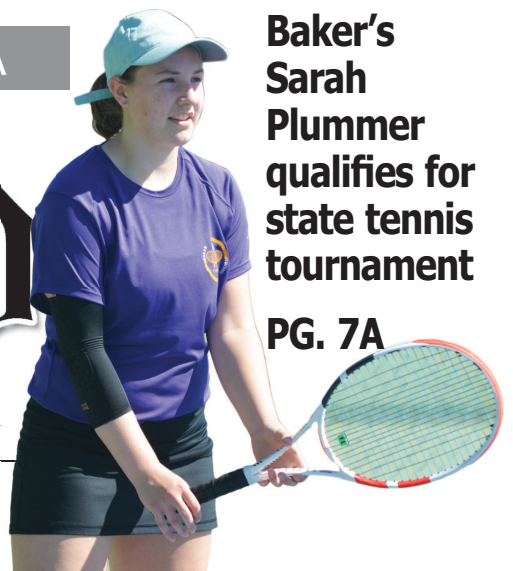


Baker City Herald

May 15, 2021

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com



Baker's Sarah Plummer qualifies for state tennis tournament
PG. 7A

IN THIS EDITION:

Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Aletha Bonebrake of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

PORTLAND (AP) — A judge has ruled that one of two Oregon brothers accused in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol will be released from custody Friday to a third-party guardian, where he will be on home detention and GPS monitoring pending his trial.

U.S. District Judge Randolph D. Moss, of the District of Columbia, on Thursday granted Matthew Klein's pretrial release to a Baker County couple after refusing to allow him to stay with his parents.

BRIEFING

Baker County Garden Club to meet May 19

The Baker County Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Eagle Cap Nursery near Keating. Please bring a sack lunch and a chair.

Friends of Baker Heritage Museum meeting May 21

Friends of Baker Heritage Museum will meet Friday, May 21 at 4 p.m. at the Museum, 2480 Grove St.

WEATHER

Today
77 / 39

Mostly sunny

Sunday
82 / 42

Mostly sunny

Monday
83 / 44

Mostly sunny

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

County Clerk Certifies New System For Tallying Ballots

Counting Ballots



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Baker County Clerk Stefanie Kirby conducted a public certification of the county's new ballot tallying system on Tuesday, May 12 at the Courthouse.

By Samantha O'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

The Baker County Clerk's office has conducted the public certification on its new ballot tallying system in time for the May 18 election.

County Clerk Stefanie Kirby explained how the machine works, and how she and the county's election board count votes, on Tuesday afternoon, May 12.

During Tuesday's demonstration at the Courthouse, Kirby used test ballots for each of Baker County's 17 precincts to show how the machine separates the ballots onto three shelves:

- ballots that have no write-in votes.

- ballots that include write-in votes.
- ballots that the machine didn't process and that need to be examined for possible mistakes, if any, before they're tallied.

Once all the ballots were processed, Kirby printed a report that showed the total number of votes for each candidate and measure in the test.

The participants in the certification election board checked for ballots that had been overvoted — the voter picked more than one candidate, and for undervotes, when the voter doesn't choose any candidate in a race.

Election board members

separate tallied ballots by precinct, and use the precinct results report to double-check the machine's tallies.

The new machine — Elections Systems and Software's DS450 — tallies ballots faster than the county's previous machine, also made by that company.

"Part of the reason why I chose the DS450 is because it's the same company that provided the ES&S 650," Kirby said. "So it's continuity, it's the same company, it's pretty much the same tallying concept. It's updated technology and software, basically, from what we had."

See **Ballots**/Page 2A

Visitor center debate resumes

■ County commissioners might extend current contract beyond August

By Samantha O'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Baker County's often-delayed plan to award a new contract for operating a visitor center in Baker City could be extended again, this time to March 2022.

That would be more than two years after county commissioners were originally slated to award the contract.

The current contract, for about \$77,000 per year, is with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which operates the visitor center at 490 Campbell St., near Interstate 84. The money comes from the local tax that guests pay at motels, bed and breakfasts, vacation rental homes and other types of lodging.

In December 2019, the county received two proposals for visitor services, from the Chamber and from the nonprofit that owns Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

In February 2020 commissioners postponed awarding the contract. In November 2020 commissioners decided to restart the process, after the county's attorney determined there were potential conflicts of interest.

See **Contract**/Page 5A

Baker schools will require masks rest of school year

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Although both federal and state officials have said fully vaccinated people needn't wear masks or socially distance in most situations, Oregon schools will continue to require students, staff and visitors to follow those guidelines for the few remaining weeks in the school year.

See **Schools**/Page 8A

Tackling the trail troubles

■ The Trailhead in Baker City hires seasonal employee to work on trails in the Elkhorns, southern Wallawas

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Peter Johnson had something of an epiphany about hiking trails when the trail his boots had recently been treading on seemed to up and disappear.

He certainly couldn't find it, in any case.

That frustrating day a few years ago on the Cunningham Cove trail — and off it — helped to inspire what today is the Trailhead Stewardship Project.

See **Trails**/Page 3A



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald, File, 2020

Dead trees, killed in the 1996 Sloans Ridge fire, litter the Peavy trail in the Elkhorn Mountains. A new partnership is designed to improve trail conditions in the range.



TODAY
Issue 2, 14 pages

Classified.....2B-4B
Comics.....5B
Community News....3A

Crossword.....2B & 4B
Dear Abby.....6B
Horoscope.....2B & 4B

Jayson Jacoby.....4A
News of Record.....2A
Obituaries.....2A

Opinion.....4A
Outdoors.....1B & 6B
Sports.....7A & 8A

Senior Menus.....2A
Turning Backs.....2A
Weather.....6B

TUESDAY — BIOLOGY STUDENTS PLANT TREES, HUNT FOR MORELS