

SCHOOL

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A full wall of moveable bleachers lines the north end of the new gym. A 64-inch video screen will project pictures of the teams as they prepare for competition and draw attention to special events during games, and images will even be fed to another video screen in the hallway to allow customers and crews at the new concession stand to watch while they buy and sell goods.

The building includes new locker rooms as well.

The old gym was built in 1937 as a project of the Civilian Conservation Corps for \$37,000, Dixon said. The new metal structure, which might lack some of the charm of the old building, was the most cost-effective construction available at \$1 million, Dixon said.

The District received a \$676,200 grant from Business Oregon that paid for a seismic upgrade on the old building. The floor was refinished Wednesday in preparation for the new school year. The gymnasium will continue to be used for practices and games and other special events.

"We hope it will stand for another 60 to 70 years," Dixon said.

There are 13 classrooms in the new school building, compared to the 12 in the old high school. The new rooms measure 900 square feet and are about a third larger than those in the old school, built in 1916.

Large windows much like those in the old school provide an abundance of natural lighting in the classrooms. But unlike the windows in the old building, the new ones haven't been painted shut over the years and can be easily opened, Dixon said. The windows come with screens to allow fresh air in and to keep bugs out.



Classrooms and offices stretch toward the gymnasium at the far, south end of the school.

S. John Collins / Baker City Herald



The gymnasium is spacious with all the amenities, including a digital clock, shot clocks a video screen, top left, and bleachers.

S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Each room also has its own temperature control unlike the old building, which relied on the original boiler to provide steam heat through radiators with one control in a second-floor classroom.

Dixon, principal Molly Smith and counselor Marji Lind are housed in much smaller offices in the new building where they'll serve students in middle school — Grades 6-8 — and high school — Grades 9-12.

Although Dixon misses the picture-window view of the

Elkhorn Mountains from his former spacious office, he's happy to be cool in the summer and looks forward to being warm in the winter at the new site.

"For the last week and a half, I'll gladly trade the size of my old office for the air-conditioning of the new office," he said.

Because of the security measures built into the new school, one of the first things students and staff will need to learn when school starts is how to get inside the building

and how not to get locked out.

Students will be buzzed inside from a control center by administrative secretary Desi McGinn. Viki Turner, who retired as school secretary, was called back part time and the District hopes to put her back to work full time this year, Dixon said.

Staff will enter through a card-swipe system. Doors lock automatically when people exit the building and they cannot return without a key.

"It will be a transition getting people used to it," Dixon said.

A mosaic scene of the Elkhorn Mountains decorates a wall in one hallway. The mosaic was created by art teacher Jessie Street and her students.

Street's new art room includes adjoining space for a kiln, and outdoor access. The new science lab offers modern equipment, including an eye wash station for emergencies and a secure storage space for chemicals used in the lab.

And the new home ec/life skills room is equipped with new appliances and room for students in the life skills class to operate their coffee shop and juice bar.

Dixon said he made use of his experience working in construction during the building project in planning meetings with the architects and contractors, but he is eager to return to his role as superintendent.

For the past year he has relied heavily on Smith, who was in her second year as a principal, to handle much of the administrative work, along with Brad Dunten, the District athletic director, and other staff members.

Dixon's wife, Suzi, also teaches at the school. They have four sons and one daughter between the ages of 26 and 11.

Their two youngest will be

students in the new school. Their youngest son is a sophomore and their daughter is a sixth-grader.

Dixon believes the project was a success because of the long-range planning that went into the project.

The 267 North Powder School District patrons who voted in the May 2017 election, including 77 who live in Baker County, approved the measure by a 2-1 ratio.

That approval will cost taxpayers about \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the next 20 years to finance the new school and gym.

In addition to the property tax funding, the new construction was bolstered by a matching \$3 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Match (OSCIM) Grant from the state Department of Education.

The charter school ended the 2018-19 school year with 285 students in Grades K-12, Dixon said. When he was hired as superintendent 14 years ago, enrollment was at 205 students. Since that time, the school has established itself as a charter school, which provides more flexibility in staffing and allows the District to open its doors to students outside its traditional boundaries, including those from Baker City, Haines, La Grande and Union. About 80 out-of-district students are enrolled each year.

There is a waiting list of about 30 students, Dixon said. The District keeps a cap on the numbers to try to maintain class sizes at a maximum of 23 students.

