

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

Baker City Herald

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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Roger Holden of Baker City.

Oregon, 5A

PORTLAND — Oregon adopted a controversial rule on Tuesday, May 4 that indefinitely extends coronavirus mask and social distancing requirements for all businesses in the state. State officials say the rule, which garnered thousands of public comments, will be in place until it is “no longer necessary to address the effects of the pandemic in the workplace.”

Sports, 6A

ATLANTA — Danilo Gallinari made seven 3-pointers and finished with 28 points, leading the Atlanta Hawks to a 123-114 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in a matchup Monday night of teams battling for playoff positioning in their respective conferences.


BRIEFING


Mckenzie Hall receives John Leonard Memorial Scholarship

The Baker City Lions Club recently announced that Mckenzie Hall is the recipient of the 2021 Lion John Leonard Memorial Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship emphasizes the importance of community service involvement, and the award is granted to a high school graduating senior.

WEATHER

Today
80 / 44 
Sunny

Friday
57 / 31 
Cloudy, cooler

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

Risk level drops Friday

By Jayson Jacoby
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Restaurants and bars in Baker County can resume limited indoor dining on Friday, May 7, as the county drops from extreme to high risk level.

Gov. Kate Brown announced on Tuesday that the 15 counties which have been in extreme risk since April 30, including Baker, will move out of that level, which has the most stringent restrictions on businesses and activities.

The trigger for the change is a 0.1% difference in one key statewide metric — the percentage growth in COVID-19 patients being treated in hospitals statewide.

Last month Brown announced that no county would be at extreme

risk unless there were at least 300 COVID-19 patients in hospitals, and the weekly percentage increase in hospitalizations was 15% or higher.

See Risk Level / Page 2A

Improving Pedestrian, Bicycle Travel Beneath Interstate 84



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Workers are preparing to build sidewalks on the south side of Campbell Street at I-84.

Sidewalk Work Is Underway

By Jayson Jacoby
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Pedestrians and bicyclists will soon have a safer way to get from one side of Interstate 84 to the other at Baker City's busiest freeway interchange.

Crews from Mike Becker General Contracting Inc. in La Grande are preparing to build a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of Campbell Street through the freeway underpass.

The \$690,000 project also will include restriping of Campbell Street to a three-lane configuration that includes a center turn lane and bicycle lanes, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The federal dollars are part of ODOT's Eastern Region Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) program budget.

The project includes work to upgrade curb ramps to ADA-

compliant standards.

The work was prompted in part by business development on the east side of the freeway, including the 2018 opening of the Grocery Outlet store, said Tom Strandberg, an ODOT spokesman in La Grande.

That has increased traffic, both vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle, beneath the freeway.

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Harvey defends his actions

By Samantha O'Conner
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Baker County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey spent several minutes at the end of the Commission's Wednesday, May 5 meeting addressing a series of rumors involving his actions.



Harvey

“Thanks the papers in our local community, I have been the topic of discussion,” Harvey said.

He didn't elaborate.

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County gets \$300,000 for business aid

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County will receive \$300,000 from the state to help restaurants and other businesses harmed by recent COVID-19 restrictions.

County Commissioner Mark Bennett said the money is part of the \$20 million in federal aid that Gov. Kate Brown and the state Legislature negotiated to help businesses affected when 15 counties, including Baker, moved to the extreme risk level on April 30.

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Most virus cases people under 40

By Jayson Jacoby
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A large majority of COVID-19 cases in Baker County over the past two weeks or so were people younger than 40, a significant increase from the rate of cases in that age range earlier this spring.

For the period April 15-30, almost 71% of the county's 78 new cases were people 39 or younger, according to the Baker County Health Department.

See COVID / Page 3A

IT'S WILDFIRE AWARENESS WEEK IN BAKER COUNTY

Wary of wildfires

By Jayson Jacoby
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Wildfire Awareness Week is designed to remind people about the threat of wildfires yet to come, but this year it seemed that the event might be a trifle late in bringing its message in Baker County.

With most of the county in either moderate, severe or extreme drought, and following the second-driest March on record at the Baker City Airport, the fire risk is higher than usual as the annual awareness week began Monday, May 3.

“This spring, fire agencies have already

responded to a variety of preventable fires in Baker County resulting from escaped fires,” said Sean Lee, chief of the Baker County Fire Defense Board as well as the Baker City Fire Department. “It's critical that home and property owners monitor their fires and consider the right time and day to burn.”

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Al Crouch/Submitted Photo, File

The Indian Creek fire burns in Malheur County in August 2020.



TODAY
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SATURDAY — YMCA TO OPEN CHILD CARE CENTER IN SEPTEMBER