



Lisa Britton / Baker City Herald

Portraying more recent people in history, Daniel Maldonado shared the story of Steve Irwin, otherwise known as the Crocodile Hunter, during a fifth-grade event at Haines Elementary School.

HAINES

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“We did some online research to get all the information compiled,” Nice said. The students created an informational tri-fold presentation, and brought costumes and props from home for their unit-ending Wax Museum on May 22. A tour of the displays was a walk through history, beginning with Queen Elizabeth I and ending with retired baseball star Derek Jeter. Meren Jesenko relished her role as Queen Elizabeth. In full royal regalia, Jesenko started her speech with some fun facts. “Did you know I once wore an inch and a half of makeup for a portrait?” she said. Then she pauses and peers into a mirror. “Is that a spot of makeup I

“It’s a fun way to end the year.”

— **Mary Nice, fifth-grade teacher at Haines Elementary**
missed?” she said. And throughout her talk, she maintained a British accent. “I watched a bunch of Harry Potter,” she said with a smile. Next to Jesenko, Ashlyn Child also presented in an accent as she portrayed William Shakespeare. “I just started yesterday, so I’ve been trying to get it down,” she said of her adopted accent. All students at Haines toured the museum, which meant the fifth-graders portrayed their characters for more than two hours. “They did an amazing job,” Nice said. “It’s a fun way to end the year.”

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Meren Jesenko wore a fancy dress and makeup for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth I for the fifth grade wax museum at Haines Elementary School.



B2H

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An employee from the Oregon Department of Energy will explain the project, with public testimony starting at about 5 p.m. The Siting Council has scheduled public hearings in each of the five Oregon counties through which the B2H power line would pass. The four others are Malheur, Union, Umatilla and Morrow. The Union County public hearing is set for June 20 from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th St. in La Grande. Idaho Power, which is partnering with the Bonneville Power Administration and PacifiCorp, first proposed B2H in 2007. The 500-kilovolt line would

run for nearly 300 miles between Hemingway, in Southern Idaho, to Boardman in Morrow County. Groups of local residents have opposed the project since its inception, claiming, among other things, that the metal towers, some as tall as 180 feet, would mar scenic views from Baker Valley, the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and other places. Critics also contend that the project would not benefit Baker County, as the line would not supply power to the county. Most Baker County residents buy their power from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC). Idaho Power does have customers in the eastern parts of the county. Mitch Colburn, resource planning and operations director for Idaho Power, said

B2H would benefit Eastern Oregon counties through increased property taxes from Idaho Power and spending during construction of the line. Colburn also contends that the line would make electricity less expensive and service more reliable for OTEC and other providers. The sections that have prompted the most concern in Baker County include the area near the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, on the east side of Baker Valley, and in the Durkee area southeast of Baker City. Idaho Power initially proposed to route the line east of the Interpretive Center. But concerns about the potential effect on sage grouse habitat there led to the current proposed route on the east side of Baker

Valley. That section would run near Idaho Power’s existing 230-kilovolt transmission line, which crosses Highway 86 on Flagstaff Hill between Baker Valley and the Interpretive Center. B2H opponents have also criticized Idaho Power for proposing a route that is predominantly on private property. Of the 68.4 miles of line proposed in Baker County, 56.5 miles (83%) would be on private land, with the balance on public property managed by the BLM. In Union County the proposed route would cover 39.9 miles, 31.5 miles of which (81%) would be on private land. In December 2017 Baker County offered to negotiate easements with Idaho Power for the estimated 35 property

owners along the proposed B2H route. “The County is committed to continuing the fight for equity for our landowners specifically and the County at large,” according to a letter sent to property owners. Jeff Maffucio, Idaho Power’s facility siting coordinator, said company officials would negotiate with private landowners along the route to buy easements. These typically would be 150 feet wide, he said. Although the easements would prohibit the construction of buildings within that corridor, Maffucio said landowners could continue current activities such as farming and livestock grazing. Idaho Power projects that it would build 290 towers in Baker County as part of the project, build 28.2 miles of roads and improve 63.2 miles of existing access roads. The figures for Union County are 171 towers, 7.6 miles of new roads and improvements to 37.5 miles of existing roads. The public hearings will coincide with a 60-day public comment period that started May 22, when the Oregon Department of Energy issued a draft proposed order for

