

Baker City Herald

June 22, 2021

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In SPORTS, 6A
BHS girls hoops finale

IN THIS EDITION:

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\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Michele Edwards of Baker City.

Sports, 6A

Not even a brief power outage at the Sam-O-Swim Center could stop the Baker Bulldogs from having a strong outing as they played host to the district swim meet on Saturday, June 19.

BRIEFING

P.E.O. Sisterhood awards four scholarships

Chapter AX of the P.E.O. Sisterhood in Baker City awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to four local women this year.

Sydney Keller, a 2021 Baker High School graduate, received the \$1,000 Mildred Rogers Scholarship, and Keanna Bingham, a 2021 graduate of Powder Valley High School, received the \$1,000 Gertrude Fortner/Rose Haskell Scholarship.

Chapter AX's Pat Fessel Scholarship is given to Baker County high school graduates who have completed at least two years at an accredited college or university. This year's recipients are Emily Black and Jayme Ramos. Each received \$1,000.

Chapter AX is the oldest P.E.O. chapter in Baker County, having been established in 1932.

WEATHER

Today
87 / 53



Mostly sunny

Wednesday
92 / 53



Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Jackie And Virgil Borger Of Baker Valley Were Married On June 23, 1946

75 Years Together



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

Virgil and Jackie Borger will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, June 23.

Joanna Mann, Baker City Herald

Jackie and Virgil Borger will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, June 23.

When the couple, who live in Baker Valley near Haines, were married, World War II had ended less than a year ago.

Harry S. Truman was president.

To celebrate three-quarters of a century together, Jackie, 94, and Virgil, 96, were joined this past weekend at their home by their two daughters, five grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"We have boneless pork ribs every year, and so the whole family looks forward to that," Virgil said. "And then we make umpteen dozen chocolate chip cookies."

Virgil's mother came up with the cookie recipe more than 100 years ago. For their 70th anniversary, the couple baked 35 dozen cookies, which were gone in five days.

The Borgers' family visits nearly

every July. The kids love to attend the Fourth of July parade in Haines, and several family members have birthdays during that month. Jackie and Virgil have a decoration in their home that helps them keep track of all the birthdays and anniversaries in the family.

"If we live to 120, we could have six generations," Virgil joked in an interview at the couple's home on June 17.

Not quite high school sweethearts

Jackie and Virgil met in study hall at Jordan High School in Long Beach, California.

But they didn't get together until

a couple of years later when Virgil returned home on "survivor's leave" from his service in the Philippines.

Jackie stood him up on the first date, but ended up falling for him a short while later. The Borgers were married on June 23, 1946, at a Methodist church in Long Beach.

Jackie and Virgil have traveled to the British Isles, Italy, Brazil and Hawaii, which is where Jackie was born. Virgil promised her on their wedding day that if she stayed with him for 25 years, he would take her back to Hawaii. She took him up on the offer.

See 75 Years/Page 2A

City has chlorine on hand

City doesn't get chlorine, which disinfects water, from a plant that's temporarily closed

By Samantha O'Conner
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A West Coast shortage of chlorine, which is used to disinfect drinking water, is not having a direct effect on Baker City for now.

The issue stems from a recent electrical failure at the Westlake Chemical plant in Longview, Washington, which supplies chlorine to parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California. The plant is expected to be out of service at least through the end of June, according to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Baker City obtains its chlorine from a plant in Salt Lake City, although the Westlake Chemical closure will have ripple effects on chlorine supplies across the region, said Michelle Owen, the city's public works director.

See Chlorine/Page 3A

Unlicensed contractor charged with theft

A Baker City man is accused of collecting money from clients for construction projects that he failed to start or finish.



Hackett

Kenneth Edward Hackett, 51, of 2755 Eighth St., was arrested at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 19 in Baker City on two counts of aggravated theft and one count of first-degree theft.

See Charged/Page 3A

Better news for bighorn sheep

More than 100 sheep died in Baker County in 2020 from pneumonia, but this year's lamb crop looks healthier

By Jayson Jacoby
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A bacterial infection that has killed more than 100 bighorn sheep in Baker County's biggest herd over the past year and a half, including the entire 2020 crop of lambs, might be waning.

The next several months will be crucial, but Brian Ratliff, the state wildlife biologist who has been monitoring the Lookout Mountain bighorn herd in the county's eastern edge, said there's reason for optimism.

See Bighorns/Page 3A



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

A group of bighorn rams photographed on June 20, 2020, in the Lookout Mountain unit in eastern Baker County.



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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE