

Baker City Herald

June 4, 2020

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com



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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscribers Kerry and Ginger Savage of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Rotary Club will place American flags on Main Street to honor BHS graduates

Members of the Baker City Rotary Club will place American flags along Main Street to honor Baker High School graduates as they parade in vehicles after receiving their diplomas at the high school on Sunday afternoon, June 7.

Graduates will gather at the Baker Sports Complex at 2 p.m. Each graduate will ride in a vehicle with immediate family members. They will drive through the bus lane in front of the school, 2500 E St., to receive their diplomas. Graduates will then proceed in vehicles, starting around 3 p.m. Their route will be west on E Street to 10th Street, south on 10th Street to Broadway, east on Broadway to Main, then south on Main Street to Auburn Avenue.

Residents are asked to avoid parking on Main and Broadway streets during the event. Streets will remain open to regular traffic.

"This has been a challenging year for the seniors and we want to celebrate them," Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty said.

WEATHER

Today

74 / 47



Sunny

Friday

84 / 50



Storms possible

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

Plaintiffs respond in suit

In briefs to Oregon Supreme Court, attorneys say governor's COVID-19 restrictions have expired

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed May 6 in Baker County challenging Gov. Kate Brown's executive orders during the coronavirus pandemic reiterated their claims, in separate briefs filed

Tuesday with the Oregon Supreme Court, that the governor's orders have legally expired.

Ray Hacke, an attorney with the Pacific Justice Institute in Salem who represents the plaintiffs, including Elkhorn Baptist Church in Baker City, argues that because

Brown invoked the state's public health emergency law, she is bound by its 28-day limit on such emergencies.

Hacke filed a 29-page brief in response to the brief Oregon Solicitor General Benjamin Gutman filed May 28 on behalf of the governor.

The Supreme Court had set a Tuesday deadline for Hacke and another Salem attorney, Kevin Mannix, who represents a group of intervenor-plaintiffs in the lawsuit, to file briefs in response.

See Lawsuit / Page 3A

Families Adjust To Visitor Restrictions At Care Facilities



Samantha O'Conner / Baker City Herald

Carol Kitch stands outside her mother's window at Memory Lane Homes residential care facility in Baker City. Her mother, Mary Lou Lake, is 92.

Missing The Touch

By Samantha O'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Carol Kitch stands outside Memory Lane Homes, peering into the window of the residential care facility to speak with her mother, Mary Lou Lake.

Kitch, 64, visits Memory Lane in Baker City almost every day to see her 92-year-old mother, who has Alzheimer's disease.

"I just figure even if it's outside the window, if she can see me every day or almost every day, it just keeps the connection," Kitch said.

In common with people across the state and nation, Kitch has had to adjust to restrictions on visits to

care facilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

The mandate is intended to protect residents in those facilities, several of which have been the location of outbreaks.

Kitch said it is difficult not being able to hug or touch her mom. Touching, she said, is an integral part of family and love.

"And so to not be able to touch or hug is hard. Really hard," Kitch said.

Despite the difficulties, Kitch said she rests easy knowing Nicole Howerton, administrator at Memory Lane Homes, and her staff are caring for her mother.

"They really do an excellent job,"

Kitch said.

Mary Lou Lake has lived at Memory Lane since 2019, having moving here from Seattle.

Kitch said she wasn't satisfied with the level of care at a facility in Seattle where her mom had been living.

"We needed to find a place that had a different attitude and so we came here and I found this place and we are just so thrilled," Kitch said. "They have done such a good job with her. They feed them well, they take care of them, they sit and they talk to them, they are really good here. I just can't say enough about them."

See Missing / Page 6A

County expects to start Phase 2

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett is confident that state officials will allow the county to move into the second phase of the state's reopening plan Friday.



Bennett

That would allow theaters and bowling alleys to reopen, and it would also increase the number of people allowed to attend church services to 250 so long as the venue can comply with social distancing.

The current limit is 25 people.

"I don't see any reason we wouldn't be approved," Bennett said Wednesday.

Gov. Kate Brown was scheduled to announce today which counties can move into phase 2.

During a press conference Wednesday morning, Brown specifically mentioned the increase in the number of people allowed to attend church services during phase 2.

Brown said that would "allow more Oregonians in the appropriate counties to participate in a showing of faith with their fellow Oregonians."

Brown said she understands that attending church is "a source of comfort" for many people.

See Phase 2 / Page 5A

Vigil honors George Floyd

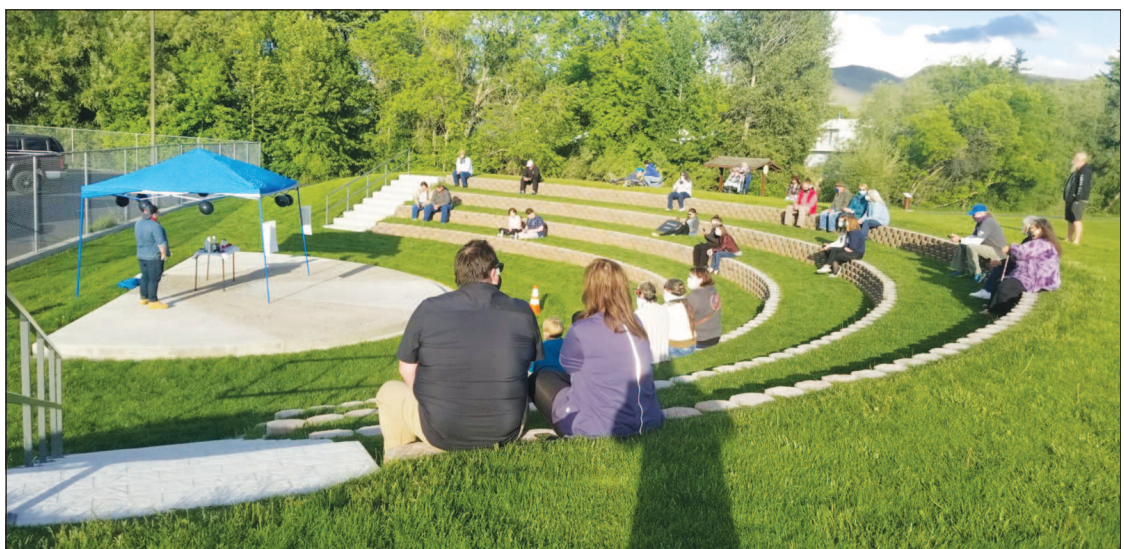
By Sam Anthony
santhony@bakercityherald.com

About 115 people attended a Monday night vigil in Baker City for George Floyd, the man killed by a Minneapolis police officer during a May 25 arrest.

Many of those who attended the peaceful event brought flowers and candles to place on a memorial at Central Park, beside the Powder River between Washington and Valley avenues.

The event was intended to be a peaceful memorial, not a protest, said Boston Colton of Baker City, who organized the vigil.

See Vigil / Page 2A



Sam Anthony / Baker City Herald

Residents gathered at Baker City's Central Park Monday evening for a vigil honoring George Floyd, who was killed May 25 during an arrest by a Minneapolis police officer. About 115 attended the event.



TODAY
Issue 11, 24 pages

Business1B & 2B
Calendar2A
Classified 3B-8B

Comics9B
Community News3A
Crossword6B & 7B

Dear Abby 10B
Horoscope6B & 7B
Lottery Results2A

News of Record2A
Obituaries2A
Opinion4A

Senior Menus2A
Sports6A
Weather 10B

SATURDAY — LATE SNOWSTORM FOILS A PLANNED HIKING TRIP