

Baker City Herald

June 12, 2021

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Patti Hall of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Keegan Masterson wins scholarship

Keegan Masterson, a 2020 Baker High School graduate, received a \$7,000 Oregon State chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood Cotter College scholarship. Keegan was nominated by the Baker City P.E.O. Chapter C.J. She is a freshman at Cotter College in Missouri, where she is pursuing a career in diplomacy and considering attending law school.

WEATHER

Today
78 / 52
Mostly sunny

Sunday
89 / 53
Mostly sunny

Monday
88 / 52
Mostly sunny

Corrections: A story in the Thursday, June 10 issue identified Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative employees Mark Dyer and Myles Schwebke as linemen. Both are metermen.

A caption for a photo on Page 6A showing BHS basketball player Gabe Gambleton listed his first name as Grant, who is Gabe's younger brother.

Clarification: A story in Thursday's issue about the Baker City Council didn't make clear that councilors have not decided whether to ask voters if they support the city pursuing a "quiet zone" for freight trains in the city.

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

Baker City's First Lutheran Church Founded 100 Years Ago

Church Celebrates Its First Century



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

A total of 1,200 white paper doves decorate the interior of First Lutheran Church in Baker City. Each dove represents a person who was baptized at the church since it opened in 1921.

Lisa Britton, Baker City Herald

Judy Chinn smiles as she looks at the white paper doves — 1,200 in all — streaming down the walls of the sanctuary.

"I thought it was just so beautiful," Chinn, 83, says of when she first saw the decorations in place. "Each one of these doves represents a soul."

The doves, each labeled with a name and date, signify every person baptized at First Lutheran Church in Baker City since 1921.

The church, 1734 Third St., celebrates its 100th year with an anniversary divine liturgy on Sunday, June 13, at 10 a.m. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall, where visitors can see historical documents and photos on display.

More summer events include:

- Ice Cream Social, 5 p.m. July 10, at First Lutheran Church
- Service at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 11 a.m. July 11
- Annual worship and picnic in Geiser-Pollman Park, 10 a.m. Aug. 22

Updates will be posted on the church's Facebook page.

First Lutheran Church in Baker City was organized and incorporated in 1921. It was built on the corner of Third Street and Valley Avenue.

Prior to the building construction, the congregation met in the basement of the Carnegie Library.

Sig Siefkes, 92, remembers the original church. His father, Siegfried Siefkes, was pastor at First Lutheran from 1936 to 1943.

"We drove out here from Rocky Ridge, Ohio," Sig said. "When Dad was installed, there were 19 people

in the building. When he left seven years later, there were 250 people."

Sig well remembers the growing church.

"Dad had confirmation classes that were huge, and we had Sunday school classes all over the place, there were so many kids," he said. "He had an amazing ministry here."

Soon after arriving, Pastor Siefkes orchestrated the purchase of a Kimball pipe organ.

A shipping delay caused a bit of panic in the congregation.

"It came the Saturday before it was to be dedicated," Sig said.

See **Church** / Page 5A

State board hears Harvey's case

By Jayson Jacoby
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The Oregon Government Ethics Commission voted unanimously Friday, June 11 to make a preliminary finding that Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, violated state ethics laws last year.



Harvey

A member of the Ethics Commission, Sean O'Day, told Harvey, who participated in the meeting by phone, as did Ethics Commission members, that he hopes the Commission will "emphasize education" rather than taking punitive action against Harvey.

"I have a great appreciation for rural Oregon, and the job of a county commissioner is a difficult one," O'Day said. "You're out there hauling equipment and taking care of the county's business as well."

See **Harvey** / Page 2A

Woman accused of assault

By Jayson Jacoby
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A Baker City woman is accused of throwing broken glass at Baker City Police officers, kicking two of them, and assaulting a corrections deputy during her arrest on domestic assault charges Wednesday afternoon, June 9.



Brinton

Valerie Jean Brinton, 53, was arrested and taken to the Baker County Jail.

See **Arrest** / Page 3A

High-level position

Forest Service officials have had to scramble to find a fire lookout to work this summer on Mount Ireland

By Jayson Jacoby
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Joel McCraw needed to find someone willing to spend the summer atop a mountain that has a three-state view but is far out of sight of any coffee shop or grocery store.

His task wasn't as daunting as it might sound, thanks in part to Facebook.

The job is fire lookout on Mount Ireland. The 8,346-foot peak is the apex of a granitic shoulder that extends several miles west from the spine of

the Elkhorn Mountains and forms the divide between the Powder River and North Fork John Day River basins as well as the boundary between Baker and Grant counties.

Mount Ireland is one of more than a dozen prominences in Northeastern Oregon where the traditional method of finding wildfires — a person working inside a tiny building on a high point, looking for the telltale tendrils of smoke — persists.

See **Lookout** / Page 3A



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest/Contributed Photo

The fire lookout on the summit of Mount Ireland, 8,346 feet, is staffed each summer. The lookout has a view that extends over parts of three national forests — Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur. The metal building replaced a wooden structure in 1957.



TODAY
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TUESDAY — BAKER SENIOR CENTER OFFICIALS EAGER TO REOPEN