



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Baker High School graduates toss their mortarboards after commencement on Sunday, June 6 at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

## CLASS OF 2021

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She encouraged them to be kind, positive, and treat everyone with respect, find something to be passionate about, and to be unique.

“Have fun. Some people are really good at doing this life thing right,” Sullivan said. “They don’t stress the small stuff, they are really good at enjoying the moment. They even die well: Zeuxis, a 5th century B.C. Greek painter, is said to have died laughing at the humorous way in which he painted the goddess Aphrodite — after the old woman who commissioned it insisted on modeling for the portrait.”

Her final piece of advice was to remember: “All you need is love.”

Salutatorian Renee Blincoe quoted fictional superhero Tony Stark (Iron Man



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Corah Downing was among the members of the Baker High School Class of 2021 who participated in a vehicle procession along Broadway and Main streets Sunday afternoon, June 6, prior to graduation.

and The Avengers): “It’s not about how much we’ve lost, it’s about how much we have left.”

“Instead of focusing on

the negative aspect of things ending, I encourage all of us to look more towards the positives,” Blincoe said.

She encouraged her classmates to mark their graduation as a milestone, but not as a sad ending.

“But I’ll let Tony Stark have the last words — ‘part of the journey is the end.’”

Co-valedictorian Salena Bott noted that the Class of 2021 has had experiences unlike any class.

“Our experiences here in high school have helped us grow into better people as we go forward and look to our futures,” Bott said. “Obstacles came our way, but we were able to come together and overcome every single one of them. Through all of our difficult circumstances, we pushed ourselves to be the best we could be.”

Bott talked about the pep night the Class of 2021 had planned, even though they weren’t sure, due to the pandemic, that it could happen. “Our senior pep night experience is just a small example of everything that we accomplished together,” she said. “The mindset that brought us together is the same mindset that will continue to carry us forward.”

She also reminded her fellow graduates that the senior class won pep night.

She ended her speech with a quote from Mala Yousafzai — “Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.”

Another of the class’ three valedictorians, Gabriel Gambleton, congratulated his classmates for persevering through one of the craziest years of their lives — something his introduction emphasized when he welcomed not only the tradi-

tional groups — “staff, family, friends, alumni and class of 2021” — but also something that wouldn’t have been included in any previous address — “those of you on Zoom.”

“A year full of unpredictable events, constant changes, and distance learning. A year where graduation gowns could have been replaced with hazmat suits,” Gambleton said.

“My biggest takeaway from this is that many things are out of our control, but it’s how we adapt, persevere, and learn that we can be successful in the future,” Gambleton said.

Gambleton talked about the historic times he and his classmates have lived through.

“And we will look back at some point and have one of the greatest gifts of all, a great story,” he said. “One you can share with your grandkids. As a class I challenge each and every one of you to go out and be the best version of yourself, the choice is yours.”

Co-valedictorian Sydney Keller said she wanted to leave her fellow graduates with a bit of motivation for the future.

“If you know me, then you know how much I enjoy quot-

ing lines,” Keller said.

She offered quotes from Ricky Bobby, the race car driver portrayed by actor Will Ferrell in the movie “Talladega Nights.” — “If you ain’t first, you’re last.”

“As we move on to the next part of life, know that one of the most important ingredients to success is a good mindset,” Keller said.

She also quoted two characters from Charles M. Schulz’s “Peanuts” comic strip, Charlie Brown and his beagle, Snoopy.

“We only live once” was Charlie Brown’s line, to which Snoopy replied: “Wrong, we only die once. We live every day!”

“Be sure that as we go out into the world, you embrace each moment so as to truly live,” Keller said.

Keller thanked her classmates, teachers, coaches and family.

“Thank you to all of the community members who continually show such amazing support to us kids,” Keller said.

Her final quote, reflecting Keller’s Nebraska roots and inherent love of comedian Larry the Cable Guy, was to encourage the class of 2021 to go out into the world and “get ‘er done.”

## COUNCIL

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### How satisfied are you with the response time of police officers to a crime in progress?

