



INSIDE
Go! Magazine
Check out some old iron



SPORTS A7
French students
play baseball at BHS



NATION B8
Gunman kills at least 19
students in Texas school

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022 • \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Gary Bloomer of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Volunteers sought to set out flags on Memorial Day

Volunteers will gather at 6 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, at Mount Hope Cemetery to place about 550 American flags, each featuring the name of a military veteran. A Memorial Day ceremony will start at 11 a.m. that day in the veterans section at the south end of the cemetery, and volunteers are needed to help remove the flags after the ceremony.

Chess club plans tournament June 10

The Baker School District chess club is planning its first summer chess tournament on Friday, June 10, at the Baker Early Learning Center, 2725 Seventh St., from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This tournament is for players from kindergarten through adults. There is no cost to participate.

Registration is open now and closes June 1. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3IArlsN>.

For more information, email ian.wolfe@bakersed.org or angela.lattin@bakersed.org or call/text 541-212-8435.

WEATHER

Today
81/50
Chance of showers



Friday
67/43
Chance of showers



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Council delays ambulance proposal

Councilors leave open possibility of trying to continue ambulance service

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR AND JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

The Baker City Council voted 4-2 on Tuesday night, May 24, to reverse a recent decision and not respond to Baker County's ambulance service request for proposals before the county's deadline of June 3.

Councilors left open the possibility, however, that the city could still send a response to county commissioners after that deadline, and potentially negotiate a deal for the city to continue operating ambulances beyond Sept. 30, 2022.

That's the date the Council listed in a notice it sent to the county March 22.

The agenda for Tuesday's meeting called for councilors to review a proposal to the county that City Manager Jonathan Cannon has been working on.

Councilors voted 7-0 during

their May 10 meeting to direct Cannon to draft such a proposal.

Early in Tuesday's meeting, councilors proceeded with that plan in mind. They scheduled a work session on Thursday, May 26, to discuss Cannon's draft proposal, and a special meeting on Monday, May 30, to consider approving that proposal and choosing to send it to the county.

But then Councilor Dean Guyer introduced an alternative plan.

He suggested the city not respond to the county's request

by June 3. That would allow county officials time to determine whether it has a "viable, third party provider" to replace the Baker City Fire Department as ambulance provider for an area that includes the city and about two-thirds of the rest of the county.

Under Oregon law, the county is responsible for ensuring there is ambulance service.

Guyer said that even though he suggests the city not respond to the county before June 3, "the

Fire union leader perplexed by Council vote

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The president of the union chapter that represents Baker City firefighters said he was perplexed and angered by the City Council's decision Tuesday, May 24, to not send a pro-

See, **Union/Page A3**

See, **Ambulance/Page A3**



Bittersweet ending

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Remington Lay, foreground, works on his numbers worksheet with classmates Jack Sullivan, back left, and Nora Vaughan during a morning class at the Baker County YMCA preschool on May 23, 2022.

Cindy Ratterman is retiring as head teacher at the Baker County YMCA preschool

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Cindy Ratterman listens as Cody Carroll gives hints about his mystery animal during a session of preschool at the Baker County YMCA on May 23, 2022. Ratterman is retiring this year after 12 years as preschool director and head teacher.



BY LISA BRITTON
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Although the preschoolers tried to trick her into choosing a favorite, Cindy Ratterman knows how to make everyone feel good.

"I think you're all the best," she says, pointing to each child sitting "criss-cross applesauce" on the rug. Satisfied with this answer, they wait — somewhat patiently — for the first classmate to give hints to the animal hidden inside hand-drawn pages.

C.J. Brockman offered lots of clues to his fellow preschoolers as they finally guessed that he drew a horse.

Then, as Brockman went to tuck his drawing into his backpack, he said he won't be quite as accommodating to his family.

See, **Teacher/Page A2**

Memorial Day ceremony, events planned

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Baker County's most decorated military veteran will receive another posthumous honor on Memorial Day.

The 41 Club, the former American Legion post at 2129 Second St., a building that the Legion still owns, will be rededicated on Monday, May 30, to John Noble Holcomb.

Holcomb, who was born and raised in Richland, was killed during a firefight in Vietnam on Dec. 3, 1968, at age 22.

He is the only Baker County resident, and one of just 13 Oregonians, bestowed with the Medal of Honor, America's highest military recognition.

The ceremony is set for 2 p.m., said Jerry Hunter, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who helps coordinate Memorial Day events in Baker City.

At 1 p.m., also at the 41 Club, a free barbecue lunch will be served. The event is open to all, Hunter said.

The events at the 41 Club will follow the traditional Memorial

Day ceremony in the veterans section at Mount Hope Cemetery, 1012 S. Bridge St.

Volunteers can gather at 6 a.m. to help place about 550 American flags, each with the name of a veteran, along the Avenue of Flags.

Hunter said members of the Cub Scouts and Baker High School's trapshooting team will help place the smaller flags on graves in the veterans section on Sunday, May 29.

The ceremony is set for 11 a.m.

Loren Ingalls of Baker City, whose military career spanned 33 years, will be the guest speaker, Hunter said.

Ingalls served in the U.S. Navy on active duty from 1983-87, then served in the Oregon Air National Guard from 1987-2007. He was deployed to several foreign countries during his career.

He later served in the Air Reserves until retiring in 2017.

Ingalls also volunteered with an organization that brought supplies to African nations affected by the Ebola crisis in 2014, Hunter said.



Baker City Herald, File
John Noble Holcomb.

Ingalls is a chaplain with the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

John Noble Holcomb

Holcomb, who was born on June 11, 1946, in Baker City, graduated from Eagle Valley High School at Richland in 1964.

President Richard Nixon awarded Holcomb's Medal of Honor to his parents, George and Wade Holcomb, in 1971 in Washington, D.C.

That medal, and Holcomb's other military medals, are displayed at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

Memorial Day ceremony

- 11 a.m. on Monday, May 30
- Veterans section at the south end of Mount Hope Cemetery, 1012 S. Bridge St.
- Guest speaker: Loren Ingalls of Baker City

Holcomb's family offered the items to the county for public display in 2014.

Holcomb was killed during a firefight in which, according to the citation that accompanied his Medal of Honor, he demonstrated "indomitable will and courage after his unit was attacked from three sides."

When the machine-gunner in Holcomb's squad was hurt, Holcomb "seized the weapon, ran to a forward edge of the position, and placed withering fire on the enemy. His gallant actions caused the enemy to withdraw."

After the first attack, Holcomb carried several of his wounded comrades to a safer spot.

Holcomb manned the machine gun again and repulsed a second enemy attack, but a rocket exploded near his position, destroying the machine gun and wounding Holcomb. The enemy artillery also ignited a grass fire.

Even after he was wounded, Holcomb "crawled through a grass fire and exploding mortar and rocket rounds to move the members of his squad, every one of whom had been wounded, to more secure positions."

Then Holcomb crawled to a radio and reported the attack. His report allowed other units to pinpoint fire on the area and defeat the third and final attack.

Holcomb Park, the county park on Brownlee Reservoir near Richland, was named for John Holcomb and dedicated on July 4, 1993.

During the ceremony, Baker City Realtor Mike Nelson described Holcomb as "a man who exemplified the ultimate plateau of human behavior."

TODAY Issue 7 32 pages	Business.....B1-B3	Community News.....A2	Horoscope.....B4 & B5	Opinion.....A4	Sudoku.....B7
	Classified.....B3-B6	Crossword.....B3 & B5	Lottery Results.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Turning Backs.....A2
	Comics.....B7	Dear Abby.....B7	News of Record.....A2	Sports.....A5 & A6	Weather.....B8