



The Baker County Press

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'Gold Rush' hits Haines, prepares for Jubilee



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

The 'Gold Rush' cast, crew and family members attended the Haines Stampede Rodeo in Haines Sunday. How many familiar faces can you find in this photo?

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Todd Hoffman, Jack Hoffman, Andy Spinks, Dave Turin, Jim Thurber, and several other cast and crew members from the Discovery Channel's "Gold Rush" brought their families to Haines last Sunday for the town's 4th of July celebration.

Taking a weekend break from filming, the group attended the Haines Stampede Rodeo and ended with dinner at the Haines Steak House.

The effects of "Gold Rush" were also seen in the evening fireworks display, which was a bit bigger this year thanks to donations in the name of Harvest Christian Acad-

emy and Harvest Christian Church by mine owner Phillip Wirth and the Hoffman family.

Wirth has orchestrated fireworks shows a number of times in the past, and that experience triggered the concept of contributing somehow to a local celebration within Baker County.

After tossing around the idea of other venues—including the local golf course at one point—and beginning the licensing process and the associated practice rounds with the State of Oregon, Wirth and Hoffman landed on the idea of simply adding to the popular Haines display.

Meanwhile during the work week, "Gold Rush" continues to film in the

southern part of Baker County. Filming has taken a shift at present from its first location in the Hereford area to a second location about a half hour down the road—a location the crew would prefer not to have specifically publicized.

The next season, featuring those Baker County locations, is scheduled to air sometime in October.

This summer, however, residents can look for Hoffman and several other members of the "Gold Rush" cast and crew during Miners Jubilee on the Baker County Republican parade float on Saturday the 16th, along with Congressman Greg Walden, Secretary of State candidate Dennis Richard-



Submitted Photo.

Two members of the camera crew get into the rodeo spirit.

son and local grassroots Republicans.

The "Gold Rush" gang will then be available at the Republican booth in the Geiser-Pollman Park off and on following the parade.

Traffic stop leads to drug-related arrests

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
(with press release text by Chief Wyn Lohner)

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Wednesday was a hectic day from start to finish for the Baker City Police Department (BCPD) when a traffic stop led to multiple drug-related arrests.

Police Chief Wyn Lohner said in an interview Wednesday, "This case is an example of how two patrol officers took a little bit of information and utilized it well."

Just after 8 a.m., Officers Shannon Regan and Blake Hawkins, both of whom had been working the night shift, initiated a "high risk" traffic stop on a green 1997 Ford F150 pickup on Church Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets in Baker City.



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner.

SEE ARRESTS PAGE 5

Huntington holds celebration

• 4TH OF JULY TURNOUT HIGH THIS YEAR FOR PARADE, FESTIVITIES

BY EILEEN DRIVER
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This year the 4th of July dawned clear, breezy and warm in Huntington with numerous groups of people working hard to put the finishing touches on their floats for the Independence Day Parade sponsored by the Huntington Lion's Club. The parade kicked off the festivities.

At noon the parade wound its way down Washington Street to Lion's Park with the streets lined with an above average number of spectators of all ages. The people in the crowd were sporting their spirit in just as colorful red, white and blue outfits as the floats passed.

Huntington was honored with a special appearance by Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty on the Chamber of Commerce float this year.

SEE HUNTINGTON PAGE 10

Regional theater gets new building, stage

• NEW BUILDING COURTESY OF LARGE DONATION

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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The Eastern Oregon Regional Theater, EORT, announced its soon-to-be new location in the historic Orpheum Theater on Main Street.

The theater is currently located upstairs in the Basche Sage mall on Broadway.

"Nobody knows where we're at where we are

now," stated Scot Violette, the Artistic Director for EORT. "And this was originally, in the 1920s, this was a live theater. We want to bring parts of Baker City History back, and bring live performance back."

Currently, board members Aletha Bonebrake and Kelly Birckman have written a grant to have the feasibility study done by the architect and the contractor.

"We can get a sense of how much renovation has to be done, how much has to be demolished, how much has to be restored, how it will be restored,"

stated Bonebrake. "Just so we have a plan going forward."

Once they have the feasibility study made, they will determine the phases of construction needed for the theater. They do things in phases so they can do pieces in order and have grants written for each phase.

"The whole job is done over a period of time and you don't get funders to just fund everything on the thumb all at once, they have to see progress and investment and local support," explained Bonebrake. "So the whole thing is a progressive develop-



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

The Eastern Oregon Regional Theater has revealed a model of its planned new stage in the soon-to-be new location.

ment. But the feasibility study is so that we know exactly where we're going, the order in which we're going, and how much each part will cost."

The theater received the \$160,000 donation for the new building from David Burris, a local man who wants to see theater return to Baker City, which al-

lowed them to buy the Orpheum building. \$30,000 remains from that donation after the purchase.

SEE THEATER PAGE 5

Friday Partly sunny with the chance for showers. Highs in the lower 70s. Chance of precipitation is 40%

Saturday Partly sunny with sporadic rain showers. Highs in the upper 60s. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Sunday Mostly cloudy with a few showers possible. Highs in the mid 60s. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

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OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC CO-OP

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