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# Baker City Herald

May 20, 2021

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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 Donna Kanyid of Baker City.

### BRIEFING

#### Baker City testing fire hydrants

The Baker City Public Works Department started its annual fire hydrant testing and waterline flushing on Tuesday, May 18. Testing will continue for two to three weeks. This testing is done annually to flush sediment from the system, ensure all hydrants are functioning properly and are delivering water at the correct pressure and volume, according to a press release from the city.

Through this testing/flushing process small silt-like particles may become "stirred up" in the lines. These are particles which have settled in less active water lines. This accumulation of sediment may cause water clarity problems. If you do experience water clarity problems, turn on a cold-water faucet outside and let it run until it clears.

Any further problems may be addressed to Baker City Public Works Department. If you are using a water filtration system in your home, please remember to clean the screen to restore full water flow. If your water continues to be cloudy, call the water department at 541-523-6541.

### WEATHER

#### Today

52 / 37



Rain showers

#### Friday

52 / 36



Rain showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

# Voters pass school bond

\$4 million bond first approved in the 5J District since 1948; Jessica Dougherty elected to school board

By Jayson Jacoby  
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Voters in the Baker School District made history in the May 18 special election, approving the district's first bond measure for school improvements since 1948.

In unofficial results from the Baker County Clerk's office, the \$4

million measure was passing by a margin of 2,509 yes votes to 2,315 no votes.

The district will add the \$4 million from the property tax-funded levy to a \$4 million state grant and \$4 million from the district's capital budget for a total \$12 million project.

The district will replace heating, cooling and ventilation systems in all schools, as well as upgrade security systems in all schools.

The district also will build an approximately 5,000-square-foot cafeteria/kitchen at Baker Middle School, the only school that lacks such a facility.

"We're obviously thrilled and thankful to everybody that's been involved, from staff members to the community," said Chris Hawkins, chairman of the Baker 5J School Board. "It's been a long time coming. It's just monumental."

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### May Is National Foster Care Month: Part 2 In 3-Part Series



Contributed Photo

The Potter family of Baker City has been a certified foster family since 2002. The Potters have cared for more than 70 foster children over the past 19 years.

# For Love Of Family

By Lisa Britton  
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Joyclynn and Ben Potter can't agree on how they became foster care parents.

It was 2002, and Joyclynn was pregnant with their first child.

The reason may have been as simple as space.

"We had this extra room," Joyclynn said. "We could be a loving, stable family."

So the Potters, who live in Baker City, became a certified foster family. Since then they've cared for more than 70 foster children.

The most common question they field about foster care is this: How do they handle the sadness when a foster child leaves?

Ben points out that the emphasis is on the child.

"You're not doing foster care to fill a void in your life, it's to fill a void in the

foster child's life," he said.

The goal, he continued, is "to be there in a season of their life, providing love and stability."

"And no matter how long the season, that child is safe," Joyclynn added.

But this doesn't mean it's not hard on the family when a foster child leaves.

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# LA GRANDE: Couple's missionary trip to China never happened as they focused on foster care

By Lisa Britton  
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LA GRANDE — Rebecca and Ken Foster were set to be missionaries in China with their children, ages 3 and 1.

They were going to focus on orphan care.

"Plans suddenly changed," Rebecca said.

They found themselves in La Grande, but the couple still wanted to do something to help children.

Rebecca remembers

thinking "surely there are children here we can take care of."

She brought up foster care to Ken, who agreed.

That was in October 2003, and two months later they had their first foster placement.

Their initial experience as a foster family was hard.

"We were amateurs," Ken said.

"We didn't know anything about trauma," Rebecca said.

After that first experience, she wasn't sure they could continue as a foster family.

Then she got a call about a 12-week-old baby boy.

"We prayed about it," Ken said.

They said yes. And later adopted him.

"That's our son Mykail. Who is now 17 years old," Rebecca said. "I'm so grateful we said yes."

This is their 17th year as a foster family. They've fostered more than 50 chil-

dren — some long-term, and some for just a few hours for emergency care.

"We never did make it to China," Rebecca said with a smile.

Her advice to anyone considering foster care is this:

"You've got to set aside everything you think you know about parenting," she said. "It's not going to work with a 5-year-old who is traumatized and scared."

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# City police warn of 'dangerous' suspect

By Jayson Jacoby  
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The Baker City Police Department issued a public notice Tuesday, May 18 alerting residents about a Baker City man accused of several crimes earlier this month, including spraying bear repellent into the face of a city police officer.

The notice describes the suspect, Travis James Sprague, 24, who has no fixed address, as "armed and dangerous."

"Travis is an active threat to our society and is considered to be armed and dangerous," the notice reads. "Please DO NOT try to apprehend him. If you know where Travis is located or see him please call 911 immediately."

According to court records, Sprague sprayed Baker City Police Officer Koby Essex with "bear mace" on May 14 while he was talking to Sprague about an alleged incident involving Sprague and a woman.

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# County proposes lodging tax review

By Samantha O'Conner  
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Two of the three Baker County commissioners want to hire a consultant to coordinate a comprehensive review of how the county spends nearly half a million dollars in lodging taxes that guests at motels and other establishments pay annually.

But that plan is contingent on Drew Martin, an attorney for the attorney, deeming it legally sound for the county to extend, for the fourth time in the past 15 months, the county's current contract with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce to operate the visitors center using lodging tax revenue.

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SATURDAY — FRIENDS OF HAINES PLAN FULL 4TH OF JULY SCHEDULE