



**GO! Magazine**  
Your guide to arts, entertainment and other events happening around Northeast Oregon

# Baker City Herald

April 22, 2021

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



**INSIDE TODAY**  
24-page section looks at the agriculture industry in Northeast Oregon, with topics including concerns about drought, a budding bison ranch near Baker City, and the outlook for the wheat and potato markets.

**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**  
A special good day to Herald subscriber Jeremy Hindman of Baker City.

**Business, 1B**  
An old-fashioned butcher shop, meat counter and full-service deli opens May 1 in Baker City.  
Elkhorn Custom Meats and Deli is at 2970 H St., just west of 10th Street in a refreshed building that formerly housed a similar type of business.

**BRIEFING**

**Prescription drug return event set for Saturday**  
Residents can drop off expired or unwanted prescription medications for free on Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Baker County Sheriff's Office, 3410 K St. The drive-thru event is part of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
68 / 32  
Mostly sunny

**Friday**  
63 / 40  
Mostly sunny

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

## County risk level to rise

■ From Friday, April 23 through May 6, restaurants, some other businesses limited to 25% of capacity

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com  
After a two-week reprieve, Baker County's recent increase in COVID-19 cases will result in more severe restrictions on some businesses

and events starting Friday, April 23. The county's risk level, under Oregon Health Authority guidelines, will rise from the lowest of the four levels to the second-highest, designated as "high" risk, for the first

time in more than two months. ("Extreme" risk is at the top of that list.) Baker County will remain at the high risk level through at least May 6, Gov. Kate Brown announced on

Tuesday afternoon, April 20. The county has been at either the lowest or the moderate risk level (one level above lowest risk) since Feb. 12.

See **Risk Level** / Page 3A

### Colorful Greeter At Baker Heritage Museum



Lisa Britton / Baker City Herald

Bessie the Bovine, a colorful piece of public art, took up residence recently in front of the Baker Heritage Museum at 2480 Grove St.

## Bovine Welcome to Baker City

**By Lisa Britton**  
lbritton@bakercityherald.com  
Friendship and a public art project are the reasons there's a colorful new bovine in front of the Baker Heritage Museum.

Molly Wilson, who serves on the Baker City Public Arts Commission, is heading a project to place cow sculptures around Baker City. Her friends, Cammy Warner and Diana Brown, knew about the project. On a trip through Central Oregon last year, the trio discovered a large metal cow at an antique shop in Canyon City. Wilson knew it was perfect. All it took was a return trip with a horse trailer, and some hefting, and the blank canvas of a cow came to Baker City.

"I think it catches people's eyes and might draw them in."  
— Cammy Warner, who painted Bessie the Bovine, a metal cow that stands in front of the Baker Heritage Museum

And there it sat for several months, until moving to the garage of Warner, who volunteered to put the artistic touch on the creature. "I knew what I wanted to do. I'd do a little here, a little there," she said. Her husband Fred helped too — he handled the details while she focused on the abstract art aspect. She used bright, metal-specific spray paint to decorate the hide in blocks of color. "He helped and we got it

done," Cammy said. "It was fun."  
The Public Arts Commission wanted the cow placed somewhere along Campbell Street. Warner serves on the Baker County Museum Commission, and the Baker Heritage Museum is located at the corner of Campbell and Grove streets, just east of Geiser-Pollman Park. She talked to other commission members to see if the museum could host the cow. The answer was yes. "I think it catches people's eyes and might draw them in," Warner said. Bessie the Bovine was placed in front of the museum in mid-April.

See **Bessie** / Page 3A

## Fire damages Baker house

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com  
Investigators were focusing on the laundry room as the likely source of a fire that severely damaged a Baker City home Wednesday morning, April 21.

No one was hurt in the blaze that was reported around 7:30 a.m. at 1504 Chestnut St., Baker City Fire Chief Sean Lee said. The single-story home, which is about 900 square feet and was built in 1900, according to Baker County Assessor's Office records, was "fully involved" when the first group of firefighters arrived, Lee said. The property is owned by Herb W. Kemry Jr., according to Assessor's Office records. Lee said he believes Kemry was alone in the home when the fire started. Kemry was able to get out of the house safely with pets that included two dogs and a snake, Lee said. Some firefighters went inside the home but they had to leave when the structure began to collapse, Lee said.

See **Fire** / Page 3A

## Dry spring spell likely ends soon

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com  
Baker County's abnormally long spring dry spell likely will end this weekend. A month has passed with no measurable rain at the Baker City Airport. And the most recent "rainy" day scarcely deserved that adjective, as a meager 0.01 of an inch moistened the rain gauge at the airport on March 22.

That's the smallest volume that qualifies as "measurable" by National Weather Service standards. A trace of rain fell at the airport on two days earlier in April. The persistent weather pattern that has brought mostly clear skies, along with an awful lot of wind, to Baker County since early March will give way this weekend to a more typical — and potentially damp — spring pattern, said Jay Breidenbach, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Boise office, which issues forecasts for Baker County.

See **Rain** / Page 3A

## Downtown cleanup planned

Everyone is invited to help spruce up Baker City's downtown area during the 2nd-annual Spring Clean event on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24. Those interested in helping can meet at 9 a.m. at Court Plaza (Main and Court streets). Chores will include touching up paint, sweeping sidewalks, and sprucing up benches and flower boxes. There will be a contest to see who has the best "before and after" photo. Send photos to witmcknight@gmail.com. Bring gloves and, if you prefer, favorite tools (mostly brooms). Garbage bags will be provided. Flowers and planting soil donations are always appreciated. Any specific questions can be answered by Kate at Royal Artisan: 541-465-4547 or katephill843@gmail.com.



<b>TODAY</b> Issue 147, 46 pages	Business .....1B & 2B Calendar .....2A Classified ..... 3B-6B	Comics .....7B Community News ...3A Crossword .....3B & 6B	Dear Abby .....8B Horoscope .....3B & 6B Lottery Results .....2A	News of Record .....3A Obituaries ..... 2A & 3A Opinion .....4A	Senior Menus .....2A Sports .....5A Weather .....8B
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**SATURDAY — SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY PILGRIMAGE TO THE ELKHORNS**