



**INSIDE**  
Go! Magazine  
Party in Canyon City



**LOCAL A2**  
Noxious weed can be  
confused with whitetop



**SPORTS A6**  
Baker softball players  
earn all-league honors

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Charles Carey of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Nominees sought for Baker County Fair Family of the Year**

Baker County Friends of the Fairgrounds are seeking nominees for the 2022 Fair Family of the Year. Nominations are due by July 10. Nomination letters can be emailed to bakercityfriendsofthefair@gmail.com.

**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 to sign up online.

**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**  
80/55  
Increasing clouds

**Wednesday**  
75/54  
Afternoon showers

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

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



## Police seize fentanyl, other drugs



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

Oregon State Police found fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine and other drugs during a June 2, 2022, warrant search of a car driven by Darren Glenn Yeater, 32, of Richland, Washington. He was arrested June 1, 2022, in Baker City.

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Oregon State Police found 40 grams of fentanyl powder and almost 16,000 fentanyl pills in the car driven by a Washington man arrested June 1 in Baker City.

Police also found almost 3 pounds of methamphetamine, 2 pounds of marijuana, 21.8 grams of cocaine and "evidence of manufacturing and distribution of controlled substances," according to an OSP press release.

The driver, Darren Glenn Yeater, 32, of Richland, Wash-

ington, remains in the Baker County Jail on arrest warrants from Ada County, Idaho, and from Benton County, Washington.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is much more powerful than heroin or morphine. Police say fentanyl is largely responsible for a rise in overdose deaths nationwide over the past few years.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be a lethal dose for most people.

The 40.2 grams of fentanyl powder that police found in Yeater's car equates to 40,200 milligrams, or approximately 20,100 lethal doses.

The OSP press release did not say how many milligrams each of the fentanyl pills contains.

Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby said on Wednesday morning, June 8, that the seizure of drugs from Yeater's car is a significant operation, particularly the quantities of fentanyl.

See, **Drugs**/Page A2

## Best seats at the Stampede



Christina Wood/Contributed Photo

Volunteers poured concrete for a new seating area at the Haines Stampede rodeo arena on May 27, 2022.

### Volunteers add seating at Haines Stampede arena for people with mobility issues

BY LISA BRITTON  
lbritton@bakercityherald.com

HAINES — The Haines Stampede has a new addition this year thanks to an army of volunteers.

"The thing I love about this rodeo is that everyone is willing to help out," said Ken Bain, a longtime volunteer.

An area on the north end of the arena is now a dedicated space for those with mobility issues, and can be accessed by a new concrete ramp.

See, **Rodeo**/Page A3

## County votes to hire private ambulance company

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
soconnor@bakercityherald.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners is moving toward replacing the Baker City Fire Department as the ambulance provider for the city and for about two-thirds of the rest of the county.

Commissioners voted unanimously on Wednesday morning, June 8, to accept an advisory committee's recommendation to choose Metro West Ambulance, a private firm from Hillsboro, to operate ambulances here.

Metro West was one of two private companies that submitted proposals to the county by the June 3 deadline.

See, **County**/Page A3

## Baker's Calaway 'having the best time' at Special Olympics

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
soconnor@bakercityherald.com

Baker City swimmer Caitlyn Calaway is "having the best time of my life" competing at the Special Olympics USA Games this week in Orlando, Florida.

That was Caitlyn's text message to a query from her mother, Kareen Harris Bybee, about whether her daughter was having fun.

Caitlyn, who turns 23 this year, placed second in a preliminary heat in the 50-yard breaststroke event.

See, **Calaway**/Page A5

## Recount planned in commission race

### Regardless of outcome, Christina Witham and Kody Justus will advance to a runoff in the Nov. 8 election

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The race for a position on the Baker County Board of Commissioners remains so close that County Clerk Stefanie Kirby is preparing to do a hand recount of more than 5,000 ballots.

But regardless of the outcome, the two candidates — Christina Witham and Kody Justus — will both advance to a runoff in the Nov. 8 general election.

They are vying for position 2, one of two part-time

spots on the three-member Board of Commissioners.

According to Oregon election law, if no candidate in a contested race gets more than 50% of the votes cast, then the top two advance to the general election. That standard also applies in races, like this one, with just two candidates.

In preliminary results from the County Clerk's office on May 17, the day of the primary election, Justus had a three-vote lead, 2,485 votes to Witham's 2,482.

The reason Justus doesn't have at least 50% of the votes, even with his slim lead, is that there were also about 50 write-in votes, which constitutes about 1% of the total votes cast. That means Justus and Witham are dividing 99% of the votes, and with such a close race, neither has quite reached that 50% plus one threshold needed to avoid a runoff in November.

The preliminary totals in the commissioner race didn't include

ballots that were postmarked on May 17 but hadn't arrived at the Clerk's office that day.



Witham



Justus

Kirby said her office received 61 post-marked votes within seven calendar days after the election, which made them eligible. This was the first Oregon election in which those postmarked ballots are counted if they're received within seven days.

Kirby said there were also 15 other ballots counted. In some cases the voter had left the ballot in a drop box in a different county,

which is allowed, and others either lacked a signature or the signature didn't match the one the clerk's office had on record for that voters.

Those are known as "challenged" ballots, and voters had until June 7 to confirm that they filled out those ballots.

After tallying the 76 ballots, the Witham-Justus race was even closer, but Witham, who previously trailed by three votes, had a lead of two votes, 2,518 to Justus' 2,516, Kirby said.

But as was the case on May 17, neither Witham nor Justus has more than 50% of the total votes cast, so both will advance to the Nov. 8 general election, Kirby said.

**TODAY**  
Issue 13  
30 pages

Business.....B1-B3	Community News.....A2	Horoscope.....B3 & B4	Opinion.....A4	Sudoku.....B7
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