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# Baker City Herald

April 1, 2021

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ross Bond of Baker City.

**Oregon, 3A**

Oregon House Republicans said Tuesday, March 30, that they will not use delaying tactics on budget bills when they come up for a vote.

House Minority Leader Christine Drazen, R-Canby, issued a statement that the Republicans would drop their delaying strategy of requiring bills to be read in full when it came time to consider the budget legislation.

**BRIEFING**

**Volunteers sought to help clean up Wade Williams Field on Saturday**

Baker Little League is planning a clean up day on Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at Wade Williams Field to help prepare the field, owned by the Baker Elks Lodge, for the upcoming baseball season. Volunteers can bring rakes, shovels, garbage bags, wheelbarrows or large plastic garbage cans for hauling, gloves, string trimmers and leafblowers.

Lunch will be provided. Wade Kaseberg with Elkhorn Grills will be cooking hot dogs. Those attending should bring their own beverage, although bottled water will be provided.

To donate supplies, or for more information, call Kelly Tanzey at 541-519-8800.

**WEATHER**

**Today**

68 / 34



Sunny

**Friday**

71 / 37



Increasing clouds

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

## Motorcycle rally canceled

Organizer says pandemic and potential restrictions present 'too many unknowns' to put on July event

By Jayson Jacoby  
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The Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, one of Baker City's biggest annual events, will be a two-time casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mark Dukes, a partner in High Desert Harley-Davidson, the Meridian, Idaho, motorcycle dealership that organizes the Rally, said on Tuesday, March 30, that due to uncertainty about limits on attendance at

events, and his concern about the Rally potentially contributing to the spread of the virus, he had to cancel the event for the second straight year.

"There are too many unknowns," Dukes said. "I'm

disappointed. We love going to Baker City and we love doing the event."

The Rally, started in 2006 by brothers Steve and Eric Folkestad, rapidly grew into a signature summer event for Baker City, bringing

thousands of riders and motorcycle enthusiasts to town and drawing crowds of hundreds downtown to look at custom machines and check out vendors' booths.

See Canceled / Page 3A

### American Red Cross Blood Drives Continue To Thrive



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Danny Story donated blood for the first time on Monday, March 29, at the Nazarene Church in Baker City. In the background is veteran donor Doug Gaslin, who has given about 20 pints.

## Droves of Donors

By Samantha O'Conner  
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The COVID-19 pandemic has hampered all sorts of events, but American Red Cross blood drives in Baker City aren't among them.

A blood drive on Monday, March 29, brought 96 donors to the Baker City Church of the Nazarene.

Local coordinator Myrna Evans said very few people either didn't show up for their appointment or canceled.

"Everything is just going really, really well," Evans said.

She has the same assessment for each of the Baker City blood drives — Monday's was the sixth — since the pandemic started a year ago.

Evans said not only has it been easier to recruit donors during the pandemic, but the Baker City drives over the past year have yielded an average of about 80 pints of blood, an increase of 20 to 30 pints from the pre-pandemic period.

"People want to do something to help," Evans said. "It's been pretty awesome, really."

She said more young people have been donating blood over the past year as well.

Evans said the increase in donations has happened even though blood drives during the pandemic haven't been the social occasions they used to be.

See Blood Drive / Page 3A

## High school grades 'alarming'

By Chris Collins  
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Chelsea Hurliman is eager for Baker High School students to return to a four-day week and remain in their classrooms all day except when they are called away for extracurricular activities.



Hurliman

If all goes as planned, that change should start April 12, for high school and middle school students.

Still, as the high school's assistant principal, Hurliman can't help but be concerned for students who have fallen behind in their studies because of changes required by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not all students have adapted well to the shift to online studies or the hybrid system of part-time online and part-time in person classes.

In a February report to the Baker School Board, Greg Mitchell, BHS principal, stated that the failure rate among freshmen and sophomore students had produced "alarming numbers" by the end of the first semester.



Mitchell

See Grades / Page 5A

### Philanthropists' Generosity Benefits Baker County Residents

## Immigrant enjoys helping a small town

By Lisa Britton  
For the Baker City Herald

Venkat Subramanian doesn't live in Baker City, but he wants to support this community as much as he can.

Venkat grew up in Chennai, India, a metropolis with a population of about 7 million.

His family's roots, though, are in a village that he compares in size with Baker City.

After earning a bachelor's degree in engineering in India, he came to

the United States in 2000 to earn a master's at Oregon State University.

He began working with Richard and Kathleen Chaves, owners of Chaves Consulting in Baker City, in 2004. Since 2010, Venkat's company, Arikkan Inc., has worked on several projects with Chaves Consulting, including the Synergy Data Center.

"We became really close friends, and family friends," said Venkat, who lives in Camas, Washington. "And I had an immediate connection with Baker. People are really good."

Venkat comes from a family who gave back to their community.

See Venkat / Page 2A



Subramanian

## The late Jack Clubb continues to contribute

By Samantha O'Conner and Jayson Jacoby  
Baker City Herald

Jack Clubb moved from Baker City when he was a teenager, but his affinity for the town remained throughout this life.

And now, two years after Clubb died at age 93, his legacy, and financial generosity, continues to be felt in Baker City.

Clubb, who had lived in Pendleton since 1972, donated more than \$4 million to several organizations, including the Baker Elks Lodge, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Baker City, and the local Scottish Rite and Masonic Lodge.

Clubb, who died on March 4, 2019, at his home in Pendleton, bequeathed \$667,784 to each of the local groups, and the same amount to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Portland, said Randy Anderson, a CPA who distributed money that Clubb left in his will.

Clubb had donated to those organizations during his life and he was also a member of many of them.

"Jack had a real love for this community," said Bob Savage of Baker City, a former board member for Blue Mountain Community College, another frequent recipient of Clubb's generosity.

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**TODAY**  
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**SATURDAY — ANTHONY LAKES SKI AREA BUSY DESPITE PANDEMIC**