- I have never called for officer assistance, 160
- Satisfied, 136
- Not sure/no opinion, 83
- Somewhat satisfied, 75
- Very satisfied, 53
- Somewhat unsatisfied, 32
- Very unsatisfied, 21
- Unsatisfied, 13

### What concerns you the most within the city limits (check all that apply)?

- Drug activity, 519
- Theft, robbery, burglary, 511
- Messy neighborhood yards, 178
- General safety concerns, 166
- Traffic issues, 85
- Dogs at large, 82
- Barking dogs, 62
- Gang activity, 52
- Gun crime, 47

In other business Tuesday, councilors will:

- Hear a report about discussions among the previous city council regarding the proposal to apply for a “quiet zone” in the city, meaning freight trains, about 24 of which pass through the city in a typical day, would not

sound their horns except in emergencies.

To qualify for a quiet zone — which are in effect in both La Grande and Pendleton — Baker City would have to upgrade the barriers at five railroad crossings to prevent vehicles from reaching the tracks while a train is passing.

The concept of a quiet zone dates back about two decades.

When city voters were asked their opinion on the matter, in the May 2002 election, 82% were opposed to the city pursuing a quiet zone.

The idea was revived a couple years ago when residents formed a group, Neighbors for a Safer, Quieter and Healthier Baker City, and submitted to the city a petition signed by more than 230 people who support a quiet zone.

In November 2019 the city council voted to have the city file a notice of intent to apply for a quiet zone, which doesn’t obligate the city to take any further action.

The agenda item for tonight’s meeting is a report only; councilors are not slated to take any action.

Among the council’s options in the future are to again ask voters, via a ballot measure, whether they support the city pursuing a quiet zone.

## VARIANCE

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“If granted the conditional use permit and variance of the 200 foot requirement we intend to use the lightest touch possible in developing the property into a residence and preserve the natural beauty of the area,” they wrote. “We do not feel this endeavor will negatively impact any of the neighboring properties or be an eyesore to the community.”

They are proposing to build an 1,800-square-foot home and 1,800-square-foot shop. The buildings would be accessed by an approximately 1/4-mile private driveway off Highway 7, and electricity would be supplied by solar panels, according to the application. Bork and Landolt plan to have a well drilled.

In a March 26, 2021, letter to the Planning Department, Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (ODFW) Baker City office, wrote that ODFW recommends the county require that any home be within 200 feet of the highway.

“ODFW has concerns with both the

direct and the cumulative impacts of the proposed request,” Ratliff wrote in the letter. “If the variance is approved the department recommends a mitigation plan be developed and implemented to offset the loss of winter range.”

Fred Warner Jr. attended the June 2 commission meeting representing Bork.

“The reason there is a 200-foot standard is because of the big game overlay and the applicant believes that we have mitigated that in our proposal,” Warner said.

Warner said Bork has proposed to buy a 2.25-acre parcel adjacent to the home site and place a deed restriction prohibiting a home from being built there. That property is four times the size of the footprint for the homesite, Warner said.

Without the variance from the 200-foot requirement, Bork would not be able to build a home on the one suitable site on the property, Warner said.

“So the preservation of applicant’s property right is contingent on granting of the variance and without the variance, we would be unable to fit the criteria that was discussed and granted for the home site,” Warner said.

### Annual Youth Trail Ride started in 1964 is sponsored by the Baker County Mounted Posse

This is an outdoor camp with horseback riding and outdoor adventure for youths ages 12-15 years old.

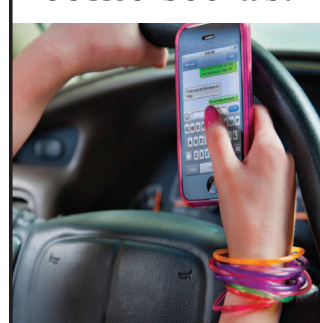
Cost is \$2.00 (that’s right only \$2.00 dollars)

June 26-27, 2021

For more information, questions or an application please call Jodie Radabaugh at 541-524-9358 or 541-403-4933 All state and county regulations will be followed.



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