



**LOCAL A2**  
State gold panning  
champions named



**LOCAL A5**  
Harney County elk  
poachers sentenced



**OUTDOORS B1**  
Biking and angling  
in the Blues

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • OUTDOORS & REC

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dennis Thacker of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Connor Chastain gets \$1,300 scholarship**

Connor Chastain, a 2022 graduate of Baker High School, has received a \$1,300 scholarship from Folds of Honor, which awards scholarships to the children of former service members. Connor's dad, Wayne Chastain, twice served in Iraq as a member of the National Guard. Connor plans to attend Baker Technical Institute and earn his certification in welding.

**Biologist to talk about beavers, grazing, water supplies Aug. 3**

Carol Evans, a retired biologist from the Bureau of Land Management, will talk about livestock grazing management, and how it can attract beavers to streams, during a free presentation Aug. 3 at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. The presentation, sponsored by the Powder Basin Watershed Council, will start at 6 p.m.

Evans' presentation, "How to Move Mountains and Make it Rain!," discusses projects in Nevada in which grazing changes spurred the growth of stream side plants, which led beavers to colonize the areas and, by building dams and storing water, increased water supply.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
88/45  
Sunny

**Sunday**  
89/47  
Sunny

**Monday**  
93/51  
Sunny

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

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



Clayton Franke/Baker City Herald  
**Ron and Ann Rowan have been named the Fair Family of the Year for 2022. The Baker County Fair is set for Aug. 7-13.**

## Fondness for the FAIR

Ron and Ann Rowan chosen as Baker County Fair Family of the Year

BY CLAYTON FRANKE  
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In 1978, Ron Rowan had a choice. As a student at the University of Idaho, he went to the Idaho extension service looking for a summer internship. There was no shortage of options — he was told he could spend the summer in any of Idaho's 44 counties. He just had to choose one.

But he couldn't. His sights were elsewhere. "I want to go to Baker City, Oregon," he said at the time.

He was successful in convincing the extension agent in Baker, Gus Markgraf, to let him spend the summer across the state border, even though out-of-state hires were atypical.

Ron spent that summer helping out with the Baker County Fair. He liked it so much he came back the following summer to work on a farm.

"I just liked the area, and that first year I met all the people that were involved with the fair, and I just loved the fair here," Ron said. "There's just so many great people."

Over four decades later, things have come full circle: Ron, who has served as chairman of the Baker County Fair Board for 20 years, and his

wife, Ann, were named the Baker County Fair Family of the Year for 2022.

And Markgraf is now the Rowans' neighbor at their 40-acre property on the east side of Baker Valley.

After the couple met and married in Boise, they moved to Baker City in 1997. Ron, whose father was a veterinarian, grew up in Weiser, Idaho, while Ann grew up in Boise. Her parents had a small cattle pasture, but she admits she "had no idea what the country was like" before the couple moved to Baker.

But her love for the fair grew when the couple's children got involved.

Katie, now 33, and Brent, 31, both participated in the 4-H program every year they were eligible until they graduated from high school. It was around the time Katie and Brent started the program that Ron joined the fair board.

"They were super enthusiastic," Ann, a school-teacher of 41 years, 24 of those in Baker City, said of her children.

*"There are a lot of people who haven't been recognized yet that do a lot for the fair. It takes a village to put it on and make it successful."*

— Ann Rowan

See **Rowans / A6**

## Plan to protect city watershed from fire proceeds

**Open house set for Aug. 17**

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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Work could begin about a year from now on the biggest project in more than half a century designed to protect Baker City's water supply by reducing the risk of wildfire in the city's densely forested watershed.

"This is a very important project for the people of Baker City," said Kendall Cikanek, ranger for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Whitman District.

The Wallowa-Whitman manages most of the city's 10,000-acre watershed on the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains west of town.

The watershed, although public land, is generally closed to public entry to protect water quality. The city allows big game hunting, with a permit, when the fire danger isn't high, and one road, to Marble Creek Pass, runs through the watershed and is open to the public.

On Thursday, July 21 the Wallowa-Whitman released what's known as a "scoping letter" for the Baker City Watershed Fuels Management Project.

The scoping letter, along with multiple maps, is available online at [s.usda.gov/project/?project=58480](https://s.usda.gov/project/?project=58480).

The Wallowa-Whitman has also scheduled a public open house for Aug. 17 at the Events Center, 2600 East St. in Baker City.

See **Watershed / A3**

## County will take psilocybin ban to voters

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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Baker County Commissioners on Wednesday, July 20 unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance that will ask county voters this November whether they want to ban psilocybin manufacturing and service centers in unincorporated parts of the county.

Psilocybin is the substance in "magic mushrooms" that produces hallucinogenic effects.

Research has shown that psilocybin can treat psychological trauma, addiction and other ailments.

In November 2020, Oregon voters approved Measure 109, which legalizes the use of psilocybin, in designated "service centers" only, for people 21 and over. The measure, which failed in Baker County by a margin of 64% to 36%, also allows the production and processing of psilocybin-containing mushrooms.

The measure does not allow the retail sale of the product.

The new law allows cities and counties to put on the ballot ordinances that either ban psilocybin businesses or set a two-year moratorium on them.

See **Psilocybin / A3**

## Couple angry about sexual content during teen training

**County officials apologize for July 7 presentation**

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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A Baker City couple is considering filing a civil lawsuit against Baker County after their 16-year-old daughter, who has a learning disability, heard what she described as explicit sexual education topics during what was listed as

a personal hygiene training as part of a work program for teenagers.

The instructor for the July 7 class was an employee of the Baker County Health Department.

That employee no longer works for the department, but her resignation was submitted well before the class and is "totally unrelated" to the incident that angered parents Dorenea and Bryan Karolski, said Mark Bennett, a Baker County commissioner.

"We're truly sorry that it happened," Bennett said on Wednesday, July 20.

"We believe strongly that reproductive education is the province of the parent. I want the community to know this is a one-off event. The health department cares about the community and respects parental rights."

Bennett, whose duties as a commissioner include overseeing the health department, said he is willing to talk with any student who attended the presentation, or

their parents, to hear their concerns.

Bennett said he and Meghan Chancey, administrator for the health department, met on Wednesday afternoon with Bryan Karolski.

Karolski said he appreciates that county officials accepted responsibility for the episode, but he's concerned that no one will be held accountable, since the employee who made the presentation is no longer a county employee.

See **Training / A3**



**TODAY**  
Issue 31  
12 pages

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Comics.....B5	Dear Abby.....B6	Lottery Results.....A2	Outdoors.....B1 & B2	Turning Backs.....A2
Community News.....A2	Horoscope.....B3 & B4	News of Record.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Weather.....B6