



In **OUTDOORS**, 1B  
Nature's  
resilience  
on display

# Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Diane Wofford of Baker City.

**Oregon, 3A**

Oregon lawmakers will get a new chance to question officials about the much-criticized performance of the Employment Department in handling a record number of claims during the shutdown of business activity in the coronavirus pandemic.

BRIEFING

**Mounted Posse's Youth Trail Ride set June 27-28**

The Baker County Mounted Posse's annual Youth Trail Ride for ages 12 to 15 is scheduled for June 27 and 28.

Billed as a "true wilderness adventure," the event includes horseback riding, camping, good food, fun learning projects, crafts, games, singing and campfires.

The event is sponsored by donations from local businesses and the Mounted Posse. Applications are available at Step Forward Activities, 3720 10th St. in Baker City, or by calling Jodie Radabaugh at 541-524-9358 or Keith Radabaugh at 541-403-0757.

WEATHER

**Today**  
90 / 51



Afternoon storms possible

**Sunday**  
72 / 49



Partly sunny, cooler

**Monday**  
70 / 45



Chance of storms

**Full forecast on the back of the B section.**

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

**Saint Alphonsus Offers Drive-Up Tele-Health Visits**

## Safe Screen Time



Photo from Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City

A nurse helps a patient access a tele-health visit with a health care provider at Saint Alphonsus.

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The era of doctors making house calls is as outdated as black-and-white TV, but these days you can talk with a physician almost as easily as you can grab a burger and fries.

And you can do both things from the driver's seat.

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City has increased its use of "tele-health" during the coronavirus pandemic, said Claudia Weathermon Tester, who works in marketing and communications for the Saint Alphonsus Health System.

That's an internet-based system that allows patients, without leaving home, to meet with their providers via a computer, tablet or smartphone.

But hospital officials understand that not everyone has the technology needed to use the tele-health option, Weathermon Tester said.

So the Baker City hospital, which several weeks ago started a drive-

*"There are patients with pre-existing conditions who due to the pandemic don't want to have to come into a clinic."*

— **Kelly Nork, practice manager and head nurse, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City**

thru system allowing people to be checked for potential COVID-19 symptoms, has expanded the service to include tele-health visits.

Residents can call Saint Alphonsus to schedule an appointment, then drive to the hospital where a nurse with an iPad will set up a tele-health discussion with the patient's provider.

The service, which started about 3 weeks ago, has been well-received, said Kelly Nork, practice manager and head nurse at the hospital.

"It has worked really well," Nork said Thursday.

The drive-thru tele-health visits, in addition to benefiting patients

who lack an internet connection at home, helps the hospital and medical clinics limit the number of patients in their buildings, making it easier to comply with social distancing guidelines, she said.

"There are patients with pre-existing conditions who due to the pandemic don't want to have to come into a clinic," Nork said.

The curbside option has also attracted some parents who don't have child care options, she said. They can bring their kids in the vehicle for a tele-health visit.

Patients can schedule wellness checkups, hospital follow-ups and other types of appointments, Nork said.

And if the health care provider decides it's necessary to do something not possible through the iPad — checking a patient's heart or lungs, for instance — the provider can come outside and do that while the patient remains in the car.

Patients can call 541-524-8000 to schedule a curbside tele-health visit.

ARGUMENTS BEFORE OREGON SUPREME COURT IN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING GOV. KATE BROWN'S RESTRICTIONS

## Brief says judge erred

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Oregon's solicitor general argues in a brief to the state Supreme Court that the Legislature did not intend to limit the duration of an emergency declared by the governor.

Solicitor General Benjamin Gutman asks the state's highest court to order Baker County Circuit Court Judge Matt Shirtcliff to vacate his May 18 decision granting a preliminary injunction to a group of plaintiffs, led by Elkhorn Baptist Church in Baker City, who sued Gov. Kate Brown on May 6, claiming she exceeded her legal authority in issuing executive orders during the coronavirus pandemic.



**Shirtcliff**

See **Lawsuit** / Page 6A

## County applies for phase 2 opening

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker County is proposing that Gov. Kate Brown authorize theaters, bowling alleys and campgrounds to reopen, and allow more customers in restaurants and bars, during the second phase of the economic reopening plan.

Baker County, and potentially many other counties, could start that phase as soon as June 6.

In a proposal to the governor's office, County Commissioner Mark Bennett, the county's incident commander during the coronavirus pandemic, suggests that the governor, rather than have specific limits on the number of business customers or people attending gatherings, instead use the 6-foot social distancing guideline.

The idea, Bennett said Friday morning, is to give counties more flexibility.

See **Phase 2** / Page 6A

## Waging war on noxious weeds

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The thick soles of Jeffrey Pettingill's leather work boots slam down simultaneously on the shovel, driving its blade several inches into the dirt.

He kneels, yanks free a clump of whitetop and gives the blooming weed a couple of brisk shakes to dislodge the soil.

(And, perhaps, to remind the weed who the boss is.)

Pettingill, who started work about a month ago as Baker County's weed control supervisor, points a finger at the tangle of spaghetti-thin roots dangling from the whitetop.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Jeffrey Pettingill sprays herbicide on a patch of whitetop, a noxious weed, at the north end of the Baker County Fairgrounds in Baker City. Pettingill started work as the county's weed control supervisor about a month ago.

See **Weeds** / Page 2A



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**TUESDAY — BAKER CITY STARTS REVIEWING PROPOSED BUDGET**