

BAKER AT STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bulldog girls take 7th at state track meet

Baker City Herald
EUGENE — The Baker girls finished seventh in the team standings at the Class 4A state track and field championships at Hayward Field in Eugene last weekend.
Emma Baeth won the 1,500, setting a school record in the process, and she finished second in the 800 to lead the Bulldogs to a team total of 34.5 points in the two-day event, Friday, May 20, and Saturday, May 21.
Baeth also ran the anchor leg for Baker's 4x400 relay team, which placed third. The other runners in the relay are Anna Belding, Brooklyn Jaca and Emma Timm.
Jozie Ramos placed fourth in the high jump, and Jaca was fifth.
Ryann Paulsen was eighth in the javelin.
On the boys side, Baker scored four points.

"It was very exciting to be back at the state meet in Eugene," Baker coach Suzy Cole said.
In 2019 the state meet took place at Mount Hood Community College while Hayward Field was being renovated.
The 2020 meet was canceled due to the pandemic, and the 2021 meet was in Florence.
"It was nice for the seniors to finally have a chance to compete at Hayward because it is such a nice facility," Cole said. "It felt like starting over because no one has ever been to an event like it is run at Hayward. It was an exciting meet watching Emma cap off her senior year while watching our underclassmen get the state track bug."
The world track and field championships will take place at the venue this July.

Girls individual results
• Jozie Ramos, fourth in the high jump, 12th in the shot put.
Cole said Ramos "jumped very well and had good attempts at the 5-foot mark." Ramos cleared 4 feet, 10 inches.
• Ryann Paulsen, eighth in the javelin.
Cole said Paulsen injured her shoulder about two weeks ago but she managed to nearly set a personal record with a throw of 105 feet, 2 inches.
• Sofie Kaaen, a freshman, placed eighth in the pole vault.
"Sofie had an amazing first experience at state," Cole said. "It is a very intimidating experience at state, especially in the pole vault."
Kaaen cleared eight feet, a personal record, and nearly made it over at 8-6.



Baker freshman Sofie Kaaen, who won the pole vault event at the district track and field meet May 14, 2022, at BHS, placed eighth in the event at the state championships in Eugene.

Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Champion

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With about 500 meters left, Sophia Stubblefield of Phoenix started her kick — speeding up to try to outrace the rest of the field.
Baeth stayed with Stubblefield.
With 200 meters or so left she started her own kick.
With 150 meters left she was pulling ahead.
As she raced down the homestretch, Baeth's surprise at what she had already done began to be mixed with elation about what she was about to do.
"Oh my gosh, I just won state," she said.
Baeth had completely forgotten about Jordan's school record.
But then she saw the numbers on the clock.
4:45.56.
And then Baker coach Suzy Cole was there, congratulating Baeth and saying that she might have just broken the record.
Neither could remember, in the excitement of the moment, the final two digits on Jordan's time.
But when they checked the figures they realized that Baeth had nipped the record by slightly more than one quarter of a second.
"Emma absolutely ran the perfect race," said Cole, who pointed out that Baeth's time would also have earned her the state championship at the Class 5A meet.
"Super gratifying not only to be a state champion but it also highlighted her ability to overcome the disruptions with COVID interrupting two of her seasons," Cole said.

"I had a first, second and third. For my last races in a Baker jersey it was just awesome."

— Emma Baeth

But after her triumphant 1,500, Baeth's high school career wasn't over.
About 90 minutes later she competed in the 800-meter finals, an event she had won at several meets earlier in the season.
Just as in the 1,500, Baeth was in position to win.
But in the final 200 yards she said she got "boxed in" a bit in a group of other runners and couldn't reach that extra bit of speed she needed.
Until the very last stride, though, Baeth believed she might win again.
"I told myself, 'Emma, you can get another one.'"
It was an eyeblink of a difference.
Jennifer Tsai of Marist Catholic crossed the line in 2:21.71.
Baeth was just .14 of a second behind, at 2:21.85.
"I wasn't upset," she said. "I was pretty happy already. It was a really exciting race."
Baeth said she was happy for Tsai, who had finished second in the 1,500.
That race wasn't nearly so close, though, as Baeth finished slightly more than 3 seconds ahead of Tsai.
Baeth was also comforted by her performance in the 800. Just as in the 1,500, she ran her best time ever, coming in under the 2:22 mark for the first time.
It was her best time since her freshman year.
Baeth said it was especially gratifying to complete her high school career with personal bests in two races because

