# Three Bulldogs picked for all-star baseball series

Three seniors from Baker High School's baseball team have been picked to play in the Oregon Class 4A All-Star Series this weekend at North Marion High School in Aurora, south of Portland.

Baker players selected are Logan Capon, Connor Chastain and Hayden Younger.

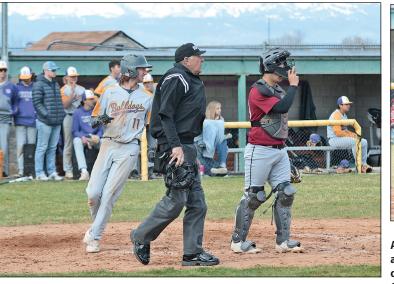
The annual event, which features the state's top Class 4A graduating seniors, started in 1979, and until 2019 the series was played in Roseburg.

The all-star series moved to North Marion in 2019. This year's games will be at Bob Brack Stadium. A 9-inning game is set for 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, with two 7-inning games, the first starting at noon, on Sunday, June 19. An awards ceremony will follow Sunday's doubleheader.

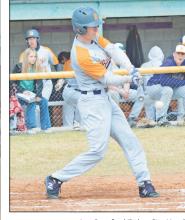
In addition to being picked for the all-star series, Capon, Chastain and Younger were each named to the

Class 4A all-state baseball teams earlier this month. Capon was named to the second team as a utility player. Chastain was a third team outfielder, and

Younger an honorable mention pick as an infielder. A fourth Bulldog, sophomore Hudson Spike, was named to the second team as an outfielder.



Baker senior Hayden Younger scores the final run of Baker's 15-5 win over Mac-Hi in the first game of a doubleheader sweep on Friday, April 29, 2022, at the Sports Complex.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

**ABOVE: Baker's Connor Chastain bats** against Ontario during a doubleheader on Friday, April 15, 2022, at the Sports

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Complex. Chastain had 3 RBIs on the day as Baker won both games easily. ABOVE RIGHT: Baker's Logan Capon runs the bases during the Bulldogs' 8-6 win over Homedale, Idaho, on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at the **Baker Sports Complex.** 

## Council

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Taiwan is America's eighth-largest trading partner, and the U.S. is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, according to the U.S. Department of

### 10th Street project

Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, said city officials have been discussing this project, also known as the North Baker Street Improvement Project, with members of the design team from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Letters will be sent in July to property owners primarily on 10th and Cedar streets, she said.

The project also includes Hughes Lane, but Owen said money isn't available now to do much on that road.

One of the more contentious aspects of the project is a proposed rebuilding of the intersection at 10th Street and Hughes Lane/Pocahontas Road, near the northern city limits.

Owen said a proposed design should be available within a week or

### Other business

Also on Tuesday, councilors:

· Approved a plan of action to address a deficiency that the city's auditor, Gaslin Accounting, found while preparing the audit for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

In a letter to the city, the auditors described the deficiency: "Prior year financial closing journal entries were not posted. As a result beginning fund balance accounts did not agree to the audited financial statements from the prior year. We recommend that the City general ledger be compared to the audited financial statements upon their completion each year and that beginning balances also be compared to the prior year closed

general ledger."

The city has submitted a plan of action to the Oregon Secretary of State's audits division.

The plan states that "All funds are now reconciled with the Audited Financial Statements. In the future, audits will be submitted by December 31 of each new year and adjustments will be posted by January 31st."

• Unanimously rejected three recent offers to buy lots in the cityowned Elkhorn View Industrial Park. Councilors discussed the offers during a work session prior to the regular meeting. The amounts per acre were lower than in previous sales, according to the city. Previously the city sold a lot for \$18,000 per acre.

Elkhorn Drilling offered \$52,260 for three lots totaling 4.53 acres (\$11,536 per acre), Melo Excavation offered \$22,200 for 1.85 acres (\$12,000 per acre), and Salmon Creek Builders offered \$22,500 for 1.85 acres (\$12,162 per acre).

Councilors also formed a subcommittee to work on a marketing plan and to discuss guidelines for future property sales in the industrial park. Councilors Dean Guyer, Shane Alderson and Kenyon Damschen will serve on the committee.

• Voted 3-2 to add \$50,000 to the budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1 to pay to pave an approximately 480-foot-long section of Indiana Avenue near the city's drinking water reservoir.

The city's budget board, which consists of the seven city councilors and seven community members, voted last month to remove that money from the budget.

Members of the homeowners association in the Scenic Vista subdivision initially requested the work in March 2021. The association includes 10 lots and eight homes.

Councilors approved the project in

Owen acknowledged in the city's

2022 pavement management plan that the project is "somewhat controversial" because the homeowners won't pay part of the cost, as the city typically requires in what are known as Local Improvement Districts.

Owen noted that the paving project isn't as extensive as typical, with "modest base work" and a paved surface 20 feet wide, less than a typical

During Tuesday's meeting, Dixon, who along with Waggoner and McQuisten voted to reinstate the \$50,000, said "We told those people that we were going to do that and I think we need to honor our commitment to them."

