

Baker City Herald

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Monkeyflower blooms in a Wallowa Mountains meadow

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Jean Heizer of Baker City.

Health, 3B

After the scientists step safely out of the airtight lab in the biocontainment plant, and after their spacesuit-like protective wear is disinfected, the room is flooded with chlorine dioxide gas.

The sterilizing gas and claustrophobia-inducing suits are mandatory in the lab, where researchers from the Food and Drug Administration and Illinois Tech come together to conduct research on foodborne bacteria.

BRIEFING

Pool, shuffleboard players sought

The Baker Valley Pool and Shuffleboard League of Baker County is seeking players of all experience levels.

New sponsors are always welcome as well.

Experienced players will assist novice players who may play weekly or as substitutes for others. Fees collected throughout the season will cover the annual banquet, trophies, supplies and multiple charity donations.

Everyone is invited to the Annual Sponsors and Players Meeting at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Club, 2005 Valley Ave. More information is available by calling Darell at 541-403-0880 or Dani at 541-406-9053.

Sheriff's Office reports scam

The Baker County Sheriff's Office has received several calls from community residents who are reporting a telephone scam. The caller claims there is a warrant for the person's arrest and that he or she must wire money to an account to remove the warrant. In an attempt to make the phone call seem legitimate, the caller is impersonating deputies within the Sheriff's Department by using their actual names. The Sheriff's Office will never call to tell residents that there is a warrant for their arrest or to ask them for money.

WEATHER

Today 77 / 37

Partly sunny

Saturday 79 / 45

Partly sunny

Sunday 71 / 44

Partly sunny

28th-Annual Baker City Memory Cruise Set For Saturday

Cruising Along



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Wayne Ryder prepares for another Memory Cruise at Baker City Saturday. His red 1962 Corvette and the 1940 Ford Deluxe are two of his favorite classics.

By Becca Robbins
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Wayne Ryder and Dan Haberman have coordinated the classic car takeover of Geiser-Pollman Park every late August, otherwise known as the Baker City Memory Cruise, for the past 16 years.

Although they say not much has changed since they took over leadership of the event from Thunder Mountain Motosports, the duo still gets excited to see the variety of cars that park their white-walled wheels on the park's grass.

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MEMORY CRUISE

SATURDAY, AUG. 25

- Registration, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Geiser-Pollman Park
- Show-and-shine, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Geiser-Pollman Park
- Awards ceremony, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Geiser-Pollman Park
- Main Street cruise downtown, around 7 p.m.

S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Dan Haberman says his 1932 Ford, 3-window coupe, sports a YBlock 292 cubic inch engine.



64 Days Without Measurable Rainfall At Baker City Airport

Dry spell at Airport 4th-longest

By Jayson Jacoby
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The thundershower that drenched, and briefly delayed, the Shrine All-Star Football Game on Aug. 4 might seem to contradict the rest of this sentence, but technically Baker City is in the midst of its fourth-longest rainless stretch since

World War II.

The asterisk in this case has to do with where our official weather readings are taken.

That's the Baker City Airport, and it's a couple miles north of the city limits.

No great distance, to be sure. But it's far enough to make a significant difference

sometimes when it comes to thunderstorms, which can have bands of rain just a mile or two across.

In any case, the rain gauge at the airport hasn't collected what the National Weather Service defines as "measurable rain" since June 20.

Thursday was the 64th

straight "dry" day.

Which brings up the second asterisk.

Although the dry stretch remains intact, that doesn't mean that not a single drop of rain has plopped onto the tarmac at the airport during that period.

See Dry Spell / Page 3A

City's water supply handles high demand

By Casey Crowley
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The heat has persisted into August, and so has Baker City's collective thirst. But Michelle Owen, the city's public

works director, said the city, which has three water sources, has been able to meet the demand without using one of those sources — a well — since Aug. 10. Owen concedes, though, that she's

hoping water demand will drop, as it historically has done, once September arrives and students return to school.

See Water / Page 3A

BAKER CITY COUNCIL

Thomas resigns

Baker City Councilor James C. Thomas resigned Wednesday, two days after he pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants following his June 19 arrest.



Thomas

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. sent an email Thursday announcing that Thomas had resigned.

Thomas' resignation letter, dated Aug. 22 and addressed to the city manager, mayor and other City Council members, reads:

"It is with heavy heart that I feel it is my duty to resign from the Baker City Council effective immediately.

"Although I had picked up the packet, I will not be seeking Re-election.

"I made a terrible mistake and drove under the influence of alcohol. I have pled guilty to that offense and have to live with the consequences. I can't change yesterday, and have to focus on today and tomorrow.

"Thank you for all your past support and I wish you well. It has been an honor to serve with you."

See Resign / Page 3A

County discusses forest plan

By Casey Crowley
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Baker County Commissioners met Thursday with members of the Eastern Oregon County Association to discuss commissioners' concerns about the new management plans for the three national forests in the Blue Mountains.

Members of the EOCA discussed eight different points they will object to. These include allegations that the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act, timber harvests targets that are too low and restrictions on cattle grazing in areas near where gray wolves live.

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Locals in Hawaii during hurricane

For a Baker City couple, Hawaii hasn't exactly lived up to its reputation as a peaceful vacation destination.

Tracy Winans and Dennis Bachman are on Maui as the state is threatened by its first hurricane since 1992.

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TODAY

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Jayson Jacoby 4A
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Obituaries 2A
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Senior Menus 2A
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MONDAY — BAKER VOLLEYBALL STARTS ITS SEASON

