

# Witty takes Baker school job

Blue Mountain Eagle

BAKER CITY – Grant School District No. 3 Superintendent Mark Witty has accepted the top job at Baker School District 5J.

The Baker School Board decided last Thursday night to offer the superintendent job to Witty, and he accepted the next day. He will succeed Walt Wegener, who is retiring.

Witty has been with John



Mark Witty

Day-based District 3 for about 17 years, the past five as superintendent.

He said this week he is excited about the opportunity to lead the larger Baker district, but he has mixed emotions about the change.

"I've been blessed to live

here with my wife and family, and to be able to raise our four kids here," he said, noting they had an excellent education in the local schools.

He expects the strengths of District 3 to continue, and he lauded the school board and the "wonderful staff" for working to enhance the educational offerings.

In an earlier interview, he said he saw the Baker job as an opportunity for professional

growth that would allow him to continue living in Eastern Oregon.

Chris Cronin, District 3 School Board chair, said the district will begin working out the details of the next steps to fill the job.

"We're happy for him," she said. "This is a great opportunity, but of course, we're very sad to see him go. He's done an outstanding job for District 3."

She noted Witty has been

an advocate not just for his district, but for schools across Eastern Oregon. In his new job, he will be able to continue that effort, and it will still benefit the Grant County schools, she said.

"We're not going to lose that," she said.

Witty's contract with District 3 runs through June 30, although the Baker district is

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# Access panel members hit the road – in protest

By Scotta Callister  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Five members of the Grant County Public Access Advisory Board resigned en masse last week at the Grant County Court meeting.

The resignations triggered a wide-ranging discussion among Court members and citizens that touched on road decision frustrations, Forest Service project timelines, collaboration benefits, and terrorist beheadings.

The action began at the Grant County Court's Feb. 25 meeting, when Jim Sproul, the board chair, read a resignation letter aloud to the Court. The letter, which claims the County Court has "ignored or marginalized" their findings about road issues, was signed by Sproul, Howard Geiger, Billie Jo George, Judy Kerr and Tom McHatton.

The departures leave two members on the board, Steve Parsons and Mark Pengelly.

The letter said members of the board had been threatened, ridiculed and accused of lying, and it accused the Court of going against the interests of the citizens "in favor of your cronies and the agencies."

"Maybe in the future you should follow some of the rules of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners that you so admire," the letter said, "Specifically in regards to the following: #1 respect for board member both in and out of meetings. #2 No back door dealings. #3 personal attacks shall not be tolerated."

The Court has had its own concerns about personal criticisms in recent meetings, with commissioners cautioning at least two access board members about negative comments to or about others. The increasing tensions prompted a discussion at the end of one February meeting as other citizens pressed the Court to restore civility to county proceedings.

Last week, after reading his letter, Sproul tossed the board's Courthouse mailbox key onto the table and strode out, saying he was going "to go saddle a new horse."

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# MIX, BAKE, 'DOUGH-NATE'

Students learn to bake bread, with loaves to share

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Humbolt Elementary School fifth- and sixth-graders may be asking their parents to fire up the oven at home.

The students learned all the steps to baking bread Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the school cafeteria, and each received a kit to bake two loaves at home with help from an adult.

Fifth-grade teacher Georgia Boethin was instrumental in having King Arthur Flour instructor Nate Sandel visit the school to present the engaging demonstration.

Part of the program, called

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Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter  
**Presenter Nate Sandel shows the crowd how to knead bread dough as Humbolt sixth-grader Summer Keith gets ready to give it a try.**



**The crowd applauds the helpers during the King Arthur Flour demo.**

**Humbolt fifth-grader Aiden Taylor throws dough for pizza, helping with a King Arthur Flour demonstration Feb. 25 at the school.**

## STUDENT ART



**Leif Rausch**  
 Grade 4  
 Prairie City School  
 Teacher: Sue Thompson

# Sanders gets prison for Seneca shoot-up

By Scotta Callister  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Shane Lee Sanders has been sentenced to six-plus years in prison for his late-night shooting spree last October at the Timbers Inn and RV Park in Seneca.

Appearing last Thursday in Grant County Circuit Court, Sanders pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree attempted assault and two counts of coercion. The pleas were part



**Shane Lee Sanders**

In open court, Sullivan sentenced Sanders to a total of 73 months in prison.

Sanders has been in the Grant County Jail since the Oct. 8 incident, when gunshots

punctured the night silence in Seneca.

Authorities said the uproar began when Sanders was with his girlfriend, Tammy Moyer, in a cabin at the Timbers; he checked her cell phone and became enraged about a text message he found. District Attorney Jim Carpenter said Sanders pointed a gun at her and even pulled the trigger, but the gun didn't go off.

Moyer escaped to the next cabin, where her son and a girlfriend were staying. The

son called 911, as Sanders fired shots into the cabin, at a nearby trailer and at a pickup truck.

When Undersheriff Todd McKinley responded, he was forced to take cover as Sanders fired toward him.

At dawn, Sanders fled across the nearby golf course onto private ranch land, triggering a daylong search and a blockade of the roads into town. He turned himself in that evening.

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## Blue Mountain Hospital Presents:

Zachary Bailey, MD \* Shawna Clark, FNP  
 David Hall, MD \* Nora Healey, FNP  
 Andrea Janssen, MD \* Andrew Janssen, MD  
 Emily Lieuallen, MD \* Keith Thomas, MD, FACS