Alderson and Guyer voted no. Councilor Kenyon Damschen abstained, saying he had a conflict of interest as he owns property in the subdivision.

• Awarded the \$5,000 Anderson Perry Scholarship to Caitlin Lien, a 2022 Baker High School graduate.

# **Formula**

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The Michigan factory was closed after the Food and Drug Administration began investigating four bacterial infections among infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant. Two of the babies died. Abbott continues to state that its products have not been directly linked to the infections, which involved different bacterial strains.

FDA inspectors eventually uncovered a host of violations at the plant, including bacterial contamination, a leaky roof and lax safety protocols, according to The Associated Press.

Abbott restarted production at the Michigan plant on June 4, but severe thunderstorms on June 13 forced the company to temporarily stop formula pro-



The supply of infant formula was slim at Baker City's Safeway store on

June 14, 2022.

duction again.

Abbott had prioritized ramping up production of the specialty formula for infants with severe food allergies and digestive problems who have few other options for nutrition, the AP reported. Once it restarts, the factory will begin

with the production of EleCare and other specialty formulas. Abbott says it also plans to restart production of its Similac formula as soon as possible.

Chancey and Vera Grove, director of the Rachel Pregnancy Center in Baker City, which among its other services

helps provide formula to parents, both said the shortage has become a widespread problem locally in the past month or so. This week, shelves in the in-

fant formula sections at Baker City's Rite Aid, Safeway and Albertsons stores had quite a lot of empty space.

As larger cities tapped out their stock, desperation pushed some shoppers hundreds of miles, consequently forcing them to buy in bulk to save trips, exacerbating the demand. Some families took more extreme measures, watering down formula or substituting milk.

That can be harmful for infants, Chancey said.

'Cow and goat's milk do not provide appropriate vitamins and minerals for infants including iron, Vitamin C, Vitamin D and other nutrients," Chancey said. "Oregon

WIC (Women, Infants & Children, a program that provides vouchers for foods, including formula) has been offering substitutes for their standard formulas and the list has continued to grow as the shortage has continued."

Last month Congress voted on emergency support for formula manufacturing, and President Biden eased import rules for foreign makers of formula and invoked the Defense Production Act of 1950 to commit further resources toward production.

Chancey urges families to buy only as much formula as they need.

"Don't buy excess amounts of formula," she said. "If one family has 10 cans at home another family might not be able to find any."

Grove said the Rachel Cen-

ter had formula this week. "We're welcome to share it

while supplies last," she said. Typically, Grove said, the Rachel Center doesn't distribute much formula because most of its clients acquire formula with WIC or food stamps. Most of the formula the Center has is donated, she said.

The Rachel Center, at 2192 Court Ave., is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except noon to 1 p.m., when the office is closed for lunch.) The phone number is 541-523-5357.

Chancev said "one of the best resources we have been able to refer to is Building Healthy Families. They have been able to provide formula to families at no cost."

Building Healthy Families can be reached at 541-524-2331 or online at oregonbhf.org.

# Settlement

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Mosier said the county has paid \$125,000 to the previous owners, who were defendants in the lawsuit the county filed Feb. 7, 2019 — Timber Canyon Ranch LLC, Kennerly Ranches LLC and Forsea River Ranch

That was a one-time pay-

ment. The other terms of the settlement, however, are binding on the new owner of the 3,500acre property where two gates were installed, Allen Potato

LLC of North Powder. The road also crosses property owned by Forsea River Ranch LLC, which also granted the county a permanent public right of way. The gates are not on the Forsea River Ranch property.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey cast the lone dissenting vote. He said in September 2021 that although he supported creating a permanent public right-of-way on the road, he voted no because he believes a section of the proposed settlement — which is retained in the final version — misstates the situation. That paragraph states that when one of the previous owners, Todd Longgood, locked gates in 2017, "one or more responsible officials at Baker County" advised him that he was "legally authorized to do so."

Harvey contends that's not

"They were only given permission to close a gate by somebody who is representing our road department," he said. "No one person in Baker County has the legal right to close any road in Baker."

Although Harvey, along with commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, signed the Jan. 20 settlement, Harvey wrote next to his signature: "İ

voted not to approve."

As part of the settlement, both parties agreed to dismiss the lawsuit "with no costs or attorney fees payable to any

party." The settlement also states that it "shall not in any way be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by either

# When can the gates be locked?

The question of when the landowner can lock the gates depends on the fire danger rating for the Northern Blues region, one of six subunits in Northeastern Oregon monitored by the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center in La Grande.

(The Connor Creek Road property is not actually within the Northern Blues region,

The agreement states, in part: When a condition of extreme fire danger is imposed by the relevant public agencies and has continued for more than 26 consecutive days in Northern Blues subunit 6, Defendants are authorized to close and lock the gates and to leave them locked until Extreme FDR (fire danger rating) is lifted for the Northern Blues subunit 6."

