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Baker City Herald

July 21, 2020

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Local • Home & Living • Sports

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Allison Kuehl of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Musicians to perform at Oregon Trail Interpretive Center this week

Buffalo Bill Boycott and Dr. Jo will be performing music from "Along the Oregon Trail" later this week at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City.

Shows are daily at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, July 22-26, and also at 6 p.m. Saturday as part of the After Hours concert series. The Interpretive Center is just north of Highway 86 about 5 miles east of Baker City.

Bandit weekend on Sumpter Valley Railroad

The Sumpter Valley Railroad's annual Bandit Weekend, when the historic narrow-gauge railroad is held up by horse-riding "bandits," is set for Saturday and Sunday.

Trains will leave the McEwen Depot, just off Highway 7, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on both days. Trains will run at half the normal passenger capacity to ensure social distancing. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$20 for seniors and military members, and \$14 for kids 3-17. Tickets available at sumptervalleyrailroad.org

WEATHER

Today
95 / 55



Sunny
Wednesday
96 / 58



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Baker City's All-Abilities Playground Opens

Playing Together

The playground at Geiser-Pollman Park accommodates all kids



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Harley Spriet, 7, front, enjoys a ride on the zip line at the new all-abilities playground at Geiser-Pollman Park in Baker City. The playground, which has a variety of toys accessible to all children, opened on Friday. Harley gets a push from his sister, Sulea, 9, to start his ride.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Karla Macy was ecstatic to watch her 4-year-old son, Gus, cavort on Baker City's newest playground, but she was perhaps even happier to hear what he said while he played.

Gus repeated it over and over, a simple phrase that could

be the slogan for the nearly 2-year, \$300,000 effort that culminated Friday morning at Geiser-Pollman Park.

"I can do this." By himself. And that's just what Gus did. He was among about a dozen kids who swung and slid and spun on toys designed to accom-

modate all children — including those, like Gus, who use wheelchairs.

Gus, who has spina bi-fida, played in the warm July sunshine while his mom sat nearby and reveled in her boy's newfound independence.

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COUNTY'S COVID COUNT AT 15

2 new cases

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County confirmed two new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the county's total to 15.

See **COVID-19** / Page 5A

Wildfire risk rising

By Jayson Jacoby
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A fire season that's so far been tranquil in Northeastern Oregon could become more boisterous later this week.

The National Weather Service is forecasting the recent run of warm temperature to persist for at least several more days, along with an increasing chance of thunderstorms starting Wednesday.

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Libraries open, with restrictions

The Baker County Library District reopened its buildings on Monday, but with limits on the number of patrons and other restrictions related to COVID-19.

The main library, at 2400 Resort St. in Baker City, will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

The libraries, which had closed on March 18, reopened on June 15 but closed again two days later following the large outbreak in Union County and a significant number of cases in Malheur County.

In a written message on the Library District's website — www.bakerlib.org — Library Director Perry Stokes encouraged patrons to continue to use the drive-thru window option at the Baker City library, or curbside service at libraries in other cities, to pick up reserved items.

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YOGA STUDIO REOPENS AFTER 3 1/2-MONTH CLOSURE DUE TO COVID-19

Striving for peace during a pandemic

By Corey Kirk
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The moment you step into the Mind, Body and Yoga studio, a sense of calmness is in the air. It might be the mural of Mount Fuji on one of the walls or it might be the period of relaxation that awaits.

This has been Baker City resident Mae Corwin's mission — to be able to teach this craft that helped get her through some of the biggest trials of her life.

"I think the main thing you get in my studio is the whole experience, it's the most beautiful, tranquil, peaceful place," Corwin said. "When you walk in that studio, you exhale, and your shoulders drop down."

Mind, Body, Yoga, like so many

businesses, has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Corwin closed her studio on March 15. Over the next 3 months she missed her regular routine with her students.

"I was going down a rabbit hole, I needed a life back," Corwin said. "I needed a schedule."

After months of teaching sporadic Zoom classes, Corwin felt comfortable enough to re-open her doors on June 29.

Corwin has been practicing yoga for many years. Formerly an avid runner, she used yoga to help recover from injuries, but yogo also played a part in helping her maintain sobriety after she struggled with drugs and alcohol.



Corey Kirk / Baker City Herald

Mae Corwin was eager to reopen her Mind, Body and Yoga studio in Baker City after being closed this spring due to COVID-19.

Yoga had had a powerful positive effect on Corwin's life.

"I just found myself more and more drawn to it," she said. "When I was starting my recovery, it was the

most important thing to me. It was the most peaceful part of my day."

Corwin decided to pursue yoga professionally.

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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE