

Baker City Herald

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In SPORTS, 6A

Baker falls in playoffs

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Lisa Raffety of Baker City.

Sports, 7A

EUGENE — Justin Herbert threw for 333 yards and four touchdowns and No. 6 Oregon won its ninth straight game and clinched the Pac-12 North with a 34-6 victory over Arizona on Saturday night.

Sports, 7A

CORVALLIS — For as much growth as Oregon State has displayed in year two of the Jonathan Smith era, a signature home victory had eluded the Beavers.

That is no longer the case.

Jake Luton, one of 16 players honored during pregame festivities on senior day, passed for 288 yards and four touchdowns, leading Oregon State to a 35-34 victory over Arizona State on Saturday night.

BRIEFING

I-84 eastbound down to one lane near Farewell Bend

Interstate 84 eastbound is limited to one lane near Milepost 353, Farewell Bend, due to a concrete panel that moves under traffic loads. The eastbound offramp at Exit 353 will remain open for oversize loads. The lane closure could last one to two weeks.

WEATHER

Today

57 / 32

Increasing clouds

Tuesday

49 / 31

Chance of rain showers

The space below will be blank on issues delivered or sold from boxes. The space is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

One Estimate Puts Baker's Population Above 10,000, But Census Bureau Disagrees

Topping 10,000?



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Telephoto view of Baker City catches a busy Campbell Street during a summer's day.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker City has never needed a fifth digit to express its population. Not officially, anyway.

But it's possible that numerical milestone is just a year or so away.

The demographers at Portland State University's Population Research Center think Baker City has surpassed the 10,000 threshold already.

But Portland State has had its overly ambitious estimates refuted by the U.S. Census Bureau before.

This discrepancy has played out in the years between the once-every-decade national Census, the official head-count of every city, county and state in the country.

In those years Portland State researchers compile population estimates for Oregon's cities and counties, and for the state as a whole.

The Census Bureau also issues annual estimates.

But the agencies use different criteria and methods for these estimates, which are different from the official Census, which is intended to peg the



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

A group of Baker City students head toward the Baker County Library after playground time at Geiser-Pollman Park.

actual population as accurately as possible by actually surveying residents.

The annual estimates, by contrast, use the Census population as a starting point and then figure in various statistics such as the number of housing units.

That's the primary criteria that Portland State's researchers use, according to the Population Research Center's website.

The Census Bureau, however, also incorporates birth and death records in its annual estimates.

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Sumpter Council fires 3 workers

By Jayson Jacoby
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The Sumpter City Council voted 4-1 Friday afternoon to fire three city employees who had been on paid administrative leave since this spring.

Mayor Greg Lucas said that after deliberating in executive session, the Council moved to an open session and approved motions to fire City Recorder Julie McKinney, assistant city recorder LeAnne Woolf, and Jeff McKinney, the city's public works director. The McKinnies are married.

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Orchestra performs on Friday

The Baker Community Orchestra will have its fall concert Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Baker High School auditorium, 2500 E St. There is no admission charge, and all are welcome.

The concert will feature pieces by march master Karl King, a famous western movie theme by Elmer Bernstein, a dash of Mozart and a little Tchaikovsky.

There will also be selections of Christmas music.

The Orchestra, directed by Russ Carpenter, is made up of volunteer community musicians. All are welcome to participate, and more information is available by calling Brian Watt at 541-523-4662. The Orchestra also has a Facebook page.

Oregon School District Annual Report Cards

School official: Report shows progress

By Chris Collins
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The Baker School District's 2018-19 report card issued recently is again skewed by scores from students across the state who attend Baker Charter Schools.

Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer said in a recent interview that on the whole, students in Baker's brick-and-mortar schools are showing progress as reflected in the details of the report cards.

The scores (about one-third of the total), though, are affected by those of students who live throughout the state and attend the Baker Web Academy.

Here is one example of how the overall statistics are affected: The Oregon At-A-Glance District Profile shows that the percentage of Baker District ninth-graders who are on-track to graduate (students earning one-fourth of their graduation credits their ninth-grade year), is down 2% from a year earlier. Overall, the

district shows an on-track to graduate rate of 71% in the new report.

Yet, at Baker High School, the on-track rate is up 2% from a year ago, to 85%, which is on par with the statewide average.

At Baker Web Academy, however, the percentage is at 62%, down 6% from a year earlier.

Statistics in that category were not available for Baker Early College because of the small number of students participating.

The Baker School District's At-A-Glance Profile also shows that all third-graders' test scores are up 1% from a year ago and hit the Oregon average of 47% meeting benchmark goals.

Individual student progress for students in Grades 3-8 is in the average range as well, the report states.

Districtwide, the percentage of eighth-graders meeting state grade-level expectations in mathematics is at 30 percent, a 3% decrease from

the previous year and 9% lower than the Oregon average.

Baker Middle School eighth-graders' scores were down 3% from the previous year to 36%, below the Oregon average of 39%, another reflection of the impact the Web Academy scores have on the District report.

BMS English language arts scores remained unchanged at 53% of the students meeting benchmarks. The Oregon average is 55%.

Brooklyn Primary School, which serves students in kindergarten through third grade, shows a rate of 74% of its students are regular attenders. That's a decrease of 8%, from a year ago and below the Oregon average of 80%, the report card states.

Palmer said that rate of regular attenders is a reflection of the 62% of students at Brooklyn who qualify for free and reduced-price meals.

And those lower attendance rates also result in lower student

performance, she said. The report card shows 42% of the students are meeting benchmark goals in English language arts, up 2% from last year, but still below the 47% Oregon average.

Math scores are down 7% from the previous year to 37%, below the Oregon average of 47%.

"Oftentimes the community doesn't realize how the schools are impacted by the poverty here in Baker City and Baker County," Palmer said. "We're doing everything we can to support kids and families."

She said schools are continuing to reach out to parents at all levels to help ensure their children attend school regularly and are kept engaged in their education.

At Brooklyn, that sometimes means taking a school van and picking students up at their homes to get them into the classrooms, Palmer said.

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WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE