

New art unveiled for First Friday



**GO! Magazine**  
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# Baker City Herald

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**IN THIS EDITION:** Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robert Trumbull of Baker City.

### BRIEFING

#### Resident offers \$1,000 reward in recent burglary in Baker County

A Baker County resident is offering a \$1,000 reward for credible information leading to the arrest and prosecution of burglars who entered property on Foothill Road in a rural area of the county and took a variety of items.

The Baker County Sheriff's Office announced the reward offer in a press release issued Wednesday.

The items taken include firearms and related accessories, ammunition and tools.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Baker County Sheriff's Office at 541-523-6415.

#### Casey Swanson named to OSU honor roll

CORVALLIS — Casey E. Swanson, a post baccalaureate student in mathematics, was named to the scholastic honor roll for the summer term at Oregon State University.

To qualify, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 and take at least 12 hours of graded courses.

### WEATHER

**Today**  
82 / 39



**Friday**  
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Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

### Work Starts Soon On Baker City's New Drinking Water Well

# Digging Deep



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A contractor is scheduled to start drilling a new drinking water well for Baker City next week. The drilling site is at the east side of the parking lot at Quail Ridge Golf Course.

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
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One of the deepest digs in decades in Baker City is slated to start next week, but residents probably won't see its dividends until 2022.

And then they'll just have to turn a faucet.

Workers from Schneider Water Services of St. Paul, near Salem, will begin drilling an approximately 700-foot-deep well that will supplement the city's drinking water supply, said Michelle Owen, the city's public works director.

The City Council voted on April 14 to pay the firm \$677,000 to drill the well.

The site is on the east side of the parking lot at Quail Ridge Golf Course at 2801 Indiana Ave.

The area will be fenced off during the drilling, which Owen said likely will continue well into November.

Boring through the basalt to reach groundwater is the first, and the least-expensive, part of the well project.

Owen said the second phase, which involves installing a pump and distribution pipes, and building a structure around the well, will cost an estimated \$2 million. That work won't start until the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2021.

Owen said the new well probably will start delivering water to Baker City homes and businesses starting in the spring of 2022.

The new well is one of the major projects that prompted the City Council to boost water rates by 10% in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Those increases will pay for the well and for the continuation of a long-term effort to replace the century-old, leaky concrete pipeline that brings water to town from the city's watershed on the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles west of town.

See Well/Page 3A

# County says road must open

Landowner recently locked gate across Pine Creek Road in the Elkhorn Mountains west of Baker City

**By Samantha O'Conner and Jayson Jacoby**  
Baker City Herald

The Baker County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 during a special meeting Wednesday morning to have employees from the county road department remove a lock from a gate blocking the Pine Creek Road in the Elkhorn Mountains.

David McCarty, who recently bought 1,560 acres in the Pine Creek area, about 12 miles northwest of Baker City, installed the lock recently.

See Road/Page 3A

# Woman sues hospital on behalf of her daughter

**By Chris Collins**  
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A Baker City woman has filed a \$5.2 million lawsuit in Baker County Circuit Court on behalf of her daughter against Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Eric T. Sandefur and Veronica Crowder, a physician assistant who worked with Sandefur at the Baker City hospital.

In her claim, Chrissy Ann Martin alleges that Sandefur and Crowder were negligent in treating a serious fracture to Avery's right arm at the elbow.

See Lawsuit/Page 3A

### FISHING SEASON STARTS TODAY ON GRANDE RONDE RIVER

# Surprising coho salmon run results in first chance for anglers since 1980

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
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Jeff Yanke was optimistic about this year's run of Lostine River coho salmon, but he was still surprised by how many fish began battling their way up the Columbia River earlier in 2020.

"This year's return was frankly really unpredictable," said Yanke, the district fish biologist at the Oregon

Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Enterprise office.

This unexpected bounty has buoyed biologists' hopes about the long-term success of their effort to reintroduce coho salmon to the Grande Ronde River basin. It's also given anglers a chance they haven't had since Ronald Reagan was elected to his first term as president.

See Salmon/Page 2A



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife / Contributed Photo

Kyle Bratcher of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with a Lostine River coho salmon trapped at the Lallowa weir in Wallowa County in 2018.



**TODAY**  
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**SATURDAY — EXPLORING A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF ROCK PINNACLES**