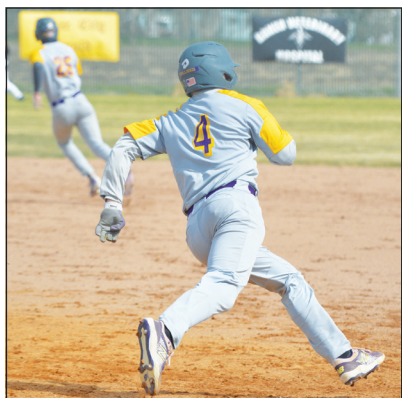


BAKER BASEBALL



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
Baker's Jaxon Logsdon rounds first base during the Bulldogs' double-header sweep of Ontario on Friday, April 15, 2022, at the Sports Complex.

Bulldogs down Madras, prepare for play-in game

Baker City Herald
Baker tuned up for the Class 4A baseball postseason by traveling to John Day and beating Madras 12-2 in a nonleague, neutral site game on Wednesday, May 18.

The Bulldogs will play Escatawa in a play-in game on Saturday, May 21, at 2 p.m. at the Sports Complex.

On Wednesday at John Day, Baker fell behind briefly, 1-0, after the White Buffalos scored a run in the top of the third.

But Baker immediately responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Connor Chastain led off the bottom of the third with a single. Sage Joseph drew a walk and Hayden Younger reached on a bunt single, but Chastain was thrown out at home trying to score on the bunt.

Hudson Spike singled to drive in Joseph with Baker's first run, and, after Younger scored on an error, Logsdon doubled to score Spike and boost Baker's lead to 3-1.

Baker added three more runs in the fourth, with Younger doing most of the damage with a two-run double.

The Bulldogs, who improved to 15-11 on the season, then ended the game by 10-run rule with six runs in the bottom of the sixth. Cole Hester led off with a walk and later scored on Marco Rosales' walk. Younger

Madras	0	0	1	0	1	0	—	2
Baker	0	0	3	3	0	6	—	12

Holcomb, Stout (3), Graeme (3), White (4), Flu (5) and White. Spike, Carter (3), Chastain (5) and Logsdon.

had an RBI single, and Logsdon completed the rout with a two-run triple.

"The game started off a little slow for both teams offensively but we got it going in the third inning," Baker coach Tim Smith said. "We took advantage of baserunners by hitting them in when the opportunity came up."

Younger went 4 for 4 with 4 RBIs. Spike was 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs, and Logsdon was 2 for 4 with 3 RBIs. Hester and Chastain had two hits each.

With the play-in game looming, Smith distributed the innings among three pitchers. Spike started and was relieved by Silas Carter in the third, who gave way to Chastain in the fifth.

The three pitchers scattered seven hits.

"Our pitchers threw pretty well and were kept at a low pitch count due to our game on Saturday," Smith said. "Defensively, we did not have an error so that is always good. I feel like we are in a good spot for the game on Saturday against Escatawa. I like our momentum at this point in the season."

Gym

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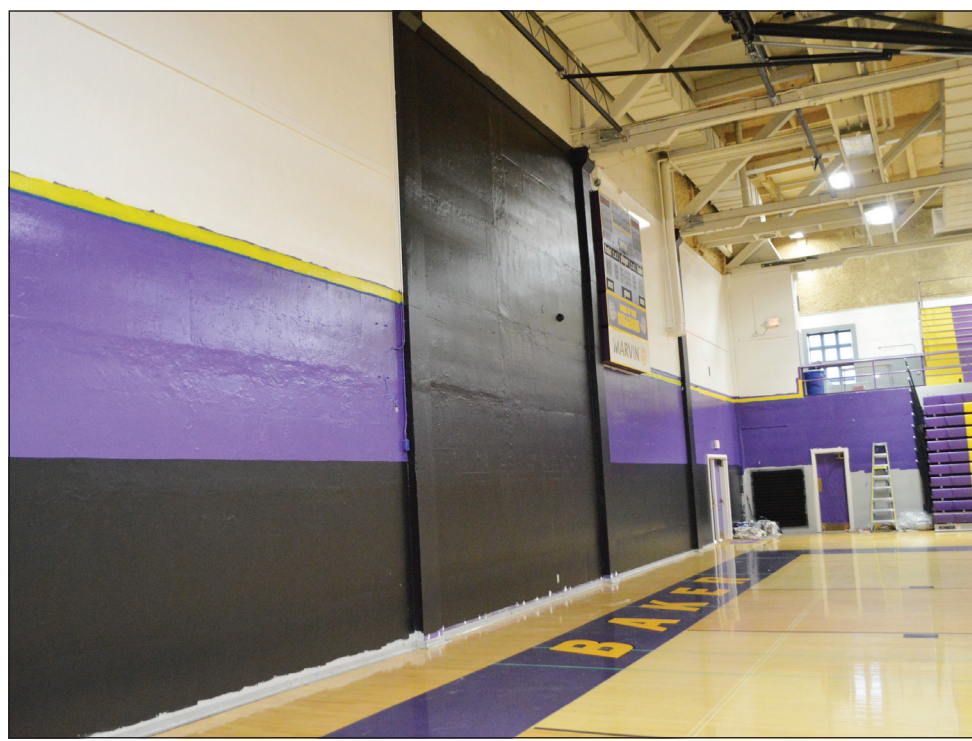
for the crash pads. The decorated pads, ordered through Sportsgraphics.com, will be installed after paint cures.

