

Baker City Herald

May 28, 2020

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In OREGON, 3A
COVID-19
testing
troubles

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Carolyn Kulog of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — Parents, teachers and school superintendents will find out in early June how schools are expected to function this fall after months of being closed.

Colt Gill, director of the Oregon Department of Education, said in an interview that the state expects school buildings to reopen in September.

BRIEFING

County seeks volunteers for boards and committees

Baker County is seeking volunteers to serve on these boards and committees:

- Baker County Fair Board Advisory Committee
- Transportation/Traffic Safety Commission
- Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Budget Board
- Baker County Transient Lodging Tax Committee

Volunteer forms can be found at www.bakercounty.org/commissioners. More information is available by calling the Commissioners' Office at 541-523-8200 or by emailing hmartin@bakercounty.org

WEATHER

Today
85 / 54

Mostly sunny

Friday
88 / 58

Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Judge stands by ruling

■ Judge Matt Shirtcliff declines to pull his decision that Gov. Kate Brown exceeded her authority with pandemic limits

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County Circuit Court Judge Matt Shirtcliff is sticking with his May 18 opinion that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown exceeded her legal authority in issuing executive orders related to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a letter dated Tuesday, Shirtcliff wrote that "I have elected to stand by my original ruling."

The Oregon Supreme Court had given Shirtcliff a deadline of 5 p.m. Tuesday to respond to the alternative writ of mandamus the Court issued on Saturday.

That legal document asked Shirtcliff to either vacate his May 18 ruling, which temporarily prevented the state from enforcing



Shirtcliff

the governor's executive orders, or to issue a written opinion defending his decision. The Supreme Court issued a stay on May 18, which temporarily put a halt to the preliminary injunction and allowed the state to enforce the governor's executive orders. The state continues to have that authority.

See **Lawsuit** / Page 3A

Organizers Still Hope To Have Miners Jubilee, Bull And Bronc Riding Events



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo-2016

Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, hopes Miners Jubilee will happen this July, including vendors in Geiser-Pollman Park.

Still On Schedule

By Jayson Jacoby
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Shelly Cutler is optimistic that Miners Jubilee — in some form — can happen as planned July 17-19.

And the new organizer of the Baker City Bull and Bronc Riding events, which happen the same July weekend, also hopes to put on the popular rodeo competitions.

But Cutler, who is executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which runs Miners Jubilee, said nothing is definite.

"I think that we can still do something safely," Cutler said Tuesday. "If it's not going to be a safe situation then we don't do it. But I don't want to make that decision in May."

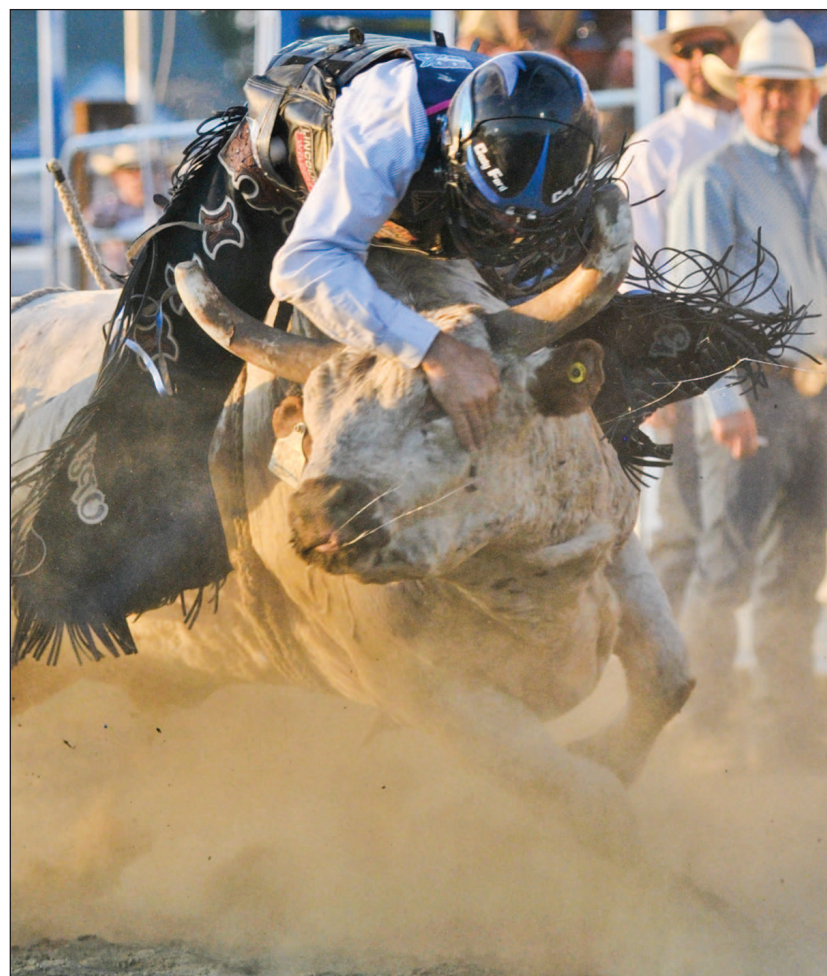
Jason Mattox, who runs the Challenge of Champions, a series of rodeos that announced this winter that it had added the Baker City Bull and Bronc riding events to its slate, said he is waiting to see what the Chamber decides regarding the Jubilee.

Traditionally the bronc riding happens on Friday evening during Jubilee weekend, with the bull riding scheduled for Saturday evening.

"We feed off each other," Mattox said, referring to the Jubilee and the rodeo events. "We're gung ho as long as they're gung ho."

Whether Jubilee can happen, and if so how the festival might be different due to the coronavirus pandemic, depends on the status of state restrictions in July, Cutler said.

Right now, with Baker County still in phase one of the state's reopening



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo-2017

Cody Ford of Hermiston is up against a mean bull during the short round of the Baker City Bull Riding competition in July 2017.

plan, the event couldn't happen.

Public gatherings are still limited to 25 people, a restriction that popular parts of Miners Jubilee, such as vendors in Geiser-Pollman Park and the downtown parade, obviously couldn't meet.

Nor could the bull and bronc riding events comply with those requirements.

Baker County could potentially advance to phase two by June 5.

See **Events** / Page 2A

Council mulls security at park

By Samantha O'Conner
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Baker City Council members on Tuesday discussed installing motion-sensing cameras and lights to discourage vandals who have damaged the Powder River Pavilion in Geiser-Pollman Park.

Marilyn Shollenberger broached the subject with councilors.

She's president of Baker City Events, which puts on the Powder River Music Review and other events at the city's largest park.

Shollenberger told councilors she's concerned about damage to commemorative plaques on the pavilion, and about people riding bicycles and skateboards on the structure, which was dedicated in 2015 after a 9-year fundraising campaign.

See **Pavilion** / Page 6A

Board approves school budget

By Chris Collins
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Once Baker School District Budget Board members got answers to some of their questions about items included or missing from the proposed 2020-21 budget, they approved the plan unanimously Tuesday night.

The Budget Board met via Zoom video session to consider the proposed budget a second time after looking it over during the past week. The Board first met on May 19 to hear the initial presentation of the document.

Superintendent Mark Witty said during Tuesday's session, that the May 20 economic forecast was not as harsh as state agencies had first been told to expect.

See **Budget** / Page 5A



TODAY
Issue 8, 18 pages

Business.....1B & 2B
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