she wondered, not long ago, whether she would ever match the times she set years earlier.
Baeth said a deficiency in ferritin, a protein that affects the concentration of iron in her blood, plagued her during the cross-country season in the fall of 2021.
But a change in diet, combined with medication, corrected the problem in time for the track season.
"Eating a lot of spinach, which is always fun," Baeth said with a chuckle that suggests the leafy green, for all its healthy attributes, isn't her favorite. "I felt 10 times better than I did in the fall!"
She also credited the training regimen that she worked on with Cole.
That included 7-mile runs on Sundays, an ordeal Baeth said she couldn't have managed without music, and in particular a playlist dominated by Billy Joel.
Baeth said she and Cole share an affinity for Joel, who recorded most of his music long before Baeth was born.
In addition to her state championship in the 1,500 and silver medal in the 800, Baeth ran the anchor leg for Baker's 4x400 relay team, which finished third.
"I had a first, second and third," she said. "For my last races in a Baker jersey it was just awesome."
And the setting couldn't have been better.
Baeth said she competed in a middle school meet at Hayward Field, but that was before the venue on the University of Oregon campus underwent a wholesale renovation.
"It's the most iconic track and field stadium in the country," Baeth said. "It was just super cool to be there and have the opportunity to run there. It was kind of nerve-wracking to run where so many Olympians have run."

ROBERTSONS CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Daryl and Dulcina Robertson of Baker City, longtime Halfway residents, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on May 24, 2022.
The couple were married on May 24, 1952, at Pendleton.



Contributed Photo
Dulcina and Daryl Robertson on their wedding day, May 24, 1952.



Baker School District/Contributed Photo
Cristina Hyde and her granddaughter Addy. Hyde will be the new director/principal at the Baker Early Learning Center this fall.

Ambulance

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The March 22 notice prompted county commissioners to release the RFP, with a goal of finding a replacement ambulance service if the city follows through on the Sept. 30 timeline.
On May 10, after hearing from 18 residents who criticized the March 22 notice and urged the City Council to continue the ambulance service, councilors decided to send a response to the county's RFP.
Councilors discussed that response during a work session on May 11, and Cannon has been working on the draft version of the response that councilors will review Tuesday night.
Since the county released its RFP, a firefighter/paramedic has submitted a two-week notice that he plans to leave his position.
That follows the resignation of another firefighter/paramedic, Brian Johnson, in early April. A third position has been vacant for several months.
Cannon cited the staffing challenges in his weekly newsletter, released on Friday, May 20.
"I expected as we move towards the September 30 end

date of the ambulance service, our staffing numbers would diminish, as staff appropriately look toward their own future and seek other employment," Cannon wrote. "With fewer paramedics and EMTs, our ability to maintain ambulance coverage will become increasingly difficult."
Baker City Fire Chief Sean Lee notified Baker County that the city fire department might have to delay responses to fire and ambulance calls due to a staffing shortage.
In a Tuesday, May 17, email to county commissioners and Jason Yencopal, the county's emergency management director, Lee wrote that "We are at the point that we will have to start staging the calls for service, but doubles and/or triples may have to wait until the crew can clear the first call. When we receive fire call and medical call simultaneously, we will have to triage the calls as they come and determine the greatest threat to life and property. My hope is that this will give you an opportunity to find a provider for the interim that will be able to maintain the existing level of service as is referenced in OAR 333-260-0070 (d)."
In the weekly newsletter,

Cannon wrote that based on increases in call volumes — mostly for ambulances rather than fire calls — the city would need to hire three additional firefighters beyond replacing the three current vacancies.
"The union in 2021 requested that we hire three additional firefighters/paramedics," Cannon wrote. "Budget constraints did not allow for this to occur."
Casey Johnson, president of the firefighters' union, said recently that although he believes the city would need to hire more firefighter/paramedics in the future, he believes the city could continue to operate ambulances for at least the next fiscal year, which starts July 1, if the city filled the current vacancies.
In a staff report to councilors for Tuesday's meeting, Cannon wrote that as part of his draft proposal to the county's RFP, he will recommend how much the city would need in financial contributions from the county during the five-year contract that the county listed in the RFP.
County commissioners have offered to give the city \$150,000 for the next fiscal year, an increase of \$50,000

