



**LOCAL A2**  
**OTEC building solar farm in La Grande**



**STATE A5**  
**Wildland firefighters still waiting for pay raise**



**SPORTS A6**  
**Warriors rout Celtics to even NBA Finals**

# Baker City Herald

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Fran Bunch of Prairie City.

**BRIEFING**

**Livestock Association to meet June 9**

The Baker County Livestock Association will meet Thursday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at the Missouri Flat Grange on Cedar Street just north of Hughes Lane. Food and drink will be available.

**Blood drive set for June 13 in Baker City**

The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive on Monday, June 13 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Baker City Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. Call Myrna Evans at 541-523-5368 for an appointment or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to sign up online.

**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**  
 71/50  
 Increasing clouds

**Wednesday**  
 70/48  
 Rain showers

**Full forecast on the back of the B section.**

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



## A UNIQUE JOURNEY

*Baker High Class of 2022 celebrates its perseverance*

Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Hats, confetti and cheers filled the air on June 4, 2022, as the Baker High School Class of 2022 celebrated commencement in the BHS gymnasium.

BY IAN CRAWFORD • [icrawford@bakercityherald.com](mailto:icrawford@bakercityherald.com)

### Hats and spirits flew high on Saturday, June 4, for Baker High School's first unrestricted commencement since 2019.

Due to a rainy forecast, the ceremony was moved from its traditional venue in Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium into the BHS gymnasium.

The Class of 2022 donned robes and mortarboards in the Bulldogs' purple and gold regalia and filed in for the conclusion of 13 years of schools, teachers and ambitions.

Seniors Alanda Torres and Dakota Ballou sang the national anthem to begin the 2 p.m. ceremony.

BHS Principal Skye Flanagan then addressed the crowd, noting the challenges the graduates had confronted, with three of their four high school years affected by the pandemic.

"High school wasn't meant to be done the way these young adults had to do it," Flanagan said. "Nonetheless they all endured, and they sit here today as a testament to the perseverance and the fortitude that it took to be the ones, who will one day look back, smile, and talk about the COVID years they endured."

When this year's graduates were sophomores, spring term classes were all online. The Class of 2020 had a drive-thru graduation followed by a vehicle procession through town.

For the Class of 2022's junior

year, they attended classes online for much of the year, returning to a regular in-person schedule in April 2021. The Class of 2021 had commencement in Bulldog Memorial Stadium, but with limits on attendance.

The Class of 2022's senior year was much closer to normal, with in-person classes throughout and culminating in a regular graduation, albeit in the gym rather than the football field.

Graduates chose BHS language arts teacher Joe Wilson to give the commencement address.

Wilson, who held his infant daughter during his speech, told graduates that "the greatest lie is that someday you lose control of your life. And the greatest truth comes from Shakespeare's Hamlet, as the old man gives advice to his son and says 'Ultimately, to thine own self, be true.'"

Salutatorian Megan Hurley noted that the Class of 2022 has been the smallest class in the school district "pretty much every year starting in elementary school."

"Now, this means a lot of things," Hurley said. "For one, it means that we had to work together to stand out and be louder and more spirited than the rest of the classes.

Which, hey guys, we did get the spirit award this year! It also means that for better or for worse, this eclectic group of humans got to be pretty close to one another pretty fast. We support each other. We all supported Abbey Benson when Silas Carter chipped her tooth with a chair in third grade. We stick together. Nobody ever snitched out the person who threw an eraser at a substitute teacher in sixth grade reading groups. And we laugh together. Like, when Savannah Brown hit someone's car in the student parking lot only six days after she got her license! Now that's just impressive! Above all, it means we really freaking love each other.

"As a class, we have basked in the chaos, came in and totally conquered the institution of public education, and this year we nailed the craziness once again," Hurley said. "I think all of this is a testament to our unrelenting awesomeness. And as The Dude Jeffrey Lebowski once said, 'Life goes on, man.'"

Hurley's address was followed by remarks from each of the four valedictorians, Caitlin Lien, Sarah Plummer, Phoebe Wise and Emma Baeth.

See, [Grads/Page A3](#)

## County gets two ambulance proposals

**Both are from private companies**

BY JAYSON JACOBY

[jjacoby@bakercityherald.com](mailto:jjacoby@bakercityherald.com)  
 Two private ambulance companies are interested in replacing the Baker City Fire Department as ambulance provider for an area that includes the city and about two-thirds of the rest of Baker County.

Baker County commissioners set a June 3 deadline for proposals.

The proposals are from Metro West Ambulance of Hillsboro, and Victory EMS of Boise, said Jason Yencopal, the county's emergency management director.

The Baker City Council decided on May 10 to also submit a proposal, but councilors, by a 4-2 vote on May 24, reversed the unanimous decision from two weeks earlier.

During the May 24 meeting, Councilor Dean Guyer suggested the city not send a proposal to the county by the June 3 deadline.

Guyer and councilors Joanna Dixon, Johnny Waggoner Sr. and Kenyon Damschen voted in favor of

See, [Proposals/Page A5](#)

## Two cited for possession of fentanyl and meth

Baker City Herald

Two Washington men were cited for possession of small amounts of fentanyl during an incident on Interstate 84 in Baker County on Friday, June 3.

Oleg Nikolayevich Kuropatkin, 38, of Chattaroy, and Wayne J. Marchand, 49, of Spokane, were also cited for possession of methamphetamine.

The citations were violations, as both had amounts of the drugs that are consider user quantities based on Oregon law that voters changed when they approved Measure 110 in November 2020.

That measure eliminated criminal penalties for possession of smaller amounts of drugs, including meth, fentanyl, heroin and cocaine.

See, [Citations/Page A3](#)

## A work vacation — on the trail

### Participants will help improve a trail in Hells Canyon

BY LISA BRITTON

[lbritton@bakercityherald.com](mailto:lbritton@bakercityherald.com)

An opportunity to fix up trails in Eastern Oregon and be pampered back at camp is coming up later this month thanks to a partnership between Go Wild: American Adventures and the Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trail Association.

The "all-inclusive trail work vacation" is set for June 17-19 on the Western Rim Trail above Hells Canyon.

"It's one of the early season options — and a trail that needs work," said Sizer, who owns Go Wild.

The trail is also part of the Blue Mountain Trail, a 530-mile route in Eastern Oregon.

Sizer said the idea for this trip came from a conversation about "regenerative tourism."

"It's a give-back mindset to tourism," Sizer said.

It is the first such trip Go Wild has offered.

"This is our pilot program," he said. The cost is \$450, which includes gear, meals, transportation, live music, and pre- and post-parties.

"You'll show up with a tent set up, a cot, a pad on your cot, and a cocktail waiting for you," he said.

The only specific supplies to bring are boots, good work gloves, and lunch snacks.

The camping experience, Sizer said, could be described as "glamping" — glamorous camping.

"The cooking will be a highlight — that's what Go Wild is known for," he said. "We're taking the modern culinary craft movement to the backcountry."

The group will leave Baker City at 8 a.m. Friday, June 17. This day includes trail work in the afternoon, then cocktail hour and a campfire dinner.

See, [Trail/Page A5](#)



Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trails Association/Contributed photo

The Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trails Association works with the Forest Service to maintain trails, and on June 17-19 one of these projects is offered as a "work vacation" with Go Wild: American Adventures. For details and cost, visit [www.gowildusa.com/volunteervacations](http://www.gowildusa.com/volunteervacations).



**TODAY**  
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