



**LOCAL A2**  
County clerk prepares for primary election



**SPORTS A5**  
Baker baseball sweeps past Mac-Hi



**SPORTS A6**  
Bulldog softball can't hold late lead

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • OUTDOORS & REC • SPORTS

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ken Kritch of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Presentation about human trafficking set for April 11**

The American Association of University Women will sponsor a presentation about human trafficking on Monday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Baker High School library, 2500 E St. This talk is open to the public.

Kristen Campbell will be the presenter. She is the operations and program director for In Our Backyard, a human trafficking awareness group.

**'Durkee Stories' event April 12 at Baker Heritage Museum**

Baker Heritage Museum will host "Durkee Stories," a conversation with Gary Bloomer, on Tuesday, April 12, at the museum, 2480 Grove St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 6 p.m. Attendance is free.

Bloomer, a long-time Durkee rancher, will share stories about the town's history and the Opal Mine.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
44/23  
Snow possible late

**Sunday**  
43/24  
Snow showers

**Monday**  
43/25  
Mostly cloudy

**Full forecast on the back of the B section.**

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



YMCA member Cliff Hall, second from right, tries out the newest addition at the Y fitness center after visiting with CEO Koby Myer, left, and Y staff Sarah Watkins and Wayne Dyke.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

## Fitness and Family

*Baker Family YMCA expands its programs*

BY LISA BRITTON  
lbritton@bakercityherald.com

### Koby Myer's background with the YMCA extends for at least 15 years.

"My history with the Y is long," he said. "I believe in the organization and how impactful it is in our community."

Myer, who grew up in Eastern Oregon, started Feb. 9 as CEO of the Baker Family YMCA in Baker City.

Although life took him to other locations after high school, he and his family moved back to Eastern Oregon — this time to Baker City — six years ago.

"I had the opportunity to move back," he said.

He worked for New Directions Northwest in Baker City for five years, first as the financial manager and then as the chief financial officer.

He's worked with nonprofits for 20 years. "I do like nonprofits — I like serving people," Myer said.

**New programs**

Coming out of the pandemic, Myer said the Y staff is working to expand programs and add some new options.

"We have new and exciting programs that we're rolling out," he said.

For one, he wants to increase open swim time at Sam-O Swim Center, 580 Baker St. This offering has been limited, he said, due to a lack of lifeguards. Each open swim session requires four lifeguards, and Myer said more are working on the certification.

"We'd love to be open more," he said.

In an average year, the pool, which is owned by Baker City and managed by the Y, has 80,000 visits of all ages, from 3 months to 90 years. In the summer, visits average 100 per day.

"This pool is used by everybody in the community," Myer said.

Water safety, he said, is an essential skill. "We need our parents to support this life skill — it's a benefit to our youth," he said.

Lap swim is offered three times a day Monday through Friday, as well as Saturday mornings. Currently, open swim is Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

See, **YMCA**/Page A3



Myer

## Mayor: Council will consider the county's ambulance offer



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten expressed optimism that ambulance service can continue beyond the September deadline.**

### She hopes city fire department can continue to operate ambulances

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR AND JAYSON JACOBY  
Baker City Herald

Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten said she thinks it's possible that the city fire department can continue to operate ambulances beyond a deadline that's less than six months away.

But whether the city can continue to do so after Sept. 30, 2022 — the date in a notice the city sent to Baker County in late March — depends on ne-

gotiations between the city and county, McQuisten said.

"The next step is bringing all the information to all city councilors together at our meeting next week," McQuisten said on Thursday, April 7. "Until that happens, not one of us can speak fully informed of all developments."

"I'm optimistic that with six months to work this out and a firm deadline, we might finally be able to move forward in this process," McQuisten said. "It was kicked down the road for years too long, and the amount of cleanup like this that we have had to tackle as a city this year has been baffling."

See, **Council**/Page A3

## School District's International School progressing

### District plans to host 22 to 25 foreign students this fall, and enable Baker students to study abroad

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The Baker School District has bought one historic home in Baker City and plans to buy a second soon as housing for students from other countries who will be attending Baker High School starting this fall.

The Baker School District started the Oregon International School about four years ago.

But the pandemic, as well as a delay in the district's application for a student visa program under which the state will pay the district the standard per-student rate for visiting students, put the project in limbo over the past two years, Superintendent Mark Witty said.

The idea, Witty said, is to bring up to 40 international students to the district each school year, and, with revenue from the International School, to forge relationships with other countries and schools that makes it easier, and less expensive, for Baker students to visit and study abroad.



Bryan



Witty

See, **School**/Page A3

## OSP: wolf killed in March near Richland

Baker City Herald

Oregon State Police's Fish and Wildlife Division is asking the public for information about the killing of a wolf near Richland last month.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees reported to OSP on March 25 that a wolf wearing a tracking collar was likely dead.

The collars have a feature that sends a signal if they haven't moved for a significant period of time, suggesting the wolf is dead.

OSP troopers found the dead wolf about 1.5 miles east of New Bridge, and two miles north of Richland.

The wolf, a year-old male, died around March 12-13, according to a press release from OSP.

The release did not say how the wolf died, and in an email to the Baker City Herald, OSP's public information office said the agency will not be releasing the manner of death.

During the past couple years, OSP has investigated cases where wolves were either shot or poisoned.

The Oregon Wildlife Coalition, a group of wildlife conservation groups, is offering a \$11,500 reward for information that leads to an arrest or citation in connection with the most recent wolf killing.

Anyone with information can contact OSP through the Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or "OSP" (mobile). Reference case number SP22071683.

Three other wolves have been killed in eastern Baker County since the fall of 2020.

One wolf was shot and killed in late September 2020 near Eagle Forks campground north of Richland, and a second wolf was shot and killed in late October near Grouse Flat, about 8 miles northeast of Halfway.

Police made no arrests in either case.

On April 7 or 8, 2021, a wolf was hit by a car on Highway 86 about five miles west of Richland.



**TODAY**  
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12 pages

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