from the county's contribution for the current fiscal year.
Cannon is suggesting that councilors, after reviewing his draft proposal Tuesday, schedule another work session to discuss details of the proposal, and then schedule a special meeting to approve a final version of the proposal to submit to the county by the June 3 deadline.
If the county chooses the city fire department to continue operating ambulances, and the city and county sign a contract, the city would need to start a supplementary budget process, Cannon wrote in his report to councilors.
The current proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which the city's budget board has approved but which the City Council has not adopted, is based on the expectation that the city will cease ambulance service and lay off six firefighter/paramedics.
If the city continues to operate ambulances, those layoffs would not happen and the city would need to replace those positions in the budget prior to its adoption.
The deadline to adopt the budget is June 30, the last day of the current fiscal year.

Principal

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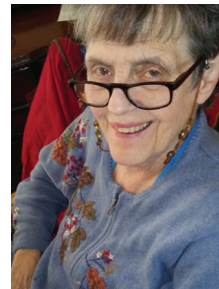
During her tenure, the program was named a "program of excellence." She later joined the Coos Bay School District to oversee its Structured Learning Center for students with emotional disturbances.
She later worked in special education for the Redmond and Bend/LaPine school districts, before moving to Pullman in 2019.
"I am so excited to join the Baker Early Learning Center team," Hyde said. "It's

such a special place, and I look forward to serving both the staff and young families in ever creative ways."
Mark Witty, Baker School District superintendent, said Hyde is a "natural collaborator with a strong background in early childhood education and behavior supports. We're eager to see the Baker Early Learning Center and all our community partners who share the building continue to thrive with her leadership and coordination."
Hyde, whose annual salary will be \$109,797, will replace Angela Lattin, who has taken a job in Pendleton.

Barbara Schimke

November 22, 1935 – May 13, 2022

Barbara Schimke, 86, of Baker City, died peacefully in hospice with her two sons, Steve & Doug, by her side, after only a month earlier being diagnosed with ALS. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.
Barbara was raised in West Virginia and came West with her husband Art for his Forest Service career eventually landing in Baker in 1970. While working as a counselor at the early beginnings of Baker County Alcohol & Drugs, she became very inspired by the 12 step groups which completely changed her life. She used and organized these group meetings to help others as she helped herself.
Barbara was also very actively involved with the Methodist church, Christian Women's Club, and Community Concerts.
She was happily married for 60 years and in her spare time was a world traveler even celebrating her 45th wedding anniversary on the Concorde. One of her favorite things to do was go waterskiing which she learned from her son at the age of 60.
Toward the end of her life as things became harder, she was on computer zoom meetings helping others worldwide as she helped herself find peace. She truly was a treasure and will be lovingly missed by many.
If you wish, donations in Barbara's memory may be made to the United Methodist Church of Baker City through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO BOX 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



Deannie Wirth

March 31, 1936 – May 3, 2022

Deannie Wirth, daughter and eldest child of Elmer and Emily Burnside, passed away May 3, 2022 at the age of 86.
Deannie was born in Baker City, Oregon, March 31, 1936. She married Wayne Wirth of Newbridge, Oregon on June 21, 1957. The couple had 3 children and shared 64 years of marriage together.
She was a wonderful mother, enjoyed camping and loved to fish.
She is predeceased by her 3 younger siblings, Patricia, Wayne, and Daryle, and a daughter, Andrea.
Deannie is survived by her husband, Wayne, Randal, daughter Rhonda, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.
A celebration of her life will be held at the clubhouse in Shenandoah Forest Park in Mead, Washington on June 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. The date was chosen as it also celebrates Deannie and Wayne's 65 wedding anniversary.




Celebration of Lives for

Dwight & Donna Brooks

Saturday, May 28, 2022 • 11am-2pm
at Catherine Creek Community Center
(Old Methodist Church) on Main St., Union.

Please join us for a light lunch.
Bring your stories and memories.

For questions, call Tanya Collier at 541-398-1952.

*Wasteland Kings will be performing following the Celebration at the Community Center.
*Union High School Alumni Breakfast will be Sunday morning