

# Community

## Author rolls out a bunny tale

■ Cat Odell, who spoke to preschoolers at Head Start, is also a downhill skateboarder

By Lisa Britton  
For the Baker City Herald

The preschoolers were all eyes and ears until she drew the tree.

When Cat Odell sketched a roundish shape in red marker — a stylistic tree in the fall — one little girl spoke up: “That’s not a tree.”

The comment elicited a smile from Odell, author of the children’s book “Pepper and Frannie.” Then she told students they would have a chance to draw their version of a tree on the sketch pad.

Odell lives in Portland and is in Baker City this week to prepare her art show at Churchill School. It opens today during the First Friday art walk. She will have copies of the book in addition to other artwork, note cards, and a small “skateable” section (she has a board with softer wheels suitable for inside).

Odell is a downhill skateboarder.

On Wednesday she visited Eastern Oregon Head Start to read “Pepper and Frannie” to the preschoolers and demonstrate her drawing process.

“I love skateboarding and I love drawing,” she told the students as she settled into story time.

Pepper and Frannie is about two bunnies who are best friends. Pepper is practical; Frannie is “fancy and free.”

Echoing Odell’s passion for skateboarding, Frannie skateboards and talks Pepper



Cat Odell, author of “Pepper and Frannie,” talks with preschoolers at the Baker City Head Start on Wednesday.

“Things don’t come out perfectly the first time — it’s like skateboarding.”

— Author Cat Odell

into giving it a try. After quite a few tumbles, Pepper realizes that skateboarding is actually fun.

“When Pepper fell down, what did she do? She tried again,” Odell said to the students.

After finishing the book, Odell pulled out a sketch pad and markers. Her first faint marks didn’t much resemble what would become Frannie.

“Things don’t come out perfectly the first time — it’s like skateboarding,” she said.

The youngsters decided Frannie should be riding a bike, so Odell quickly drew the requested image.

“What should we put on her?” she asked.

“A helmet!” came from Kasandra Grey.

Once she’d finished the bunny on a bicycle — Frannie from her book — Odell tore off the sheet and let the kids color it.

Several took it upon themselves to add their version of a tree to the drawing, which

drew more smiles from the artist.

### An art-filled weekend

Art shows open during First Friday include Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Churchill School, Peterson’s Gallery, The Trailhead, The Royal Artisan, The Cheese Fairy/Copper Belt, and Broderick Gallery (now located at 1940 Valley Ave. above Kicks).

Several galleries will also have maps for the Open Studios Tour, which takes place Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features 15 stops and 30 artists.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Methodist Church bazaar Saturday

The Baker United Methodist Church has scheduled its annual autumn bazaar for Saturday, Oct. 5.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church at 1919 Second St.

The bazaar will offer houseplants, second-time-around items, baked goods and preserves, holiday gifts and decorations and several collectibles including Avon and railroad items.

A homemade cinnamon roll and coffee are \$2.

### Salmon fishing changes on Snake River

Starting Saturday, salmon anglers on the Snake River in Hells Canyon will no longer be allowed to keep any wild chinook they catch. Harvest of hatchery fall chinook will remain legal.

The closure was prompted by high harvest rates of wild chinook, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Through Oct. 31, or until further notice, the Snake from the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam to the Oregon-Washington border will be open to fall chinook fishing, with a daily bag limit of 6 adult hatchery chinook per day. There are no limits on unmarked jack salmon (24 inches long or less), but anglers who reach the 6-chinook limit must stop fishing that day.

## COUNTY

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“It’s a real asset to plowing snow, it’s kind of a must,” Perkins said.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said the snow wing is “something that is built for this purpose, it’s not something you can manufacture yourselves and just stick on a grader.”

Perkins said the snow wing’s warranty, of 5,000 hours or five years, will transfer to the grader once it’s attached.

He told commissioners the county received a 15% discount on the wing through a federal bidding process.

In other business Wednesday commissioners heard updates from Baker County Fair manager Angie Turner, and from Holly Kerns, director of the Baker City/County Planning Department.

Turner said the livestock auction at this year’s fair had about 290 animals sold, for a total of \$301,288.09.

Sales included 80 hogs, about 48 steers and more than 30 sheep.

Turner told commissioners that fair officials are looking for additional space to accommodate a growing number of

animals being shown at the Fair.

The Fair Board has also applied for a Leo Adler grant to finish the exterior of the Event Center.

Kerns said the planning department has worked with Haines, Sumpter, Halfway, Richland, Sumpter and Baker City on an economic opportunity analysis.

The analysis looks at the economic conditions in each city and issues that need to be addressed to make a community more “ready for an economic opportunity.”

This is a multi-year project, Kerns said.

She said both the city and county are updating their zoning ordinances, with public hearings planned this fall and winter.

Kerns said she worked this summer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on a possible update of floodplain maps.

“It will be countywide if we do it,” Kerns said. “We’re looking at data, we’re looking at concerns, we know that our maps are outdated, and we know a lot of the assumptions made to the maps were problematic.”