The old high school has been closed and a committee will work to determine its future, Dixon said. The cost of refurbishing it and bringing it into compliance with current codes and standards has been estimated at \$11 million.

Baker County



CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>Baker United Methodist Church</p> <p>Sunday Worship Casual Service: 8:30 AM Traditional Service: 10 AM</p> <p>1919 2nd Street, Baker City 541-523-4201</p>	<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM</p> <p>1995 4th Street, Baker City 541-523-5201 firstpresbaker.blogspot.com</p>	<p>Third & Broadway 541-523-3891</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church</p> <p>Sundays 10 AM Service & Children's Church Thursdays 5:30-6:15 pm Free Community Dinner Celebrate Recovery Classes start at 6:15 pm www.bakercalvarybaptist.com</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Service 11:00 AM</p> <p>www.ChristianScience.com</p> <p>3rd & Washington, Baker City 541-523-5911</p>	<p>Baker City Church of the Nazarene</p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:45 AM</p> <p>Pastor Troy Teeter 1250 Hughes Lane, Baker City (Corner of Cedar & Hughes) 541-523-3533 www.bakernaz.com</p>	<p>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</p> <p>Baker City 1st Ward Sacrament Meeting 9 AM Baker City 2nd Ward Sacrament Meeting 10:30 AM Baker Valley Ward Sacrament Meeting 12 PM 2625 Hughes Lane, Baker City 541-523-2397</p>
<p>Elkhorn Baptist Church</p> <p>Sunday School 10 AM Morning Worship 11 AM Evening Worship 6 PM Discovery Kids Worship 6:30 PM 3520 Birch St, Baker City 541-523-4332</p>	<p>Harvest Church & HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (Preschool-12 Grade)</p> <p>Harvest Cafe 9:15 am Morning Worship 10:10 AM 3720 Birch St, Baker City 541-523-4233 <i>The first Sunday of each month is Mission Breakfast. Donations and non-perishable donations for NEOCC are accepted.</i></p>	<p>New Beginnings Fellowship PC of G</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Evening 6 PM Weds Service 7 PM</p> <p>Zan & Dawn Coen 1820 Estes, Baker City 541-524-1394</p>	<p>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Service 10 AM</p> <p>1734 Third Street, Baker City 541-523-3922 firstlutheranbakercity@gmail.com</p>	<p>ST. BRIGID'S IN THE PINES COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Services 1st & 3rd Sunday Holy Eucharist</p> <p>East Auburn Street, Sumpter 541-523-4812 <i>A Mission of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Baker City</i></p>	<p>BAKER CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sunday Worship</p> <p>First Service 8:30 AM 2nd Service & Sunday School 10 AM Jr. High & High School Youth Tues 6:30 PM Youth Pastor Silas Moe 675 Hwy 7, Baker City • 541-523-5425</p>
<p>SAINT ALPHONSUS HOSPITAL CHAPEL</p> <p><i>Open to all patients, family and friends for reflection and prayer.</i></p> <p>St. Alphonsus Hospital in Baker City</p>	<p>AGAPE CHRISTIAN CENTER</p> <p>Sunday Services 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM</p> <p>South Highway 7, Baker City 541-523-6586</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Saturday Worship 11:00 AM</p> <p>www.bakercitysda.com 17th & Pocahontas, Baker City 541-523-4913</p>	<p>St. Francis De Sales Cathedral</p> <p>Established 1904</p> <p>Daily Masses: M, T, Th, F 9 AM Day Chapel in Cathedral Wed Daily Mass 9 AM at St. Alphonsus Chapel Sat 8 AM at Day Chapel</p> <p>Baker City Saturday Mass 6 pm Baker City Sunday Mass 9:30 am St. Therese in Halfway 2 pm Sat St. Anthony's in North Powder 11:30 Sun 541-523-4521 Corner of First & Church, Baker City</p>	<p>St. Stephen's Episcopal</p> <p>Services at 9 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays, Holy Eucharist 2nd & 4th Sundays, Morning Prayer 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer</p> <p>2177 First Street • Baker City Entrance on 1st Street Corner Church & First Streets 541-523-4812</p>	<p>Faith Center Foursquare</p> <p><i>A Four Square Gospel Church</i></p> <p>Worship Service 10:45 AM</p> <p>1839 3rd St, Baker City 541-523-7915</p>

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