

Baker City Herald

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Sweet Finish To Summer: Homemade ice cream recipes
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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robert Black of Baker City.

BRIEFING

University Women meeting Tuesday

The Baker chapter of American Association of University Women will have a membership meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 1198 D St. The program presenter is Adriene Oster from Baker High School, who will describe her work with the Oregon Teacher Pathway program.

Blood drive set for Sept. 16 at Nazarene Church

The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive for Sept. 16 at the Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. Please call Myrna Evans at 541-523-5368 to make, cancel, or reschedule an appointment. Please note the change in venue to the Nazarene Church.

WEATHER

Today

67 / 41



Rain showers

Tuesday

67 / 40



Chance of storms

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Paving Project At Baker City Airport

Smoother Sailing



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Crews prepared the base for a layer of fresh asphalt on an apron at the Baker City Airport. Paving started Thursday and finished Friday. The rebuilt area will be available for helicopter parking as well as other purposes.

By Jayson Jacoby
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A previously bumpy part of the Baker City Airport has a fresh layer of blacktop thanks to federal and state grants.

The \$1.49 million project to rebuild the south apron at the city-owned airport didn't require the city to spend any money from its general fund budget, said Michelle Owen, the city's public works director.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) paid most the cost — about \$1.34 million.

The remaining \$150,000 is from a state grant funded by taxes pilots pay on aviation fuel, Owen said.

The pavement that was replaced on the south apron was installed in the 1960s, and it was both old and deteriorated, Owen said.

The south apron will be equipped with tie-downs for helicopters, among other uses.

Coincidentally, a fleet of five heavy helicopters has been stationed at the airport for more than a week to help douse hot spots on the 204 Cow fire southwest of Unity.

Owen said that because the south apron wasn't available due to construction, helicopters were "parked all over," Owen said.

Because some of the aircraft were parked near the airport's secondary runway, it has been closed while the helicopters are here, she said.

"The primary purpose of the apron replacement was to have a clearly marked area for helicopters," Owen said.

She said as many as 10 or 11 helicopters have been stationed at the airport during previous fire seasons.

Mike Becker General Contractor Inc. of La Grande had the contract to replace the south apron.

This summer's project is Phase II at the airport.

In the summer of 2017 the city rebuilt the apron near the office of Baker Aircraft, and installed a 6,000-gallon JetA fuel tank.

The project cost \$1.64 million, and as with this year's work, the FAA paid the lion's share, at \$1.25 million. The city received a grant from the state to cover the remaining \$386,000 Owen said.

The next project planned at the airport is comparatively small.

Owen said city officials hope to apply a sealer to the airport's main runway, probably in the summer of 2021. The estimated cost is \$130,000, and Owen said the goal is use an FAA grant to cover 90%, and a state grant for the remaining 10%.

The city does budget money each year in case a state grant isn't available, Owen said, because officials don't want to have to turn down FAA grants that pay up to 90% of the cost of major projects.

See **Airport** / Page 3A

Baker City Council Meets Tuesday

The Baker City Council will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. The brief agenda includes an update from Dawn Kitzmiller of the building department, but no action items.

Councilors are also scheduled to convene in an executive session, closed to the public, immediately following the regular meeting. The executive session is allowed under Oregon's Public Meetings Law on the topic "to consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations."

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said city staff will be talking with councilors about how the city will put together its proposal to continue to provide ambulance services within the city and much of Baker County. County commissioners, who choose ambulance providers, plan to send a request for proposals for the service.

GRANITE GULCH FIRE IN EAGLE CAP WILDERNESS

Rain, cool temps stifle blaze

By Jayson Jacoby
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A late summer storm that swept in Sunday morning and felt more like autumn quelled the Granite Gulch fire in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

The storm, which brought rain and caused temperatures to dip into the 30s in the wilderness, didn't extinguish the lightning-sparked fire that's been burning in the Minam River Canyon since July 14.

But it brought the fire, which has burned about 5,555 acres, to a "virtual standstill," according to a press release from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

See **Storm** / Page 3A

Fishing limits ending at Thief Valley

With Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder projected to reach its minimum level later this month, state officials have decided to cancel daily fish catch limits starting Wednesday, Sept. 11.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has done this in the late summer several years over the past decade or so.

The goal is to encourage people to harvest stocked rainbow trout before the reservoir is drained, dooming the fish. Thief Valley is at about 10 percent of its capacity.

"When the water level reaches dead storage, large numbers of trout get trapped in isolated pools," said Tim Bailey, ODFW fish biologist. "Most fish will be stressed in the warm, turbid water and die."

ODFW is removing the daily catch and possession limits now because once the reservoir is at minimum pool it's more difficult to catch fish, Bailey said.

See **Fishing** / Page 3A

Haines man to perform during Round Up

PENDLETON — Just as the traditions of Round-Up Week come back around each September, the Pendleton Center for the Arts will again offer top-notch bluegrass, featuring some of the finest musicians in the Northwest.

The EOCenes (formerly Cabbage Hill), featuring Haines musician Duane Boyer, will take the stage on two nights, Thursday, Sept. 12, and Friday, Sept. 13, Roberta Lavadour, the center's executive director stated in a press release. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and show begins at 7 p.m.

The Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main



Submitted photo

Duane Boyer of Haines, second from right, is a member of The EOCenes, a bluegrass band that will perform Thursday and Friday in Pendleton.

St., is located in the heart of downtown Pendleton in the renovated Carnegie Library Building on the Umatilla River. The performance is made possible through the support

of Dr. Cynthia Holmes and is part of the Blue Heron Live Music Series of the Pendleton Center for the Arts, Lavadour said. Tickets are \$12 and available at pendletonarts.org

or by calling 541-278-9201. Early ticket purchases are recommended. More information is available online at pendletonarts.org.

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