



**LOCAL A2**  
**Tips for dealing with a common noxious weed**



**STATE A3**  
**Morrow County installs water filters for residents**



**LOCAL A5**  
**Lumber mill reopens in Prairie City**

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • HOME & LIVING

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Diane Bloomer of Durkee.

**BRIEFING**

**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.

**Sign up for Baker Bulldog Football Camp**

Signup for football camp has started, kicking off on August 15-18 at the Baker High Memorial Stadium, hosted by the Baker High School coaching staff and players.

Grades 7-8 will play from 10:30 a.m. to noon and can sign up at class registration.

Grades 3-6 will play from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and can sign up at Les Schwab's or the YMCA.

At the end of the camp schedule they will host the Quarterback Club BBQ at 6:30 p.m.

Signup fee is 20 dollars, including the meal and an event shirt. All funds go toward the local high school football program.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
 97/60  
 Clear

**Wednesday**  
 101/65  
 Mostly sunny, very hot

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

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

## BHS expecting more than 30 foreign students

**Oregon International School program bringing students from Ukraine, Cambodia, Thailand among others**

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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A variety of accents will be heard during conversations in the hallways at Baker High School starting this fall.

The Baker School District has enrolled 43 foreign students through its Oregon International School (OIS) charter school program.

Ten of those students, from the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel between England

and France, will spend about a month in Baker City this fall.

A group of Baker High School students, and one staff member, will travel to Jersey to study there for a month.

The remaining 33 foreign students are enrolled at BHS for the entire school year, said Lindsey McDowell, public information and communications coordinator for the school district.

Students are from the

following countries:

- Ukraine, nine
- Cambodia, seven
- Thailand, six
- Italy, six
- Spain, four
- Taiwan, one

Mark Witt, former school district superintendent who now works as executive director for the International School, a one-third time position and one of four OIS staff, said the Ukraine students, whose country has been roiled by the invasion of the Russian army, are getting their F-1 visas approved in Poland.

See **Students / A3**



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald, File

The Baker School District bought this historic home, at 1706 Washington Ave., for \$295,000 in March 2022 as housing for visiting students attending Baker High School through the district's International School program.



Nick Myatt/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, File  
 A bighorn ram photographed in the Burnt River Canyon in 2011.

## Better news for some BAKER BIGHORNS

### Lamb survival improves for some groups of sheep plagued by recurring bacterial infection

BY JAYSON JACOBY • jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker County's biggest herd of bighorn sheep, plagued for more than two years by a bacterial infection that leads to fatal pneumonia, seems to be thriving in some places, but the situation is much less promising in others.

The difference is dramatic, said Brian Ratliff.

He's the district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Baker City office.

Ratliff has been tracking the bacterial outbreak in the Lookout Mountain bighorn herd, in far eastern Baker County, since February 2020.

The herd is not only Baker County's, but it has also been Oregon's largest herd of Rocky Mountain bighorns.

See **Bighorns / A6**

*"Things are not dismal but not great. ... We'll see what happens in early winter, when they start mingling."*

— Brian Ratliff, biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Baker City office, about herds in the region



A group of bighorn sheep, including a lamb, in the Lookout Mountain unit in eastern Baker County on June 20, 2020.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald, File

## Eastern Oregon employers struggle to find workers

**Economic developer says pool of potential employees is small**

BY MARK BOGART

For the Baker City Herald

Eastern Oregon, like much of the country, is facing a severe shortage of workers. Baker County's official seasonally adjusted unemployment continued at a record low of 4.0 percent in May.

What does that mean for employers?

The Oregon Employment Department reported 225 open job listings in the first week of June for the county.

However, Bryan Tweit, Baker County's economic development director, estimated the total to be about 400 jobs when listings from other sources, including social media, were added in. Tweit said just 62 people were receiving unemployment benefits at that time.

"That's a very small pool to hire from," Tweit said.

On the supply side, most of the pan-

demical-related factors which reduced the workforce have been reversed as health risks have subsided to a significant degree. In addition, record levels of pay and of inflation have added even more incentive for returning to work.

One group that hasn't returned to work to a large degree is the record number who retired in 2020 and 2021, leaving a dent in the workforce.

The bigger issue is demand for workers, as most businesses have resumed and schools have reopened. Consumers here and across the country have

to buying, traveling and using some of that pent-up energy and savings from the prior two years of restrictions.

As a result of the changing ratio of jobs to available workers, both employers and communities are looking for ways to compete for the small number of potential workers in almost all fields. Employers are increasing pay and benefits, offering flexible schedules and working arrangements, as well as advertising available jobs on many platforms.

See **Workers / A3**



**TODAY**  
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 12 pages

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