B2H. That order includes the recommendation that the Energy Facility Siting Council approve the proposal and issue Idaho Power a site certificate. Maffucio estimated last month that the Siting Council could issue a final order in late 2019, and a permit allowing construction of the power line 12 to 18 months after that. The current schedule calls for construction to start in 2022, with the line carrying power starting in 2026. People who can’t attend a public hearing can submit written comments by 5 p.m. on July 23. Comments can be emailed to B2H.DPOComments@Oregon.gov, or mailed to Kellen Tardaewether, senior siting analyst, Oregon Department of Energy, 550 Capitol St. N.E., Salem, OR 97301. More information about the B2H project is available online at <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/B2H.aspx> Electronic copies of Idaho Power’s application are available at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. and the Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St. in La Grande.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Wildfire planning event set for Thursday

A day-long exercise designed to help local officials prepare for a wildfire emergency is set for Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Baker County Events Center, 2600 East St. Officials from multiple agencies, including the Forest Service, BLM and Oregon Department of Forestry, will participate in the exercise.

Summer kickoff June 1 at Harvest Church

The summer kickoff featuring a variety of free fun activities for kids is set for Saturday, June 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. There will be bounce houses, music, food, funnel cakes, games and sno-cones. Everyone is welcome and participants can stay for any amount of time between noon to 4 p.m.

BHS Class of 1969 planning reunion

The Baker High School Class of 1969 will celebrate its 50-year reunion on June 7, 8 and 9. On Friday night, June 7, class members will meet at the Veterans Memorial Club, 2005 Valley Ave., at 7 p.m. On Saturday, June 8, there will be a walking tour of downtown at 10 a.m., class pictures at the high school at 3 p.m. and dinner at the Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St., at 5:30 p.m. (reservations required; call Helen Pass at 541-403-0336). On Sunday, June 9, the class will have a farewell get-together at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All classes are welcome to stop by and visit. More information is available by calling Pass at the above number, or Marilyn Delashmutt at 541-523-6125.

Lions Club awards two scholarships

The Baker City Lions Club has awarded a pair of \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors, one to Reno Hammond and one to Addie Flanagan. The scholarship program emphasizes the importance of community service involvement.

Jared Miller earns dean’s list honors

BROOKINGS, S.D. — Jared Miller of Baker City, a student in the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering, has been named to the dean’s list for academic excellence after the spring 2019 semester at South Dakota State University. Miller, the son of Chris and Holly Miller of Baker City, was named to the dean’s list with a 4.0 grade-point average.

Malheur City Cemetery potluck June 2

The 78th-annual Malheur City Cemetery potluck and decoration event has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 2. The potluck is scheduled for noon at the Convention Center in Malheur City, near Malheur Reservoir south of Bridgeport. The event was rescheduled from late May due to rainy weather and muddy roads. More information is available by calling Patty Philpott at 541-709-7181, Nick Eddy at 208-739-1647, Gary Fugate at 541-889-1996, or Mike Browning at 541-620-0497.

Friends of Baker Heritage Museum collecting donations for yard sale

Friends of the Baker Heritage Museum are planning a yard sale during Miners Jubilee in July, and are accepting donated items, except clothing. To arrange to make a donation, call Liz Miller at 541-300-5416. The group will also have its spring general meeting on May 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the museum, 2480 Grove St.

ELTRYM THEATER

MOVIE SHOWTIMES MAY 24-30

ALADDIN PG

FRI-SUN: (4:00) 7:00, 9:40
MON: (4:00) 7:00 TUES-THURS: 7:00

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 3-PARABELLUM R

FRI-SUN: (3:50) 6:50, 9:35
MON: (3:50) 6:50 TUES-THURS: 6:50

POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU PG

FRI-SUN: (4:10) 7:10, 9:45
MON: (4:10) 7:10 TUES-THURS: 7:10

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