



**LOCAL A2**  
Arbor Day poster  
contest winners



**LOCAL A5**  
Prairie City sawmill  
to reopen in early July

# 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 Pat Wunz of Baker City.

## BRIEFING

### Rainy forecast moves BHS graduation indoors

With a 90 percent chance of rain forecast for Saturday afternoon, June 4, Baker High School officials have decided to move Saturday's commencement indoors, to the BHS gymnasium, 2500 E St. The ceremony starts at 2 p.m. Commencement normally takes place outdoors, in Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

### Baker County Garden Club to meet June 8

The Baker County Garden Club will meet Wednesday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. at 3345 Kirkway Drive. Please bring a chair and a sack lunch. New members are always welcome.

### Haines Fire Protection District to meet June 13

HAINES — The Haines Fire Protection District will have its monthly board meeting June 13 at 6:45 p.m. at the main fire station, 816 Cole St. All residents of the district are welcome to attend. The budget for the next fiscal year will be the first order of business.

## WEATHER

**Today**  
62/49  
Rain showers

**Sunday**  
65/43  
Rain, possibly heavy

**Monday**  
62/38  
Morning showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Bailee Wirth, center, a fifth grader at Keating Elementary School, won first place for grade 5 in the state of Oregon with her essay on the theme "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." The American History Essay Contest is sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Presenting Wirth's prize on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, were DAR members, from left, Wilma Johnson, Diane Naglee, Betty Milliman, Joan Smith and Joy Leamaster.

## Keating student pens a special essay

**Fifth grader Bailee Wirth's essay about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was judged the best in Oregon**

BY LISA BRITTON  
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KEATING — Bailee Wirth takes a breath and starts reading, her words taking the audience back more than 100 years to a time of war.

The reason for her essay was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Wirth begins in first person, as if she had a brother who went missing in World War I.

Then she shifts to explain the history and significance of the

tomb, which was established in October 1921.

Wirth is a fifth-grader at Keating Elementary School. Every year, Keating students enter the American History Essay Contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On Wednesday, June 1, Wirth was presented with a first place award for Oregon fifth graders.

She also got a medal, and \$100.

Members of the DAR Lone Pine Tree Chapter, which is based in Baker City, arrived at the school, dressed in their signature red jackets, to present the award to Wirth.

"We're really proud of her," said Betty Milliman, chapter regent.

As the DAR representatives gathered in the classroom, Keating principal and head teacher Amanda Wilde explained the visit.

"Our special friends are here to celebrate a very special young lady," she said.

Keating students in grades 5 and 6 enter the DAR essay contest, which has a different theme every year.

See, **Essay**/Page A3

## Farmers Market debuts at new Central Park location

BY IAN CRAWFORD  
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Baker City's Farmers Market was off to a fresh start for 2022 as local vendors sold food and crafts in their new locality at Central Park on Thursday, June 2.

Vendors were encouraged to pop up where they felt comfortable instead of in specific slots in the spacious new lot.

The move from the Court Plaza puts vendors on cool, soft grass in the city park adjacent to the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway the Powder River.

The shade from clouds was welcome by the 4 p.m. start, with temperatures in the 70s, but that gave way to sudden blasts of wind and rain, making for drastic rearrangements of otherwise neat displays.

Within the hour the sun returned, though, and even delivered a brief rainbow.

Those running the area's vending circuits have faced similar weather turmoil for the past three weeks.

The market had its staples of farm-to-table meats, vegetables and a slew of familiar participants, featuring art, soap, houseplants and crafts of many varieties.

"I do this just to get to know the community," said photographer and retired engineer Ross



Mystikal Willows vendor Cynthia Sexton fighting to rearrange after wind strong enough to nearly lift awnings left her and other vendors scrambling for cover during the Baker City Farmers Market on June 2, 2022.

Dickinson, "I like to talk and get to know people."

Some artistic booths were pleased to learn of a secondary venue opened for the weekend in the form of a pop-up art show June 3 and 4 at 2090 Court Ave. The market will continue well

into the fall, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Thursday.

For more information go to www.bakercityfarmersmarket.com/, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/bakercityfarmersmarket or call them at 909-781-4043.

See, **Spring**/Page A3

## Work begins on major curb ramp project

BY IAN CRAWFORD  
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A major project to upgrade more than 300 curb cuts to improve access for people in wheelchairs is underway in Baker City.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has budgeted \$11.8 million for the work, which is slated to continue into November.

ODOT's Vicki Moles, accompanied by project designers and representatives from the contractor, Wildish Standard Paving Co. of Eugene, attended a public open house on the project Thursday afternoon, June 2, at Baker City Hall.

See, **Ramp**/Page A3

## Neighbor says city shouldn't allow shipping container in residential yard

**Michael Russell contends neighbors deserve chance to appeal approval of 40-foot-long container**

BY IAN CRAWFORD  
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The 40-foot-long metal shipping container lies in the front yard at 1620 Valley Ave., less than a block east of the Powder River.

The container, which is partly covered with barn siding and has a bright blue door, is about 18 feet north of the sidewalk on the north side of Valley.

On the opposite side of the street and a couple houses to the east, at the corner of Valley and East, Michael Russell sees the container, which is 8 feet wide, 9 feet high and has 320 square feet of space, as an eyesore that can also reduce his and his neighbors' property values.

He also considers its presence, which was approved by the Baker City/County Planning Department in August 2021, as a conspicuous blot on the city's development code.

"The site was a beautiful, grassy, wide-open building lot," Russell said in a recent interview. "Bottom-line, Baker City code states that any structure that causes negative economic property value decline and/or de-beautification, like a 40-foot ocean container, requires at least a Type II approval."

Instead, when the planning department received an application on Aug. 20, 2021, from Kim Lethlean, who owns 1620 Valley, a 128- by 100-foot lot in the high-density residential zone, and the adjacent lot, 1640 Valley, planners designated it a Type I request.

See, **Container**/Page A2

## Cool spring has kept mosquito numbers low

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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Water and mosquitoes can be a combustible combination, and this spring has been a decidedly damp one in Baker County.

But the other element in the equation — temperature — has not been favorable for the blood-sucking bugs, said Matt Hutchinson, who manages the local tax-funded district tasked with controlling mosquitoes.

Although there's plenty of standing water around for mosquito eggs to hatch in and grow into larvae, the chilly temperatures that have prevailed for most of April and May have slowed the insects' progression into biting (in the case of females) adults.

"Mosquito production was a lot lower when it's cold like that," said Hutchinson, who oversees the Baker Valley Vector Control District.

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