In 2021, when the fire danger was at near record levels due to drought and prolonged heat, the rating was extreme for the Northern Blues for 40 straight days — July 13 to Aug. 21.

Based on the terms of the settlement, the gates could have been closed for 14 days, from Aug. 8-21.

The fire danger in the Northern Blues dropped from extreme to high on Aug. 22, 2021. The criterion wasn't met in

either 2020 — when the fire danger was extreme for just 13 days — or 2019, when the danger never reached the extreme

In 2018 the fire danger in the

Northern Blues was extreme for 31 straight days, July 27 to Aug. 27, so the gates could have been locked for five days.

In 2017 the fire danger was extreme for 53 straight days, July 29 to Sept. 19. That summer the gates could have been

locked from Aug. 24 to Sept. 19. The settlement also includes a paragraph regarding the possibility of changing the fire danger threshold used to determine when the property owner can

lock the gates.
It reads: "The parties acknowledge that fire danger has increased in recent years and that it may be necessary to revise the standard selected as circumstances evolve in the future in order to appropriately balance the goals of preserving public access and protecting the properties crossed by the

#### County required to improve, maintain road

The settlement requires the county to improve the section of the road across the defendants' property, and to maintain it in the future.

The settlement states: "Baker County will make improvements to Connor Creek Road consisting of filling in potholes, installing culverts and grading the road at various locations to reduce erosion and improve travel. Those improvements shall be completed by no later than November 1, 2022."

As for ongoing maintenance, the settlement requires the county to maintain the road at a relatively low standard, the same as for other "non-allweather roads." The road does not have to be graveled, for in-

### **Lawsuit history**

The road in question connects the Lookout Mountain Road to the Snake River Road, in the upper Connor Creek area.

In 2017, Todd Longgood and the Dennis Omer Hansen Revocable Living Trust bought property in the area and installed locked gates across the road at their property bound-

County officials objected to the road closure, and eventually chose to sue.

The contested road connects two county roads — Daly Creek Road, northeast of Lookout Mountain, and the Snake River Road just above Brown-

lee Reservoir. The road is commonly called Connor Creek Road, as it follows that stream for a few miles from its eastern terminus at the Snake River Road. The gates, however, are at the opposite, western end of the road.

In its lawsuit the county contends that the road is a historic public route that can't be blocked.

Longgood's attorneys disagreed, citing historic maps, property deeds and other records as evidence that the gated road was built after the land was converted from public to private.

In the lawsuit the county contended that a resolution county commissioners passed in 2002 affirms the road as public and precludes landowners from blocking access on that road.

Commissioners passed that resolution after a different property owner, on the eastern end of the road at the Connor Creek Mine about two miles from the Snake River Road, also put in a locked gate. The resolution, citing a one-sentence federal statute from 1866 that assures public access to routes not otherwise reserved, states that the entire Connor Creek Road, including the section crossing the property Longgood owned, is a public right-of-way that can't be

That 1866 statute is commonly known as RS 2477. Other counties have cited the statute to show a route is legally open to the public. The key to proving a claim under RS 2477 is that the route in question was being used before the property it crosses was reserved for another purpose, a common example being that the land was transferred from public to pri-

vate ownership.

Charles Hudson, the defendants' attorney, argued that the basis of the county's argument is flawed because the Connor Creek Road, in its current alignment, was not built until after the property that Longgood owned was transferred from public to private owner-

Às a result, Hudson contended, the county's RS 2477 claim is invalid.

### Lillie Rebecca Nelson June 5, 1934 - June 10, 2022

Lillie Rebecca Nelson passed away June 10, 2022, in Baker City, Oregon, with her family by her side. A graveside service will be held in Salmon, Idaho, at a later date.

Lillie was born to William and Ann Bennett in Winton, Wyoming, on June 5, 1934. She grew up in Rock Springs, Wyoming, with her 4 brothers



and 3 sisters. She graduated from Rock Springs High

Lillie met her husband, Jack Nelson, in Salt Lake City, Utah. After a short courtship they eloped in Ely, Nevada, and were married for 58 years.

Jack and Lillie moved to Salmon, Idaho, where they were blessed with 4 children, Lori, Janet, Jacklyn and

Lillie enjoyed golfing with her husband, fishing with family and traveling to see new things. She loved being a grandmother and constantly spoke on how happy her grandkids made her feel when they were around. Lillie was a perfect example of compassion, faith

made them feel like family. Lillie made sure no one left her home hungry. Lillie was preceded in death by her husband, Jack,

and love. She welcomed everyone into her home and

daughter, Jacklyn and her brothers and sisters. She is survived by her children, Lori Larsen of Gooding, Idaho, Janet Barsalou of Salmon, Idaho, Jeff and his wife, Carmen Nelson of Baker City, OR; 8 grandchildren and 16 wonderful great-grandchildren

The family requests in lieu of flowers to please donate to your local humane society through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.