## BTI launching Esports program

The Baker Technical Institute is starting an ESports program and plans to have a team of Baker School District students competing in a national league beginning in January.

Esports involves teams competing in computer gaming.

Tryouts for the local team will start later this month at the BTI campus at Baker High School, 2500 E St. Dates

and times will be announced later.

“We currently have nearly 70 interested players with many more inquiring,” said Chris Wittich, the ESports coach and program facilitator. “This is a program that a whole new group of students have clearly been waiting for and now we plan to harness that enthusiasm into student engagement and success.”

BTI President Doug Dalton said many

of the students interested in competing for the ESports team are also involved in BTI’s three-year computer science program.

BTI is partnering with Boise State University’s College of Innovation and Design on the local ESports program.

More information about ESports and other BTI programs is available at [www.bakerti.org](http://www.bakerti.org)

## HEART TO HEART

### Baker City does itself proud with blood donations

The Baker City community should be very proud of itself for the support they give to the American Red Cross blood drive that happens here five times a year. Donors range from high-school first-timers to retirees who have given literally gallons of blood. Last year the Red Cross issued a Certificate of Appreciation to the Baker City Community for 324 units collected from donors in this area in 2018. We are on course to exceed that number this year.

Donors are, and have been, supported by several local businesses and organizations over the years. Free food is provided by Paizano’s, Subway, Pizza Hut, and Albertson’s. The Haines Mutual Improvement Association and the ladies from the Methodist Church in Haines take turns donating homemade cookies. The Cowbelles have traditionally provided beef broth but recently Deanna Davis has personally taken over that responsibility. Deanna heads up the kitchen crew that makes sure donors and support staff get beverages and snacks. The Red Cross provides bottled water and bagged snacks. Every drive needs

volunteers to help donors get signed in and informed about procedures; these volunteers are knowledgeable, cheerful, helpful, and generous with their time.

Cavalry Baptist has hosted the drive for a number of years with the Nazarene Church stepping in occasionally. The September drive just wrapped up and the drive coming up on November 11 were both scheduled at the Nazarene Church. These drives create a lot of garbage which Baker Sanitary Services disposes of with no charge to the churches or the Red Cross with next day service.

Colleen Brooks was the blood drive coordinator for about 30 years but retired two years ago and handed the reins over to me.

Myrna Evans  
Baker City

### Appreciating how much things have changed

Recently I wrote my granddaughter and included a link to a look back videos to show her the world as I knew it as a 9-year old boy. She was amazed by how much the world had changed and said how grateful she was for all we have today. She said she couldn’t imagine living

without all the technology we have today. Wow! I had to respond to her as my thoughts turned to the fact that humans are more than their toys. My letter to her follows.

The video: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=R6bHs8Vm3EQ>  
One thing we seem to forget is that for each generation there is amazement at how folks got by with so little in the past. The truth is, each generation has the most recent ideas and technology in their time. Let’s look back for a moment . . .

Transportation can advance in the ability to move people. Remember, the first big advance was finding a way to travel faster than walking or running. In some cultures the people are capable of running for long distances, the Tarahumara tribe of Mexico is one such example. Once you can reach outside your own physicality, say by climbing upon an animal such as a camel, horse, or perhaps an elephant, the concept of travel suddenly changes.

Once animals were a reliable source of energy for carrying one person it was not long before vehicles were attached to the beasts so more could ride at the same time.

Think of the Egyptian chariot or later, the horse and buggy — which my grandmother and grandfather’s generation used until the automobile was developed. Trains did exist in their day but were still small potatoes compared to the advances just over the horizon.

So there we have a chance to contemplate the technological advances which probably started with the discovery of the use one could get from a sharp rock.

What about the philosophical and social advances? Ahh. Here we have an entirely different situation. The intellectual evolution of humanity is every bit as complex as the change from a sharp rock to a jet airplane. This makes for an involved subject, the discus-

sion of which can go on for decades.

We find people live in the age they are in, not really able to imagine accurately what reality is in a different age. This is inescapable since each of us have a frame of reference defined by all we know of our time, our early years up to our present moment. To experience a change similar to my early years you might try this: use your telephone only to make and receive calls, no texting or messaging or voice mail. Scary! Then leave it at home. That was how our phones worked. If someone called and we weren’t home — we didn’t answer so we didn’t talk. There were no answering machines so no left messages and definitely no such thing as

cellular. The phone had a wire connected to it. It was a fairly short wire so the phone lived in one place, such as the living room. Later, when a family could afford it, there might be an extension phone in the kitchen. If you wanted to call a friend for an after school get together, you dialed and hoped their big sister wasn’t on the phone. If she was, you would get a busy signal. You had to wait awhile and try again. Or you might just get on your bicycle and ride to your friend’s house. Likely when you get there the sister would still be on the phone, gabbing away.

It is hard to imagine how much things change until the change is behind you.

Rick Rienks  
Baker City

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