

Baker City Herald

May 23, 2020

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Exploring a geocache

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Doris Hutton of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Rotary Club putting up flags for Memorial Day

The Baker City Rotary Club will be placing American flags in front of many businesses and residences for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. You can sign up to be included for future holidays by calling 541-377-5795. Rotarians will be setting out flags along the route of the Baker High School graduation on June 7, as well as on Flag Day, June 14, Independence Day and other federal holidays later in the year.

Baker County Fair Board to meet Wednesday

The Baker County Fair Board will meet Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m. at the Baker Community Events Center, 2600 East St., to discuss plans for the Fair in August. Social distancing will be observed and seating will be limited. The meeting will also be streamed via Zoom. For a link, send an email to mkaseberg@gmail.com

WEATHER

Today
61 / 34

Mostly sunny

Sunday
69 / 42

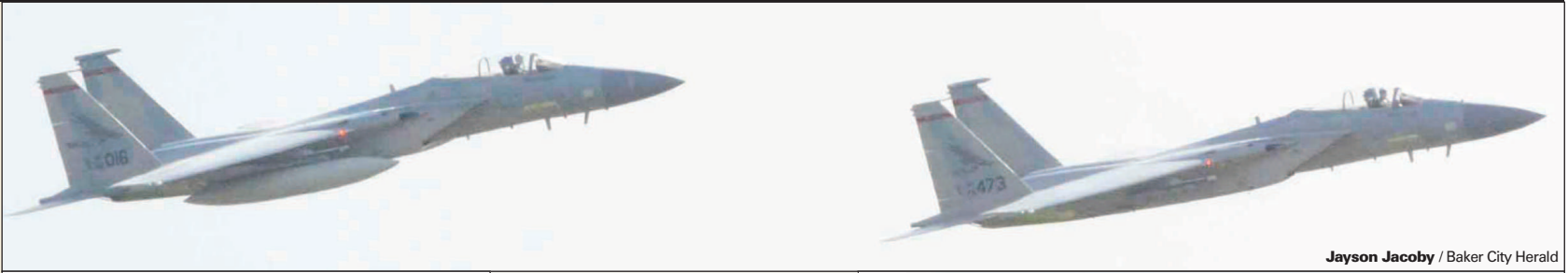
Cloudy

Monday
73 / 46

Afternoon showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.



Jayson Jacoby / Baker City Herald



F-15 Flyover

A pair of F-15 Eagle jets flew over Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City Friday morning to honor health care workers. The aircraft are from the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing based in Portland.



Wednesday Rain Too Little, Too Late To Have Major Benefit For Phillips Reservoir

Failing To Refill



Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

Phillips Reservoir between Baker City and Sumpter is slightly less than half full.

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Jeff Colton was sorry about the rain Wednesday. Sorry that it eventually stopped falling in Baker County.

The rain that sluiced down most of the day — a daily record of 0.54 of an inch fell at the Baker City Airport — didn't cause any flooding here as it did in neighboring counties.

But the storm did give Colton some optimism about this summer's water supply in the midst of a spring that's mainly been disappointing.

"It's been a tough spring," said Colton, who manages the Baker Valley Irrigation District.

Tough, in Colton's view, being a synonym of sorts for "dry."

Every month in 2020 has been drier than average at the airport.

Phillips Reservoir, the Powder River impoundment between Baker City and Sumpter that stores water to irrigate more than 30,000 acres in Baker Valley, reflects the arid trend.

The reservoir is holding about 45% of its capacity.

The biggest problem, Colton said, isn't that there hasn't been enough rain to replenish the reservoir.

Rather, he's had to release more water through Mason Dam than usual to meet irrigation demand.

During a more damp spring, by contrast, Colton can reduce the water flow through the dam to a mere trickle because rain keeps fields and pastures moist and there's no need for supplemental irrigation. That



Jayson Jacoby / Baker City Herald

After rising Wednesday during a prolonged rainstorm, the Powder River through Baker City had receded significantly by Friday.

means most of the snowmelt from the Elkhorn Mountains and other ranges stays in the reservoir — ideally raising its level to full, or nearly so, by late spring.

The more water Colton can store in the reservoir, the more he can dole out to farmers and ranchers through the summer.

See **Irrigation** / Page 3A

Memorial Day event planned at the cemetery

By Jayson Jacoby
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When Jimm Mooney heard there might not be a ceremony in the veterans section at Mount Hope Cemetery on Memorial Day due to the pandemic, his reaction was immediate.

"Something has to happen," said Mooney, senior pastor and founder with Veterans Hope Ministries in Baker City.

And something has.

Or, rather, something will.

Mooney, whose organization is dedicated to helping Baker County veterans and their families, has put together a brief program starting at 11 a.m. Monday at the cemetery.

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Planners approve housing complex

The Baker City Planning Commission on Wednesday approved a proposed 16-unit housing complex with one- and two-bedroom units that the developer plans to rent to people 55 and older.

Planners OK'd The Carriage Homes complex, which would consist of three duplexes, two triplexes and one quadplex on 1.27 acres south of D Street and east of Clark street.

The property is about 2 blocks north of D Street.

David Hays, owner of Big Creek Rentals LLC and Big Creek Builders Inc., applied for approval for the development on behalf of property owner Russ Hume-miller of Meridian, Idaho.

In the application, Hays wrote that the development is intended to "address the rental shortages in Baker City."



TODAY
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