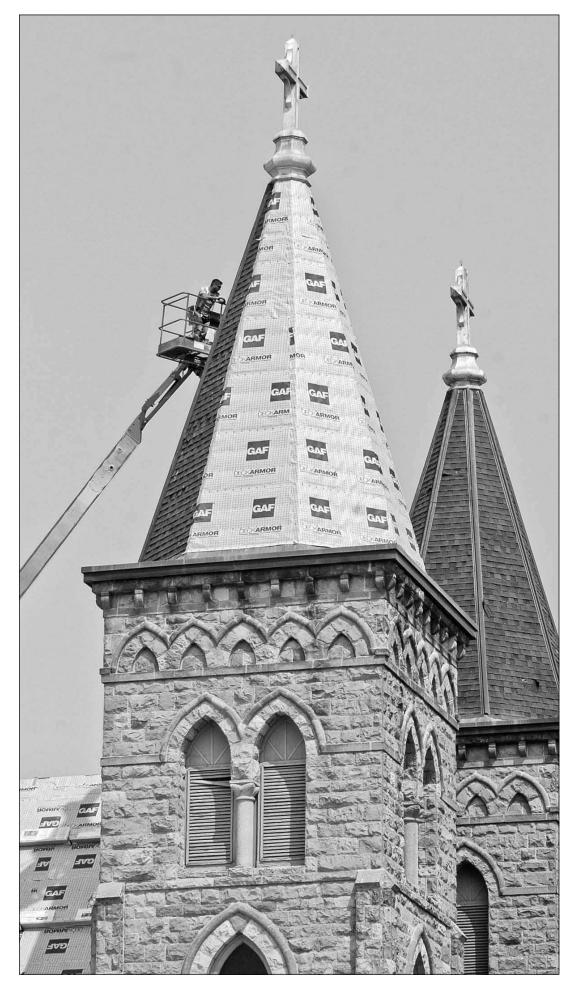# AUGUST

■ Highest Temperature: 109, on the 10th • Lowest Temperature: 34, on the 28th • Total Precipitation: trace (avg.: .64)

Replacing The Roof At St. Francis de Sales Cathedral

Aspiring Project

S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Replacing the roof at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral is no small feat. Working up high Wednesday are Bruce Hughes and job foreman Jesse Swain, not shown.

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

AUGUST 3 — Jesse Swain isn't afraid of heights, but he admits the roof of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral gives him pause.

"The pitch you can deal with. The height makes it scary," he said. "I'm not afraid of heights, but this one is a little intimidating."

The Baker City church's twin steeples top out at 113 feet off the ground, and this week Swain and his crew from Upson Company in Caldwell, Idaho, prepped the steep roof for new shingles.

They've been working on the roof for about a month, and expect the job to take at least another four weeks.

Initial tasks included removing the old shingles, prepping the wood, adding a layer of watertight sheeting, and finishing metal work.

Council says roosters can stay

By Casey Crowley
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AUGUST 15 — "Save the Roosters" read the back of one man's shirt in the crowd of Tuesday's Baker City Council meeting, and save the roosters they did.

After hearing comments from six different residents, all opposed to the ban, the City Council unanimously voted to reject an ordinance that would ban roosters within city limits. Larry Rockenbrandt presented the city with a petition signed by 175 people who opposed banning roosters.

During the meeting there were no community residents who spoke in support of banning roosters.

The original idea to ban roosters came up after the City received a complaint from a small number of people who had encountered roosters crowing in the middle of the night.

Instead of passing the ordinance outright banning roosters the Council now plans to make changes to the city's noise ordinance.

BAKER CITY COUNCIL

Thomas resigns

AUGUST 24 —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.

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."

August heat sets all-time records in Baker

By Casey Crowley
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AUGUST 13 — Friday at 2:30 p.m. the temperature reached 108 degrees at the Baker City Airport, tying the record set Thursday.

Thursday's high temperature first reached 108 around 2 p.m. and hovered around that for the next three hours.

(Editor's note: The official high on Aug. 10 was 109 degrees, the all-time record, breaking the mark of 108 set the previous day.)

Prior to Thursday and Friday, the temperature in Baker City had never exceeded 106, a record set over 57 years ago, in August of 1961.

The previous high for Aug. 10 was 104 in 1996.

Just by going over 100 Friday the city had its first three-day stretch of 100-degree days since 1961.

Fire risk hits record

By Jayson Jacoby
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AUGUST 1 — Willy Crippen uses a series of line graphs to gauge the wildfire danger, and the graph on his computer monitor Monday afternoon looked something like Mount Everest.

Crippen pointed the cursor at the point where one line, appropriately rendered in flame red, peaks.

That apex represents the highest level for potential fire growth that Crippen's employer, the U.S. Forest Service, has measured for any July 30 during the period 1993 to 2015.

Monday's measurement matched that peak.

Little wonder, then, that Crippen and fire managers from other agencies are anxious about a fire season that hasn't even reached its most dangerous period, statistically speaking.

Dry spell at Airport 4th-longest

By Jayson Jacoby
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AUGUST 24 — 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.

City ballot: 10 to choose from

By Casey Crowley
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AUGUST 29 — Baker City voters will have 10 candidates to choose from Nov. 6 when they elect four people to the seven-member City Council.

The 10 candidates who qualified for the ballot by the filing deadline Tuesday at 4 p.m. are: Kevin Luckini, Daryl DeMoss, Randy Schiewe, Slade Elbert, Lynette Perry, Ken Gross, Doni Bruland, Carly Annable, Raymond Rienks and Morgan DeCarl.

Schiewe is the only incumbent among the candidates, having been appointed on June 26 to replace Dan McQuisten, who resigned because he moved outside the city limits.

The top three vote-getters in the Nov. 6 election will serve four-year terms. The fourth-place finisher will be elected to a two-year term. There will be at least three new councilors elected.