



In OUTDOORS, 1B  
Tips for sharing the trail

# Baker City Herald

July 19, 2019

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Tim Collins of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Swing and line dance class Saturday at Churchill School**

Shane Cunningham will lead a country western swing and line dance Saturday, July 20, at Churchill School from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. He will teach a line dance around 8 p.m. Entry is \$5 for couples or families, or \$3 singles.

Churchill School dance hall is at 3451 Broadway St. The parking lot is off 16th Street.

**Oregon Heritage Commission to meet in Baker City**

The Oregon Heritage Commission will be in Baker City July 28 and 29 to tour heritage sites downtown and have a public business meeting.

On July 29, the Commission will have a public meeting starting at 9 a.m. at the Geiser Grand Hotel.

More information is available at [www.oregon-heritage.org](http://www.oregon-heritage.org)

WEATHER

Today

74 / 37



Mostly sunny

Saturday

83 / 46



Mostly sunny

Sunday

96 / 55



Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Reforestation Areas Burned In 2015 Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire

## Building A Forest



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Cliff DeMastus talks about an area near Trail Creek, about 12 miles south of Baker City, where reforestation following the 2015 Cornet-Windy Ridge fire hasn't been successful.

By Jayson Jacoby  
[jjacoby@bakercityherald.com](mailto:jjacoby@bakercityherald.com)

Cliff DeMastus kneels to caress the slender green needles of a foot-high ponderosa pine tree that faces death from half a dozen directions.

This fragile seedling, long before it casts a shadow wider than a ball cap, could be scorched by the summer sun or desiccated by drought.

It might be gobbled by an elk or deer, or yanked from the soil by a gopher, its doomed roots dragged through the dust like an unruly mop of hair.

And even if it survives this gantlet and makes it to

adolescence, this pine and its neighbors might suffer the same fate as tens of thousands of its coniferous cousins have suffered over the past 30 years here on the slopes of Dooley Mountain about a dozen miles south of Baker City.

Twice in this generation — in July 1989 and in August 2015 — wind-driven flames from lightning-sparked fires have transformed swathes of healthy trees into skeletons in this corner of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Many of these remnants from the more recent blaze, the Cornet-Windy Ridge fire, still stand, scraps of blackened bark sloughing from their trunks and scattered about their bases.

It is DeMastus' job to try to ensure that a forest will rise again in this place.

Whether these fledgling pines will ever stand tall and straight, their boles wide enough that a passer-by could sit for a spell, back pressed against the species' aromatic orange bark, is beyond his ability to predict, or to determine.

See Forest / Page 6A

# North Powder opens its new school

By Chris Collins  
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NORTH POWDER — Tuesday was a big day in North Powder.

It was a time of celebration for the community, and especially for the students and staff of the North Powder Charter School.

They gathered with pride to recognize the opening of a new school building and gymnasium.

And they did it in style. Members of the student FFA organization and their adviser Seth Bingham served free hamburgers and hot dogs for the crowd.

"We planned for 200 and had 200 hamburgers and 50 hot dogs," said Superintendent Lance Dixon.

When the barbecue ended, just six hamburgers remained.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash and his crew handed out snow cones and Dixon and others made speeches thanking community members for their support of the District's successful effort to secure voter approval of a \$3 million construction bond.

Basketball and volleyball players entertained the crowd with their athletic abilities in the new state-of-the-art gymnasium.

See School / Page 5A

# Commission appoints new roadmaster

By Brandon Taylor  
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The Baker County Commissioners on Wednesday appointed Nolan Perkins as roadmaster, effective Aug. 1, replacing Jeff Smith, who is retiring.

Perkins is the assistant roadmaster. Commissioners also met in executive session to discuss with the county's attorney their ongoing effort to gain public access on a section of the Connor Creek Road.

In the afternoon commissioners had a work session to discuss potential revisions to the county's nuisance ordinance.

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LOCALS REMEMBER THE MOON LANDING AFTER 50 YEARS

## Marveling at the moon

By Jayson Jacoby  
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A man was ready to take the first step on the moon, but that wasn't going to help Phyllis Badgley put dinner on the table.

Milestones go better with a meal anyway.

On that epic evening 50 years ago Saturday, when Neil Armstrong, followed by Buzz Aldrin, set foot on the lunar surface, Badgley, like tens of millions of Ameri-

cans, was watching as history played out on a black-and-white TV screen.

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The front page of the Baker Democrat-Herald (the name changed to Baker City Herald in 1990) on Monday, July 21, 1969, the day after Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon.



TODAY  
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MONDAY — SCENES FROM THE 2019 MINERS JUBILEE CELEBRATION