

# Baker City Herald

April 27, 2021

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In LOCAL, 3A  
Bracing for the campers

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

\$1.50

### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Linda Thomas of Baker City.

#### Oregon, 5A

KLAMATH FALLS (AP)

— A Klamath Falls restaurant landed a hefty fine Friday from state workplace safety officials amid COVID-19 for continuing to offer indoor dining after it was similarly fined last December for the same thing.

Casey's Restaurant was fined \$27,660 by the Oregon Health and Safety Administration for four violations, the agency said.

The restaurant was fined \$8,900 over alleged violations in December. Casey's Restaurant has appealed that fine. Employers have 30 days to appeal citations. It wasn't immediately known if the owners plan to appeal the latest fine.

### BRIEFING

#### Baker City Parks Board meets May 3

Baker City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet on Monday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. Agenda items include the new security cameras in Geiser-Pollman and Central parks, and the ongoing online parks survey, results of which will help the city update its parks master plan. To participate in the survey, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQ2KNDC](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQ2KNDC)

### WEATHER

Today  
63 / 31

Sunny  
Wednesday  
73 / 37   
Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

# County has 'slim' chance to avoid extreme risk level

By Jayson Jacoby  
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Baker County has a "slim" chance to avoid moving into the extreme risk level this Friday, April 30, but County Commissioner Mark Bennett doesn't yet know

how small that opportunity will be.

Gov. Kate Brown announced on April 23 that at least 12 of Oregon's 36 counties, including Baker, could go to extreme risk, which brings the most severe restrictions including a ban on indoor dining

in restaurants and bars, due to a surge in virus cases over the past couple weeks.

Baker County hasn't been in the extreme category since Feb. 4.

In late March the governor said that no county, regardless of its

case counts, would move to the extreme level so long as the statewide total of people being treated in hospitals for COVID-19 didn't exceed 300.



See **Extreme** / Page 2A

Bennett

### County's Drive-Thru Vaccination Clinic Has Meager Turnout



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

County employees and volunteers were ready to inoculate more than 1,100 people against COVID-19 on Saturday, April 24 at the Fairgrounds, but just 62 people showed up for the drive-through clinic.

# Lots of Doses, But Little Interest

By Jayson Jacoby  
[jjacoby@bakercityherald.com](mailto:jjacoby@bakercityherald.com)

A group of Baker County employees and volunteers were prepared to help more than 1,100 people get their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Saturday, April 24 at the Fairgrounds.

The workers ended up spending far more time waiting than they did inoculating.

A total of 62 people showed up for the free, drive-thru vaccination clinic, which was scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., said Mark Bennett, a county commissioner and the county's incident commander during the pandemic.

"It was extremely disappointing," Bennett said on Monday morning, April 26, after the county inoculated just one-half of one percent of the residents who could have received their first of two doses.

Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, said last week that the county had 1,160 doses available for Saturday's clinic, the first drive-thru event of its kind in the county.

See **Vaccinations** / Page 3A

### Comments from people who received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine Saturday

- Jesse Christensen: "I feel all right so far. I needed to get it. I'm going to be going on a vacation soon and I decided, I saw the clinic, and I should probably come down here and get the first shot at least and get on the road to get the second one just so I don't have to worry about that"
- Natalia Turner: "I feel OK. I don't like needles but I'm good. I think that I'll be able to travel more just at ease knowing that I won't get sick from it. Just preventing the spread is a lot better because I think that definitely the pros outweigh the cons; getting the vaccine versus not getting it. I think it's just better for everyone."
- Madi Turner (who was in a car with Natalia): "And she's (Natalia) been staying away from our grandparents just out of a precaution so she's really happy now. She was saying she feels better being around our older family members. And going back to school."
- Mark Smith: "Well, I'm doing it for my daughter, she's hammering on me. I don't really even pay attention to it. I'm not concerned, I've never had the flu or a cold. Basically, yeah, for the daughter. She's worried about me but other than that I'm not concerned one way or the other."
- Nora Badger: "I was nervous and I thought, 'I've got to get in here. Everybody else is doing it, I've got to grow up a little bit.' I just feel guilty; I just keep putting it off then I hear these stories of people that do really get it and I thought I don't want that. So I thought, 'well, I'll just get my butt over here.'"
- Tracie Oliver: "I'm a little nervous. But I'm glad I'm getting it done. I didn't know anything about it, I just was shopping here. I'm from Unity, and just happened to see the sign driving by."
- Rhonda Wickam: "I got a text this morning from somebody saying the clinic was on and I knew about it on Facebook. I just hadn't made up my mind."
- David Kraft: "I'm glad to get it over with. It's been such a nightmare. And these people that don't believe in it. I'm glad I got it done."

— Samantha O'Conner, Baker City Herald

# Council to mull fee hike proposal

The Baker City Council is scheduled to decide Tuesday evening, April 27, whether to approve a resolution raising fees for water and wastewater services.

Both would rise by 1.9%, equivalent to the federal Consumer Price Index increase from February 2020 to February 2021.

The Council will meet at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

If councilors approve the proposed resolution Tuesday, the changes would take effect July 1.

The base water rate for residential customers would rise by 85 cents, from \$45.15 per month to \$46.

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# Storm snaps rainless streak

By Jayson Jacoby  
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Baker County had its first rainy day in more than a month, and its dampest day in more than eight months.

And it all happened on the same weekend.

After an abnormally dry March and April, which put Baker Valley into extreme drought and prompted county commissioners to declare a drought emergency on April 7, the weather pattern finally shifted.

A Pacific storm that arrived Saturday, April 24 brought the first measurable rainfall to the Baker City Airport since March 22.

Saturday's total was 0.19 of an inch.

Sunday was even wetter, with 0.25 splashing into the rain gauge at the airport. That's the most in a single day there since Aug. 18, 2020, when rainfall amounted to 0.29 of an inch.

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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE