

# Baker City Herald

June 8, 2021

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In LOCAL, 2A

Crews  
slow fire

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ryan Chaves of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Library plans two summer book clubs**

The Baker County Public Library is running two book clubs this summer.

One is for children entering grades 4-6; the other is for teens in grades 7-9.

For information about the clubs, or to sign up, go to [www.bakerlib.org](http://www.bakerlib.org), check the library's Facebook page, or inquire at the library, 2400 Resort St.

**Red Cross plans blood drive in Baker on June 14**

The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive for Monday, June 14, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane in Baker City. Call Myrna Evans at 541-523-5368, or go online to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), to schedule an appointment.

Blood donors will not be required to wear a mask if they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, but they will need to bring an immunization card if they want to go without a mask.

**Haines Fire District meeting set June 14**

HAINES — The Haines Fire Protection District's monthly board meeting will be Monday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the main station, 816 Cole St. The board will finalize next year's budget. COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect.

WEATHER

Today  
71 / 44



Mostly sunny

Wednesday  
67 / 43



Cloudy

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

**Baker High School Graduation Ceremony**

## Progress In Spite Of The Pandemic



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Baker High School's Class of 2021 had its graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 6.

Samantha O'Conner, Baker City Herald

*Grey skies, sprinkles of rain and chilly winds had no effect on the cheers that erupted at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium Sunday afternoon, June 6.*

*Baker High School's class of 2021 was joined by friends and family to celebrate what they achieved despite having their final two years of high school greatly affected by the pandemic.*

Commencement speaker Nicole (Butler) Sullivan, a science teacher at BHS, recalled how she taught many of the graduates when they were first-graders, then later while teaching at Baker Middle School and to her current position.

"I'm so thrilled I get to see your

faces without masks on one last time before you guys go out there," Sullivan said.

She offered the graduates several points of advice, including the importance of traveling. She encouraged students to go places, learn, and experience new things, and to be

excited in the moment during "these precious times."

"If you can't travel, experience culture from people that you come across from other walks of life, states, countries," Sullivan said.

See **Class of 2021** / Page 3A

## Baker City Cycling Classic is back

By Lisa Britton  
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The 2021 Baker City Cycling Classic returns this month after a one-year hiatus.

This year's event will be June 25-27.

The various stages take place on public roads, so motorists can expect some delays throughout the weekend.

The road race on June 25 begins at 10 a.m. and will use Highway 30 from Baker City to North Powder, Highway 237 into Union, and

Highway 203 around Catherine Creek and Medical Springs. The finish is about a half mile before Highway 203 crosses Interstate 84.

That event concludes around 4:30 p.m.

There are two races on Saturday, June 26.

The first begins at 8:30 a.m. It starts at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene on Hughes Lane and heads out to Highway 30, where racers will turn right and follow the road to Davenport Road then to Chandler Lane with a final

right turn onto Old Oregon Trail Road finishing about a mile from Highway 86.

There will be a detour of northbound traffic on Highway 30 at Hughes Lane onto Pocahontas and then to Chico Street where it will rejoin Highway 30. The detour will be in effect from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The second events of the day will be the Tour d'Town Criterium and kids races held in Historic Baker City from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There will be parking restrictions on Main Street,

Valley Avenue, First Street, Second Street, Broadway Street, Court Avenue, and Washington Avenue.

The Baker County YMCA will be hosting the Y's Kids Races on Saturday, June 26. A bike rodeo (bike safety check) starts at 11 a.m., followed by the races at 11:30 a.m. It's free and open to ages 4 through 15 — helmets and registration are required. For more information visit [bakerymca.org](http://bakerymca.org) or [bakercitycyclingclassic.com](http://bakercitycyclingclassic.com).

See **Cycling** / Page 2A

## County commissioners grant variance for rural home site

By Samantha O'Conner  
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Baker County Commissioners on June 2 approved an applicant's request to build a home farther from a public road than is usually allowed in the county's zoning ordinance.

The county planning commission on April 5 approved Eric Bork's request to build the home near Highway 7 about 12 miles southwest of Baker City, but denied his application for a variance from the

requirement that nonfarm dwellings be built within 200 feet of a public road.

Bork appealed that denial to county commissioners.

Bork, who lives in Turner, near Salem, applied for the variance. The 25.65-acre property, which is just north of Highway 7 and just west of the Denny Creek Road intersection, is owned by Phil and Darlene Scheler of Baker City, according to documents from the Baker City/

County Planning Department.

The property is in the exclusive farm use zone and within the county's big game overlay.

In a letter to the Planning Department, Bork and Karilea Landholt wrote that they requested the variance because the only "suitable and buildable area of the property" is more than 200 feet from the highway.

See **Variance** / Page 3A

BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETS THIS EVENING

## Council to look at police survey

The Baker City Council will review results from an online survey that asked residents their impressions of the Baker City Police Department.

The 23-question survey was open during March.

Councilors will look at survey results during their regular meeting this evening, June 8, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Almost 600 people responded to the survey, more than half of whom — 349 — said they have lived in Baker City for at least 15 years.

Among the results:

**How satisfied are you with the Baker City Police Department**

- Satisfied, 203 respondents
- Somewhat satisfied, 123
- Very satisfied, 105
- Somewhat unsatisfied, 53
- Very unsatisfied, 37
- Not sure/no opinion, 30
- Unsatisfied, 22

**Over the last 12 to 18 months, or within the time you have lived in Baker City, do you feel the level of crime has:**

- Increased, 474
- Stayed the same, 63
- Not sure/no opinion, 31
- Decreased, 6

See **Council** / Page 3A

## Sizzle to shiver: June's fickle start

By Jayson Jacoby  
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The first week of June has given thermostats in Baker City hardly a moment's rest.

First, air-conditioners were toiling earlier than usual.

And now furnaces, scarcely having started their customary summer break, are back at work.

Just five days after an early heat wave broke one high-temperature record at the Baker City Airport and near snapped another, record-setting chill descended in the wake of a cold front that also brought snow showers to the mountains on Sunday, June 6.

The temperature slunk to 29 degrees Monday morning, June 7 at the airport.

See **Weather** / Page 2A



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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE