

Baker City Herald

May 31, 2019

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New boat ramp at Phillips Reservoir

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 Dave Lindley of Baker City.

Community, 3A

The Oregon Legislature this week passed a bill that allows the Blue Mountain Translator District to transmit emergency alerts, broadcast events on a local channel, and invest in technological upgrades.

BRIEFING

Free kids fishing derby set for Saturday morning

A free fishing derby for kids 13 and younger is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 1, at the Highway 203 Pond. The pond, which is stocked with rainbow trout, is just east of Interstate 84 at Exit 298, about 5 miles north of Baker City. There will be fishing instruction, prizes, and poles available to borrow.

The fishing derby coincides with Free Fishing Weekend in Oregon. On Saturday and Sunday you don't need a fishing license or tag to fish anywhere in Oregon. All bag limits apply, however. More information is available by calling Adrian Cuzick at 541-523-1340.

WEATHER

Today

75 / 49



Storms possible

Saturday

82 / 50



Partly sunny

Sunday

84 / 50



Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Gauging The Effects Of A Recent Prescribed Fire Near Baker City

A Blaze's Benefits

■ May 10 fire in Washington Gulch designed to curb wildfire threat



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Forest Service officials Willy Crippen, left, and Kendall Cikanek discuss the benefits of a prescribed fire that the agency ignited on May 10 in Washington Gulch, about 4 miles west of Baker City. A group of officials toured the burned area on Tuesday.

By Jayson Jacoby

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Willy Crippen is standing in a patch of black ground, a couple of hip-high, red-needled ponderosa pines to one side and to the other a swath of bright green grass interspersed with the yellow blooms of heartleaf arnica.

It's the sort of colorful spring forest scene that inspires a painter or a poet.

But it's not this varied palette that brought Crippen and a group of Forest Service officials — and one from Baker City Hall — to Washington Gulch, about 4 miles west of

town, on this sunny but blustery day after Memorial Day.

Indeed their visit has as much to do with a scent as it does with a sight.

The rich aroma of woodsmoke lingers here among the pines, conjuring images of campouts and the roasting of hot dogs and marshmallows.

But the fire that burned through here 18 days earlier had a more far-reaching purpose than toasting something tasty.

This 225-acre blaze — what the Forest Service calls a prescribed fire — had multiple goals. Chief among them was

to consume, in a controlled way, some of the trees, logs, pine needles and other combustible stuff that could have fueled a much larger blaze on a torrid summer afternoon.

The sort of fire that could cost millions to fight and still keep growing until it's doused with rain.

This location in the foothills of the Elkhorns explains the presence of the lone Baker City representative among the half dozen Forest Service employees.

Michelle Owen is the city's public works director.

See Fire/ Page 6A

5J to hire full-time athletic director

By Chris Collins

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The Baker School District plans to hire a full-time athletic director who would work year-round.

The salary range, on a 260-day contract, is listed at between \$95,193 to \$116,039.

The current athletic director is Tim Smith, a 20-year teacher at Baker High School. Smith teaches science classes for three periods of his day and the other three are dedicated to his work as athletic director through an extra-duty contract.

See Athletics/ Page 2A

BHS graduation set for Sunday

Morgan Stone will speak as valedictorian of the Baker High School Class of 2019 during the commencement ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday at Bulldog Memorial Stadium.



Stone

Zachary Schwin also will address the class as the salutatorian.

Betty Spooner of Baker City will give the commencement address.



Schwin

Both Stone and Schwin were recognized and presented with cash awards during the annual honors and awards program at Baker High School on May 22.

See Class of 2019/ Page 5A

Reward offered for missing woman

The Baker County Major Crime Team is offering a \$2,000 reward for information that leads to the discovery of Linda Peterson, a Baker City woman who has been missing since mid-March.



Peterson

District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff announced the reward today.

See Reward/ Page 2A

Sewing smiles

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

Ellen Ewing's face lit up with joy as soon as she saw the students.

Her grin grew even more when Sadie Carroll offered her a blanket created in sewing class at Baker Middle School.

"That's really beautiful," Ewing said. "I'll treasure it."

See Sewing/ Page 3A

Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

Ellen Ewing, a resident at Settlers Park, accepts a blanket from Sadie Carroll, a seventh-grader at Baker Middle School.

Jaylyn Baird is in the background. Students in BMS sewing classes made fidget blankets for the residents, coordinated by Heart 'N Home Hospice.



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TODAY
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MONDAY — GROUPS OPPOSE PLAN TO KILL RAVENS IN BAKER COUNTY