



**OUTDOORS B2**  
State to stock trout in many lakes, ponds



**SPORTS A5**  
Baker baseball romps past Ontario

# 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 Susan Zoon of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Baker High School presents 'SHOUT!' the musical**

Baker High School will present "SHOUT! The Mod Musical" at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14, and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15. Admission is free but tickets are required. Donations will be accepted. Tickets are available at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Sweet Wife Baking and the front office at BHS.

**Daughters of American Revolution to meet May 13**

The Lone Pine Tree chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet May 13 at the Baker Truck Corral. Enter the restaurant on the freeway side of the building. The meeting room is to the left and across from the cash register. To socialize, meet chapter members, and order your lunch (if desired) please arrive by 11 a.m. This is a no host lunch meeting which starts at noon.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
51/30  
Rain showers



**Sunday**  
47/28  
Rain showers



**Monday**  
45/29  
Morning showers



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

South Baker Intermediate fifth graders Carson Johnson, left, Sadie Christensen and Juniper Joseph create different growing environments for grass seed during an activity at a "Field to Fork" event this week.

## Down and...not dirty



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Jordan Wolfe, a fifth grader at South Baker Intermediate, shows his edible soil sample during "Field to Fork" on Wednesday, May 4. The "soil" layers were made of Oreo cookies, pudding, sprinkles, gummy worms and M&Ms.

### Fifth graders learn how soil (don't call it dirt) puts food on their plates

BY LISA BRITTON  
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Kara Miller's tactic for teaching about soil drew giggles nearly every time from the fifth graders.

When asked about the rich brown mixture that grows plants, students would quickly say "dirt." And every time Miller shook her head. "Dirt is a dirty word!" she'd say. Miller ran one of five stations at the annual Field to Fork event on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4,

at the Baker County Fairgrounds in Baker City. This "agricultural field day" invited Baker County schools, plus Powder Valley, to send fifth graders for a day to learn about the role of agriculture and how their meals get from "field to fork." See, Soil/Page A3

## School district settles lawsuit for \$200,000

### Roberta Fast and her daughter, 2021 graduate Katrina Fast, filed the lawsuit in federal court in April 2020

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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A Baker City woman and her daughter who filed a federal lawsuit against the Baker School District two years ago, claiming that district officials retaliated against the daughter after she complained about alleged sexual harassment by a Baker High School volleyball coach, have settled the suit out of court and will receive \$200,000.

The money comes from the district's "risk pool and not out of district funds," according to a press release.

Roberta Fast and her daughter, Katrina, filed the suit in April 2020 in U.S. District Court.

They contended that the district violated a federal law prohibiting discrimination in schools — commonly known as Title IX — as well as the First Amendment and Oregon law.

As part of the settlement, both parties agreed to a statement that the school



Contributed Photo

Katrina Fast, a former Baker High School volleyball player, has signed a letter of intent to play for Warner Pacific University in Portland in the fall of 2022.

district released Thursday afternoon, May 5. It reads:

"Baker School District values its relationships with students, families, staff and the community. These relationships are critical to the District's efforts to support student safety. We thank former District student Katrina Fast for coming forward and sharing her concerns. The District acknowledges the contribution of Ms. Fast and her efforts to effect change to protect others. Ka-

trina serves as an example of how one person's dedication can positively impact a community. We are committed to protecting all students in our District."

The Fast's, who filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Pendleton, were represented by Jennifer J. Middleton, an Eugene attorney.

Roberta Fast said in an interview on Thursday, May 5, that she and her daughter would talk about the settlement when Katrina returns to Baker City from college in about two weeks.

The central charge in the suit was that school district officials kept Katrina Fast, then a BHS junior, off the varsity volleyball team — she played on the JV team as a junior in the fall of 2019 — as retaliation for her complaints about the actions of head volleyball coach Warren Wilson.

In an email to the Herald in April 2020, Mark Witty, school district superintendent, wrote:

"While the District has been advised not to respond to specific allegations, the District can share that it disputes the allegations in the Complaint and looks forward to addressing and resolving those claims through the course of the litigation process."

See, Lawsuit / Page A3

## Silver Birch subdivision begins to fill

BY IAN CRAWFORD  
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Despite challenges getting construction materials, one of Baker City's newer subdivisions is beginning to fill.

Jim and Carla Michel, former longtime Baker City residents who now live in Meridian, Idaho, created the Silver Birch subdivision in 2020 east of Birch Street and north of Campbell Street, between D and E streets.

The Michels have sold five of the 21 lots in the development, which is in the low-density residential zone.

"We've had some supply chain issues, but that's happening everywhere," Jim Michel said.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

The 21-lot Silver Birch subdivision is just east of Birch Street, north of Campbell Street between D and E streets.

See, Birch/Page A2

## Council to discuss ambulance issue response

Baker City Herald  
The Baker City Council will discuss sending a response to Baker County regarding the county's offer to contribute \$150,000 for the city's ambulance service during the fiscal year that starts July 1.

The City Council will have that discussion, which Councilor Kenyon Damschen requested, during its meeting Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

In an April 7 letter, Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, tendered the \$150,000 offer, which commissioners approved April 6. That figure represents 20% of the city's estimated ambulance revenue shortfall. The 20% figure derives from the city's estimate that 20% of its ambulance calls are outside the city limits.

The City Council on March 22 voted to notify the county, which is legally responsible for providing ambulance service, that the city intended to discontinue that service, through the city fire department, on Sept. 30, 2022.

City Manager Jon Cannon has told councilors that he doesn't believe the city can afford to continue operating ambulances because of the difference between what the city bills and what it collects from ambulance bills.

If the city does curtail ambulance service, the county would need to find a replacement ambulance provider, likely a private firm.

See, Council/Page A2

## Baker City man in critical condition after motorcycle crash

Baker City Herald  
A Baker City man sustained serious injuries when the motorcycle he was riding went off Highway 86 along the Powder River Wednesday afternoon, May 4, and plunged down a 25-foot embankment.

Terris Blain Webb, 50, was in critical condition on Friday morning, May 6, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, hospital spokesman Mark Snider said. Webb's condition was unchanged from the previous day.

Oregon State Police responded to the crash at 4:47 p.m. on Wednesday, according to a police report.

Webb was riding east on the highway through the Powder River Canyon, about 27 miles east of Baker City and 13 miles west of Richland. He rode off the highway on a curve, according to the report.

Police found Webb a short distance from the Honda motorcycle.

A LifeFlight helicopter brought Webb to the Boise hospital.



**TODAY**  
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12 pages

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