

# Baker City Herald

August 28, 2021

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In **SPORTS, A6**  
**Baker soccer begins**

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Harold Huntington of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Baker County Garden Club to meet Sept. 1**

The Baker County Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at 10:30 a.m. at Oregon Trail Nursery, 600 Elm St.

The topic will be plants for sale this time of year, and Lisa Constantine will be the speaker. Please bring a sack lunch and a chair.

**Suicide Awareness Walk planned for Sept. 11 in Baker**

Baker County Safe Communities Coalition is sponsoring a Suicide Awareness Walk on Saturday, Sept. 11, in honor of World Suicide Awareness Day. The organization invites the community to "come show your support and help raise awareness about suicide prevention."

The walk starts at 5:30 p.m. at Geiser-Pollman Park. For more details, visit the Facebook page for Baker County Safe Communities Coalition.

WEATHER

**Today**  
79 / 37  
Sunny

**Sunday**  
86 / 42  
Sunny

**Monday**  
83 / 41  
Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

## Murder trial set for Sept. 8

By **JAYSON JACOBY**  
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Judge Matt Shirtcliff of Baker County Circuit Court has declined to dismiss murder charges against Shawn Quentin Greenwood in the January 2020 shooting death of Angela Parrish in Baker City.

Shirtcliff issued a written ruling Thursday, Aug. 26, two days after a three-hour hearing in Circuit Court. The judge did rule that district attorney Greg Baxter will not be allowed to use certain evidence during a trial, which is scheduled to start Sept. 8 at the

Baker County Courthouse. Greenwood's attorney, Jim Schaeffer of La Grande, filed a motion on June 25, 2021, seeking dismissal of charges, or suppression of evidence. Schaeffer contends that dismissal of charges is the appropriate remedy

based on allegations, which Baxter has not contested, that Detective Shannon Regan of the Baker City Police Department listened to five phone calls between Greenwood, 50, of Vale, and Schaeffer on Sept. 14, 2020. Regan is on paid administrative leave during a

criminal investigation into the matter. Baxter said he will not call Regan, the lead investigator in Parrish's murder, as a witness during trial. In his five-page written decision on Schaeffer's motion, *See, Charges / Page A3*



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

Frequent cleaning of desks will be a common task this year in Baker schools, as was the case last year. In early March 2020, Stormie Stuart, 9, helped clean her third grade classroom at Brooklyn Primary School.

## School chief 'thrilled' for classes to start

### ■ Baker students return on Monday, Aug. 30

By **JAYSON JACOBY**  
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"Normal" isn't an adjective that any school official is apt to use currently, but Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty is excited about what schools will look like when classes convene on Monday, Aug. 30.

They'll look busy, most notably. "We're looking forward to a new school year starting with students in person," Witty said on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 26.

That alone distinguishes the 2021-22 school year from its immediate predecessor.

A year ago, Baker students were watching classes

on computer monitors in their home when the school year started — the same situation that prevailed during the spring term in 2020, in the early stages of the pandemic.

Elementary students, in grades K-6, returned to in-person classes for a full four-day weekly schedule on Oct. 14, 2020.

Middle school and high school students began attending classes one day per week on Nov. 9, 2020, moving to two days per week on Jan. 25, 2021, and to a full four-day schedule on April 12, 2021.

But even though this school year will start much

differently from last, Witty acknowledges that "there are challenges with the pandemic."

A key one, naturally, is striving to prevent the virus from spreading in schools during the county's biggest surge in cases during the pandemic.

From Aug. 1-26, the county reported 254 cases, the most in any single month, surpassing the 196 cases in December 2020.

Last year the district was largely successful at avoiding the virus. During the school year, 36 staff or students tested positive.

Witty noted that the Vale School District in Malheur County, in its first four days of classes this week, had more than 50 students or staff members who were quarantining either because

they had tested positive or had been exposed to someone who did.

In a post on the Vale District's Facebook page on Wednesday, Aug. 25, Superintendent Alisha McBride wrote that "If we do not act now, it is possible that our children will be forced into distance learning shortly after the school year begins."

To avoid that outcome in Baker, Witty said the district will employ most of the same tactics used during the previous school year. That includes asking any students and staff who feel ill to stay home, conducting daily health checks of students at the start of the day, encouraging frequent handwashing, and following a three-foot social distancing protocol.

*See, Schools / Page A3*

## A cow, a missing tongue, and a mystery

### ■ Biologist perplexed by scene in eastern Baker County

By **JAYSON JACOBY**  
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Brian Ratliff has sliced open and probed the innards of quite a number of cows, but he's never come across a case as confounding as the missing tongue.

"This is a stumper," Ratliff said on Thursday, Aug. 26. "I don't have an answer."

The mystery started the day before for Ratliff, the district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Baker City office.

A ranch manager found the carcass of a three-year-old cow that morning on a public grazing allotment near the head of Fox Creek. That's near Lookout Mountain, about 14 miles north of Huntington.

Ratliff investigated the case as a possible wolf attack.

Wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack have killed three head of cattle, and injured three others, this summer several miles to the west.

Wolves didn't kill the cow at Fox Creek — Ratliff is sure about that.

He's also confident in his conclusion about why the cow died.

Almost the whole of the cow's tongue — at least a couple pounds of flesh — was missing.

The wound severed two arteries at the base of the tongue, and Ratliff said a veterinarian told him that a cow with that injury would bleed to death relatively rapidly.

That was the only injury which happened prior to the cow's death, Ratliff said.

*See, Cow Tongue / Page A3*

## Elks collect \$1,215 in donations during parades

### ■ Donations were much higher than usual this year

By **JAYSON JACOBY**  
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The \$50 bill caught Staci Erickson's eye as it fluttered onto the surface of the American flag.

The slip of currency also made her heart swell.

Erickson is a member of the Baker Elks Lodge. She's also one of the Elks who hold the huge flag that is at the front of local parades.

Another of the flag-holders is Doug Riggs. He exhorts parade-watchers to toss coins or bills onto the flag to support a variety of veterans programs that the Elks contribute to statewide, Erickson said.

In 2021, following a 2020 when most parades were canceled due to the pandemic, that flag collected quite a lot more cash than in the past.

"The magnitude of generosity was overwhelming this year," Erickson said on Thursday, Aug. 26. "This year for some reason there was just such charity. It's pretty amazing."

In previous years the Elks collected a few hundred dollars in donations during parades,

including the Haines Fourth of July, Miners Jubilee and Shrine parades, Erickson said.

This year the total was \$1,215.50. That includes:

- Haines Fourth of July, \$225.50 (including that \$50 bill, the first Erickson has seen donated during any parade)
- Miners Jubilee, \$350 on July 19
- Shriners, \$640 on Aug. 7

Erickson said the high volume of donations was obvious as the Elks marched through Haines and downtown Baker City.

*See, Elks / Page A2*



**TODAY**  
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**TUESDAY — GRIM NEWS FOR BAKER COUNTY'S BIGHORN SHEEP HERDS**