



In NATION, 5A
NASA
rover
lands on
Mars

Baker City Herald

February 20, 2021

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IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Jennifer Blatchford of Baker City.

State 5A

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Oregon Health Authority has reported the state's first COVID-19-related death of a child between 0-9 years old — an infant boy from Umatilla County.

Local, 5A

While the format of the event is different this year due to COVID-19 safety measures, veterans will "own the mountain" Monday, Feb. 22, according to Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, which is hosting its sixth-annual Veterans Appreciation Day. Veterans, active military and their families will have the resort to themselves.

BRIEFING

Joseph Zikmund on BMS honor roll

Joseph Zikmund, an eighth-grader, was named to the honor roll for the first semester at Baker Middle School. His name was not included with the list of students provided by BMS, and thus was omitted from the list of honored students published in the Feb. 13 issue.

WEATHER

Today
38 / 26

Partly sunny

Sunday
37 / 29

Rain or snow

Monday
41 / 31

Rain showers late

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

School bond on May ballot

■ \$4 million bond would be added to a \$4 million state grant and \$4 million from the district to improve aging heating systems at schools, upgrade security, and build a cafeteria at Baker Middle School

By Chris Collins
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After months of planning and discussing whether to seek voter approval of a \$4 million bond measure, and working to secure a matching grant to go with it,

the Baker School Board agreed Thursday, Feb. 18, to place the measure on the May 18 ballot.

The Board has expressed its support for the measure so many times in meetings over the past few months, that the formality

of officially voting on the action nearly was overlooked by Board Chair Chris Hawkins as he went down the items on Thursday's agenda.

Hawkins inadvertently skipped over agenda item F6

titled "Bond Resolution — May 18, 2021 Ballot" — and was directed back to the matter before moving on to the consideration of revisions to district policies.



Hawkins

See Schools / Page 3A

Baker High School Athletes Preparing For Return To Competition



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Izek Cleveland, a freshman tight end, goes through a drill during a recent football practice at Baker High School. Baker's first game is tentatively set for March 5.

Pleased To Practice

By Corey Kirk, Baker City Herald

Baker High School coaches are excited to get back to working with their athletes, no matter that sports which usually start in late summer will instead begin in late winter.

Football practice is underway, and other traditional fall sports — volleyball, cross-country and soccer — will start Monday, Feb. 22.

The season for those sports will continue through April 11.

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) announced on Thursday, Feb. 18, that rather than trying to schedule playoffs or some other type of season-ending statewide event for the final week of the season, the organization, which oversees high

school sports in the state, instead will let schools decide what to do with that final week.

"The OSAA Executive Board does not want to put any undue pressure on schools to participate in a statewide event that could potentially place their students and school community at risk," according to a press release from OSAA. "Recommendations from the OHA (Oregon Health Authority) advise restricting unnecessary travel between counties,

especially when they are at different risk levels. The group felt that requiring schools to travel across the state with the potential for overnight stays for events is not prudent at this time."

OSAA has not decided whether there will be state playoffs, meets or other events during the final week of the seasons for traditional spring and winter sports.

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Modest rise in COVID cases

By Jayson Jacoby
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A modest rise in Baker County's rate of COVID-19 cases this week has pushed the county close to moving up one level on the state's risk level starting Feb. 26.

But Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said he and other county administrators continue to lobby state officials to make exceptions for counties that only slightly exceed risk level thresholds.

"We're asking for a little broader view if it's really close," Bennett said on Friday morning, Feb. 19.

See COVID-19 / Page 5A

Effort to help feral cats in Richland

By Samantha O'Conner
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A group effort is underway to help a colony of feral cats in Richland.

Best Friends of Baker Inc. is working with other organizations after a call from a Richland resident who lives next door to the property where an estimated 80 cats are living.

Phoenix Dawn wanted to help her neighbors, so she reached out to Best Friends and created a Go Fund Me account.

See Cats / Page 2A

Snow scarcely stops at ski area

By Jayson Jacoby
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Peter Johnson is not the sort who begrudges a blizzard.

But even as someone who depends on snow, Johnson concedes that it's possible for a little too much to fall a little too rapidly.

As much as 4 feet of powder in less than a week, for instance.

The positive part of this frozen

onslaught is that it accumulated on the ski runs at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, where Johnson is the general manager.

In the midst of a rather lackluster winter, the series of potent Pacific storms that have plowed through Oregon the past several days were welcome.

See Snow / Page 5A



Chelsea Judy/Contributed Photo

As much as 4 feet of snow has fallen at Anthony Lakes this week.



TODAY
Issue 121, 12 pages

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Comics.....5B
Community News....3A

Crossword.....2B & 4B
Dear Abby.....6B
Horoscope.....3B & 4B

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Opinion.....4A
Outdoors.....1B & 2B
Sports.....6A

Senior Menus.....2A
Turning Backs.....2A
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TUESDAY — BAKER CITY MAN PREPARING TO OPEN BREWERY, TAP HOUSE