



**GO! INSERT**  
Art shows opening  
in November



**LOCAL A2**  
ODOT urges drivers  
to be winter-ready



**SPORTS A7**  
Bulldogs, Badgers  
head to state

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Paul Bouchard of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**OTEC scholarship applications available**

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative began accepting applications Nov. 1 for its academic, trade school and lineman college scholarships, as well as for the annual Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

These scholarships are available:

- For the fourth year, four academic scholarships will be allocated to the OTEC-EOU Rural Scholarship program, a partnership with Eastern Oregon University that includes tuition and all fees for four students who commit to attending and graduating from EOU.

- Academic scholarships of \$5,000 for graduating high school and homeschooled seniors, returning college students and adults planning to start college.

- A \$5,000 lineman school scholarship, along with \$2,500 trade school scholarships.

The deadline for all academic scholarships is Feb. 28, 2023.

OTEC accepts applications for lineman school and trade school scholarships year round.

Details are available at otec.coop/scholarships.

OTEC also is accepting applications for the one-week, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., set for June 17-23, 2023. Current high school and homeschool juniors can apply. The deadline is Jan. 31, 2023. Applications and details are available at otec.coop/dc-youth-tour.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
39/22  
Mostly sunny

**Friday**  
39/35  
Rain

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

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

**BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## Board takes new approach on bond projects

Board hires La Grande firm, still has the goal of building cafeteria at middle school

BY IAN CRAWFORD AND JAYSON JACOBY  
Baker City Herald

The Baker School District will try a new approach now that rapidly rising construction costs have temporarily thwarted the district's schedule to build a cafeteria/multipurpose building at Baker Middle School.

The estimated \$4.5 million project was the largest the district planned to undertake with money from the \$4 million property tax bond measure that district voters approved in May 2021.

It was the first voter-approved measure for district capital improvements since 1948.

The district combined the \$4 million bond with money from several other sources for an overall budget of about \$14.5 million for a variety of projects across the district.

The middle school cafeteria, though — the school lacks such a facility — was one of the showcase projects that district officials touted in promoting the bond measure in 2021.

But when the district solicited bids this summer it re-

ceived only one, from Sid Johnson & Co. in Baker City. The bid was \$9.1 million, more than double the district's projected cost.

Accepting that bid would have left the district unable to do most of the other work officials pledged to do when they asked voters to approve the bond measure, Erin Lair, the district's superintendent, said in August.

The school board voted

unanimously on Aug. 18 to reject the lone bid.

Lindsey McDowell, the district's public information and communications coordinator, said district officials believe Sid Johnson & Co.'s bid was a realistic reflection of the current construction market, one that takes into account supply chain issues, rising costs and uncertain availability of both materials and labor.

See **Projects** / A5

## Norm Kolb, longtime accountant for Leo Adler, reminisces about his childhood, college years and career



*"I've tried to interpret in my mind what Leo would do. He wanted to provide opportunities."*  
— Norm Kolb, member of the Leo Adler Foundation

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Norm Kolb, 90, talks about growing up in Baker City and the progression of his accounting career, which included 31 years as Leo Adler's accountant. Kolb was on the original committee for the Leo Adler Trust, which was established with \$20 million to provide scholarships and grants to Baker County and North Powder.

## From logging camps to dugouts to an office

BY LISA BRITTON • lbritton@bakercityherald.com

Norm Kolb starts his story with a phrase that applies to so much of his life: "Timing is everything." And on a snowy October morning in Baker City, Kolb, 90, shared stories about decisions and circumstances that have defined his life — including 31 years as the accountant for Leo Adler, who left his \$20 million estate to benefit Baker County and North Powder for generations to come.

Kolb was born in Baker City in June 1932.

His parents, Frank and Marian, had married in 1929, right at the start of the Great Depression.

Kolb's father worked as a logger near

Sumpter.

"When I was a baby, I was in the logging camps. In tents," he said.

Then they spent a winter at McEwen, in Sumpter Valley, again living in a tent, this time on his uncle's place.

Moving with jobs — a tough prospect during the Depression — the next spot was North Powder where Frank ran a ranch for one year. The pay was room and board, plus \$1 a day.

See **Kolb** / A3

See **Sites** / A3

## Supply chain issue keeps city's new well off line

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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A supply chain issue will likely keep Baker City's new backup drinking water well off line until late winter or early spring.

Fortunately, the city doesn't need to tap its supplementary water sources during the winter, when water use is much lower than in summer. The nearly \$2.5 million project is one of the larger tasks that the city budgeted for by raising water rates by 10% in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The city drilled the well in 2020 at the east end of the parking lot for Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave.

See **Well** / A3

## New exhibit tells ancient tale

'Oregon's Dino Story' at Baker County Library this month

BY LISA BRITTON  
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Follow the dinosaur tracks at the Baker County Public Library and you'll discover all sorts of dino facts this month.

The library, 2400 Resort St., is hosting "Oregon's Dino Story," a traveling exhibit from the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Libraries applied to host the exhibit, which started traveling in July.

See **Exhibit** / A3



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

William Chanady, who turns 3 in December, plays with the interactive exhibit "Oregon's Dino Story" on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022. The traveling display, which came from the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, can be seen through Nov. 15 at the Baker County Public Library in Baker City.



**TODAY**  
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34 pages

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