In addition to the paint and crash pads, workers will clean the banners listing Baker sports teams' state championship and league title years.

The rest of the unused wall space will be adorned with high-resolution banners featuring photos of Bulldog teams.

Flanagan said the banners are "going to be much bigger," than those in place this past season for volleyball and basketball teams.

The new paint is intended to put focus on the vibrant floor, and the floor itself is pending a renovation, currently scheduled for summer 2023 while changes and designs are considered.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
The north and south walls at the Baker High School gym are getting a new coat of paint with a new color scheme featuring black and purple.

Kicker

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"With recessionary risks rising, a steep revenue decline of the sort Oregon experienced during the technology and housing busts in increasingly likely going forward," one of their slides said.

In the dot-com downturn in 2002 and the Great Recession of 2007-10, Oregon's tax collections dropped by as much as 20%. If another downturn comes, McMullen said it probably would occur in 2023 or 2024, in the first

two years of the term of the next governor.

Budget reserves

Oregon does have about \$5 billion stashed away in the form of two reserve funds — one for education, the other for general use — and ending balances. Only the full Legislature can tap that money, and there are restrictions on how much can be drawn from the reserve funds during a budget cycle.

The total amounts to just under 20% of the general fund budget, which is the most flexible spending for

programs such as state aid to schools, other education, human services and public safety. Total state spending includes other funds and federal grants, which are earmarked for specific purposes.

Lawmakers did use \$400 million from the education reserve to balance the 2019-21 budget. That was before Oregon and other states received federal aid from the American Rescue Plan Act, which President Joe Biden signed several weeks after he took office in 2021. Oregon state government received \$2.6 billion; lawmakers have

committed or spent all but \$452 million, which will help balance the 2023-25 budget they will approve a year from now.

"Even with revenue growth, it is still important that we proceed with caution and plan for the future," Brown said in her statement. "Strong leadership in Oregon has led the state to a place where we have ample reserves to help us weather unprecedented times. We need to continue that forward-looking leadership as we head into the next budget cycle."

Masks

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None of Oregon's 36 counties has reached that level during the recent rise in cases caused by the omicron BA.2 subvariant.

Six counties are in the medium risk level, none in Eastern Oregon — Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Columbia, Benton and Deschutes.

Baker County and the state's 29 other counties are all at low risk.

The Baker School District made masks optional in

schools in early March, prior to spring break.

Witty said the school district "fully supports" students and staff who have decided to continue wearing masks.

He said fewer than 2% have chosen to do so.

According to data from the Oregon Health Authority, pediatric COVID-19 cases have been increasing since the middle of March, similar to cases statewide.

Health officials have called it "a mild virus" in most cases.

The Department of Education advisory recommends that schools monitor for high absentee rates and notify their

local public health authority if absences reach a certain level, or if they see an "unusual spread of disease."

Witty said absentee rates in Baker Schools have been low since mid winter, when the omicron surge peaked with record numbers of infections.

He credits parents for heeding the district's advice to keep students home when they feel ill — regardless of whether the symptoms are consistent with possible COVID-19 infection.

Witty said adherence to that request has helped not only with limiting the spread of COVID-19, but with other common illnesses.

"I think if people are really mindful about not sending their kids to school if they're sick, that's huge," he said.

Witty said schools have plenty of home-testing kits should students or staff request those.

The number of cases in Baker County has risen during May, but the rate remains lower than during most of the pandemic.

The Baker County Health Department reported 13 cases during April, and 14 during March.

The total for May, through the 17th, was 25 cases.

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