



In SPORTS, 5A

Baker at state meet

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

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

Oregon, 3A

PENDLETON — Gordon Smith is returning home. Following 24 years in Washington, D.C., first as a U.S. senator then as the chief executive officer of the National Association of Broadcasters, Smith is stepping down to an advisory role with the lobbying group and returning to his birthplace: Pendleton.

BRIEFING

Virtual book fair benefits Baker Early Learning Ctr.

Baker Early Learning Center is holding a virtual Scholastic Book Fair from April 8 through April 20. BELC earns 25% of the book sales. All proceeds will be added to the school's playground fund.

To purchase books, follow these steps: Through Google, search for Scholastic Book Fairs. Click on: Find a Fair. Search for Baker Early Lrng Center.

Purchase books from the online store or the virtual fair. For quicker access, go to <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=bakerearlylrngcenter>

Information is also posted on the Baker Early Learning Center's Facebook page.

WEATHER

Today
56 / 26

Mostly sunny

Wednesday
56 / 27

Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Pine Eagle High School Senior Wants To Resurface Running Track

Dash For Dollars



Contributed Photo

Grace Davis, a senior at Pine Eagle High School in Halfway, started a GoFundMe account and has done other fundraisers for her project to resurface the track at the school.

By Lisa Britton
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Grace Davis wants future Pine Eagle High School students to have a real track, and she's dedicated her senior project to raising the necessary money.

Davis lives in Oxbow, along the Snake River at the Oregon/Idaho border, and is a senior at Pine Eagle in Halfway, about 17 miles west of Oxbow.

"I chose this as my senior project because I've been a track and field athlete ever since my freshman year and I know how much it would mean to have an official track to future generations of Pine Eagle athletes," she said.

She has younger siblings following in her track footsteps.

"I would love to see them run on a completed track in their high school years," she said.

Davis launched her project in January 2020 by writing a paper on her goal. She started fundraising in May 2020 with a raffle for flights at the annual fly-in held in Richland.

Her goal is to raise \$50,000 for a "good quality surface on the track." All donations will be used for the upgrade.

Davis also set up a GoFundMe account. As of Monday,

"I know how much it would mean to have an official track to future generations of Pine Eagle athletes."

— Grace Davis

April 12, the account had raised \$2,035.

"If we end up getting more money than needed, the excess will be put toward making our field events qualified for competitions," she said.

She must present her senior project by the end of April.

"If people cannot donate by that time, Caleb Brown is a senior next year and will be continuing the project so people will have another chance to donate next year," she said.

Davis' family moved to Oxbow when she was 6. She was homeschooled until her sophomore year of high school, but started participating in sports as a freshman.

That's when she discovered the state of the track.

"I didn't even realize that our track wasn't finished until we went to our first track meet and I felt the difference in the track surfaces," she said. "As the year went I could see there were many ways that having a better track surface would help

with our track team."

She said the asphalt base of the Pine Eagle track gave her, and others, shin splits.

"We also couldn't practice with our spikes because the asphalt would destroy them," she said.

She said starting blocks don't work with the existing surface, and there are no painted lines for lanes or distances.

"Telling how far we've run is just off of approximations based off of where the corners are," she said.

She decided to help remedy the situation.

"My sophomore year I decided that it would be my senior project to help solve all of these problems for future athletes at our school," she said.

She has set up a GoFundMe page to gather online donations. Go to www.gofundme.com and search for "Help surface Pine Eagle's track."

The direct link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-surface-pine-eagles-track?qid=b38f31809da3d1474f9ee337d8ce34c0>.

People can also donate directly to the school. Checks can be made to Pine Eagle Track and dropped off at the front desk of the high school or mailed to 375 N Main St., Halfway, OR 97834.

Family rescued

■ Beaverton couple and their son got stuck in the snow while trying to drive to the Hells Canyon Overlook

By Jayson Jacoby
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Three members of the Baker County Sheriff's Office's search and rescue team brought to safety a Beaverton couple and their son early Monday, April 12, after their car became stuck in the snow Sunday afternoon on an unplowed Forest Service road in eastern Baker County.

No one was hurt in the incident, said Ashley McClay, public information officer for the Sheriff's Office.

The Baker County 911 Dispatch Office received a call about 2:26 a.m. Monday from Jason Brunson, 52, McClay said.

Brunson told a dispatcher that his 2016 Ford Fusion sedan was stuck in snow along the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road, also known as Forest Road 39, about 8.9 miles north of Highway 86. Road 39 branches off Highway 86 about nine miles northeast of Halfway.

Brunson was accompanied by his wife, Jennifer, 49, and their seven-year-old son, George, McClay said.

The three search and rescue team members traveled to the site in two side-by-side all-terrain vehicles, equipped with tires rather than tracks. They arrived at 5:38 a.m., and brought the Brunsons back to the highway.

McClay said Sgt. Eric Colton helped the Brunsons arrange to have their car towed. It apparently sustained damage when they were trying to free it from the snow, McClay said.

McClay said the Brunson family was trying to reach the Hells Canyon Overlook. The turnout to that site, which is along a side road, is about 10 miles farther along Road 39 from where the car became stuck.

Brunson said the car got mired in snow between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.

Brunson told rescuers that the family tried through the evening to extricate the car, without success. Around 2 a.m. Monday he walked about a quarter mile to a point where he had cell service to call 911.

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City Council to review fee resolutions

The Baker City Council will consider a fee resolution when it meets Tuesday evening that includes modest increases in water and sewer rates.

The 1.9% increases are based on the federal Consumer Price Index increase from February 2020 to February 2021.

Councilors will meet at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. Council chambers will be open for limited attendance by the public.

Councilors review all city fees each year, usually in the spring.

If councilors approve the proposed resolution Tuesday, the changes would take effect July 1.

Water

- The base monthly charge for residential customers increases from \$45.15 to \$46. This amount includes three units of water; one unit is about 750 gallons.

- The cost for additional units beyond the first three increases from 95 cents to 97 cents.

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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE