

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

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

Local, 3A

Two new members will join the Baker School Board when it convenes in July as the next fiscal year begins.

Kevin Cassidy, who will end an eight-year stint on the Board, and Katie Lamb, who will have completed her first four-year term, did not file for reelection in May.

Local, 5A

Three passengers were hurt, one seriously, in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 84 Sunday, March 21.

Oregon State Police Sr. Trooper Nicholas Hagedorn responded to the crash at 4:52 p.m. It happened in the westbound lanes of Interstate 84 about 30 miles south of Baker City near the Weatherby Rest Area.

BRIEFING

Virtual workshop on North Baker street work plan

Baker City is inviting the public to comment on proposed street work on 10th Street, Pocahontas Road, Hughes Lane and Cedar Street during a virtual workshop on Thursday, April 1, at 6 p.m. To access the workshop go to www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP.

WEATHER

Today
61 / 33
Sunny

Sunday
69 / 34
Sunny

Monday
47 / 25
Snow showers

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

Baker County Library Improves Air Ventilation, Purification Systems

Breathing Easier



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Ed Adamson, facilities specialist for the Baker County Library District, examines the new computer controls for the heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system at the Baker City branch.

By Jayson Jacoby
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The air inside the Baker County Library District's main branch in Baker City has never been cleaner, Ed Adamson says, his pride palpable even though most of the particles that are no longer wafting about were never visible to the naked eye.

"We want the public to come in here and feel comfortable," Adamson, the district's facilities specialist, said on Thursday morning, March 25, as he stood near the front desk.

Visitor numbers have been severely reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, but attendance has increased recently.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A wall-mounted air purifier at the library in Baker City.

See **Library** / Page 3A

Man gets prison term for thefts from church

By Chris Collins
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A Baker City man will spend the next 28 months in prison for taking liturgical objects valued at nearly \$11,000 from the Catholic Church and for stealing miscellaneous items during car prowls in the Kirkway Drive area last month.

Judge Matt Shirtcliff sentenced

Joshua Milton Thomas, 31, on March 9 in Baker County Circuit Court.

Thomas was charged with one count of aggravated first-degree theft, a Class B felony; six counts of unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle, a Class A misdemeanor; and 13 counts of



Thomas

attempted unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle, a Class B misdemeanor. He also was cited on a charge of unlawful possession of heroin when he was taken into custody the night of Feb. 18.

At the March sentencing hearing, Thomas pleaded guilty to the first-degree aggravated theft charge involving the Catholic Church at

2235 First St., and to two counts of entering motor vehicles on Kirkway Drive and taking items from the vehicles as well.

Thomas will serve the 28-month prison term for taking two chalices, three gold plates and a silver and gold crucifix from the church.

See **Thefts** / Page 5A



Tom Fisk/Contributed Photo

Baker City is selling this 1995 backhoe through an online auction.

Baker's backhoe goes on the block

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker City's most famous backhoe is finally on the auction block.

And it's there with the approval of city voters, an endorsement not typically afforded to pieces of heavy equipment.

Future sales of such machinery however, will not be subject to the whims of the electorate.

The story dates to 1952.

That's when Baker City voters approved a city charter.

See **Backhoe** / Page 2A



TODAY
Issue 136, 12 pages

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Opinion.....4A
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Sports.....6A
Turning Backs.....2A
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TUESDAY — BAKER BULLDOGS' FINAL HOME FOOTBALL GAME