taught social science at BHS since 1995, knows most of the upcoming graduates because they were required to take her Diversified Occupations class as juniors, said Emily Black, the 2018-19 student body president.

See **Speaker** / Page 3A

Budget board member asks about public safety fee

By Samantha O’Conner
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The Baker City Budget Board unanimously approved the 2019-2020 budget during their third meeting Wednesday.

During the meeting board member Penny Rienks made a motion to eliminate the \$3-per-month public safety fee, which took effect July 1, 2017.

Randy Daugherty, the budget board chairman and a former city councilor, pointed out that only the City Council can rescind the ordinance establishing the public safety fee.

See **Budget** / Page 3A

Ceremony at Courthouse honors brothers

Four brothers with Eastern Oregon ties, three of whom fought in World War II and one during the Korean War, will be honored posthumously during a Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 27 at 12:30 p.m. at the veterans memorial on the east side of the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

(A story in Wednesday’s issue mistakenly listed the location as Mount Hope Cemetery.)

See **Brothers** / Page 2A

Huntington man charged after knife attack

A Huntington man was arrested Tuesday evening after allegedly threatening two people with a knife in an incident in which both people were injured.



Ries

Christian Rod Ries, 31, of 225 W. Jefferson St., is

charged with two counts of second-degree assault and two counts of menacing, according to the Baker County Sheriff’s Office.

Baker County Dispatch received a call at about 5:40 p.m. Tuesday regarding two people being attacked with a knife at 225 W. Jefferson St. Deputies arrived and talked

Bruce McKinney, 62, who told them that he was in the backyard of the home when he heard Mary Ann Rambo, 61, screaming for help.

McKinney told deputies that when he entered the home’s kitchen he found Ries, who is Rambo’s son, straddling her with a knife in his hand.

McKinney told police he tried to push Ries away from Rambo, at which time Ries moved toward him with the knife. Rambo was able to take the knife from Ries, and a neighbor brought plastic ties to restrain Ries’ hands.

Both Rambo and McKinney were injured and treated at a hospital.



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TODAY
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MONDAY — TWO LOCAL VETERANS SHARE THEIR STORIES OF WAR