

# Baker City Herald

May 25, 2021

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In **SPORTS, 5A**  
Badger boys  
tops in track

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Kristi Johnson of Baker City.

**Oregon, 3A**

CANNON BEACH — The sand was packed on a recent sunny day at this upscale beach town on Oregon's coast, but signs of the state's cautious approach to the pandemic were still everywhere.

BRIEFING

**County planning commission sets hearing on proposed subdivision**

The Baker County Planning Commission will have a public hearing on Tuesday, June 8 at 5 p.m. at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St., regarding a proposed 12-lot subdivision in Baker Valley.

Salmon Creek Builders Inc. has proposed the subdivision near Brown Road.

The public is invited to attend the hearing in person or by teleconference (1-833-548-0276, enter Meeting ID: 682 612 1078 and Passcode: 967061, when prompted).

A copy of the application and other documents are available by calling Tara Micka at 541-523-8219. A copy of the planning department staff report will be available starting June 1.

WEATHER

Today

60 / 36



Showers likely

Wednesday

70 / 41



Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Former Newspaper Box Repurposed As 'Little Free Art Gallery'

## Art For Everyone

Other metal boxes refurbished to serve as free libraries located around town



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Corrine Vegter, creator of Robby the Robot, chats with Damian Reynolds, Olivia Reynolds, and Wyatt Free as they explore the offerings in the "Little Free Art Gallery."

Lisa Britton, Baker City Herald

Olivia Reynolds made a side trip after climbing down from the school bus on the afternoon of May 13.

"Are you going to see Robby?" the 9-year-old asked other riders who rode the bus to Churchill School.

Olivia led the way around the corner to the front of the former school where a bright red metal creation greets visitors.

Robby the Robot was the destination of Olivia and her friends.

Corrine Vegter, who owns Churchill with her husband, Brian, built Robby using an old newspaper box no longer needed by the Baker City Herald.

It is Baker City's first "Little Free Art Gallery" where visitors can find art pieces on the top shelf and art supplies on the bottom shelf.

Everyone is encouraged to "take some and leave some." The robot is out front of Churchill, 3451 Broadway St.

This concept is the same as the Little Free Libraries where people can leave a book and take a book.

Starting with the original orange box, she created a second door on the bottom half, then welded tabs inside to install shelves. Funky metal pieces make up Robby's arms, a propeller sits atop his head, and she added a face using old gears.

"I've been wanting an excuse to make a robot for a long time," Vegter said.

She finished the creation with shiny red oil-based outdoor paint.

"I just wanted something fun, bright and lively," she said.

Solar lights illuminate Robby's interior during nighttime.

This art library is for everyone.

"I hope both kids and adults love it," Vegter said.

There's even a Facebook page: "Robby the Robot Little Free Art Gallery."



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Corrine Vegter encourages people to take, and to leave, pieces of art, and art supplies, from this repurposed newspaper box at Churchill School.

See **Artistic**/Page 3A

## Risk level may drop

County's rate of new COVID-19 cases has dipped to the lowest level since October 2020

By Jayson Jacoby  
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With its COVID-19 case rate dropping to the lowest level in more than six months, Baker County appears to be on pace to return to the state's lowest risk level, which would double indoor dining capacity at restaurants at the start of Memorial Day weekend.

For the 10-day period May 14-23, the county reported four new cases, according to the Baker County Health Department.

That's the fewest new cases in a 10-day period since mid-October 2020, when the county had three new cases over 14 days, Oct. 10-23.

Baker County had no new cases for at least four straight days — May 20-23. That's the longest stretch without a new case in the county since October, when the county had 13 consecutive days — Oct. 7-19 — without a case.

See **COVID Rates**/Page 3A

## City Council to mull Second Amendment resolution

The Baker City Council during its meeting this evening will consider approving a resolution declaring the city a Second Amendment sanctuary.

City Councilor Johnny Waggoner Sr. introduced the resolution, which has been reviewed by the city attorney and City Manager Jon Cannon. Councilors will meet at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

The one-page resolution includes a clause that reads: "The Baker City Council does hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the rights of the People to keep and bear arms and consider such laws to be unconstitutional and beyond lawful legislative authority."

See **Council**/Page 2A



TODAY  
Issue 6, 14 pages

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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE