# Baker City Herald

June 26, 2021

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In OUTDOORS, B1 Climbing Elkhorn Peak

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**QUICK HITS** 

#### **Good Day Wish** To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Nelson Clarke of Baker City.

**BRIEFING** 

#### City cutting back on irrigation

Baker City is starting Stage 1 of its four-stage water curtailment plan on Monday, June 28 in response to rising water use. The city has measured peak hourly demand at a rate equivalent to 8 million gallons used per day. Typical summer daily usage is about 4.5 million gallons.

Under Stage 1, the city reduces water use at city parks, Mount Hope Cemetery and Quail Ridge Golf Course to 70% of normal. There are no mandatory restrictions on residents, but the city recommends these water-saving tips:

- •Water lawns in the evening, when evaporation rates are lower.
- Run only full loads in
- dishwasher and laundry •Turn off water while brushing your teeth

#### **Baker County Garden Club** to meet June 30

The Baker County Garden Club will meet June 30 at 10:30 a.m. for a brunch and meeting at the Loennig home, 1638 Broadway St. in Baker City. It will be hot, so wear your garden hat.

WEATHER

**Today** 

94 / 56

Sunny

Sunny

**Sunday** 97/60

Monday

100 / 63 Sunny



# Record heat coming

**By Jayson Jacoby** jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

A heatwave that's underway this weekend and will extend well into next week could break multiple temperature records in Baker City, including one that's stood for more than half a century.

The intrusion of scorching air from the desert Southwest might also make this June the hottest on record here.

Based on forecasts from the National Weather Service, the hot spell is likely to break daily high temperature records on at least four consecutive days, starting Monday, June 28. Sunday's record is in jeopardy as

well. Here are the daily records from June 27 through July 1, and the

forecast highs at the airport: • June 27 — record high, 99 (2015), forecast high, 98

- June 28 record high, 99 (2015), forecast high, 100
- June 29 record high, 98 (1976), forecast high, 104
- June 30 record high, 95 (2008), forecast high, 104
- July 1 record high, 97 (2013), forecast high, 102

But this heatwave isn't threatening daily records only.

See **Heat**/Page A2

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 28**

Forecast high: 100 (Record: 99, in 2015)

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 29**

Forecast high: 104 (Record: 98, in 1976)

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30**

Forecast high: 104 (Record: 98, in 1976)

#### **THURSDAY, JULY 1**

Forecast high: 102 (Record: 97, in 2013)

#### **Rash Of Vandalism Prompts City To Limit Hours For Park Restrooms**



Restrooms at Central Park (above) and at Geiser-Pollman Park are open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., a shorter period than in the past due to a recent rash of vandalism. Restrooms were closed from June 11-22.

# Park Problems

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Joyce Bornstedt's capacity to be shocked by what people will do to restrooms in Baker City's two biggest

parks is pretty much exhausted. So is her patience.

"At this point, nothing surprises me," said Bornstedt, the city's technical administrative supervisor, a title that includes overseeing city parks.

A rash of vandalism, including graffiti and in one case a person who

pried open a locked door, as well as other incidents at restrooms in Geiser-Pollman and Central parks, prompted Bornstedt to close restrooms in both parks on June 11.

She said the city reopened restrooms in both parks on Wednesday, June 23, but with limited hours. Restrooms will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We're going to try that for a while," Bornstedt said.

See Restrooms/Page A3



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Sign on the restroom at Baker City's Central Park.

### **Baker all-stars win district title**

**By Jayson Jacoby** jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Thunder, lightning, hail, rain and three delays couldn't stop the Baker all-stars from winning the District 3 championship.

But the stroke of midnight almost did, at least temporarily.

In the end, though, the team won the title in the 9-11-year-old division Wednesday night, June 23 at Wade Williams Field in Baker City.

Baker advances to the state tournament, which starts July 17 at Scappoose, ment. northwest of Portland.

guys," said Brandon Briels, manager of the districtwinning all-star squad.

Baker advanced to the championship round by winning three straight games earlier in the tourna-

Baker beat Union County

"I'm really proud of these 17-4 on June 19, routed La Grande 20-1 on June 20, then topped Hermiston 16-6 on June 21.

Pilot Rock, meanwhile, beat Hermiston 19-5 on Tuesday, June 22 to advance to the championship round.

See Champions/Page A5

## fines city City appealing

\$8,924 fine for allegedly failing to monitor wastewater

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued Baker City a fine of \$8,924 for failing to properly monitor various elements of the wastewater at the city's treatment facility about a mile north of town.

The city has appealed the fine, and a phone hearing on the matter is set for July 7, said Michelle Owen, the city's public works director. The city does not have to

pay any fine while the appeal is pending.

See Appeal/Page A3

# **OTEC** says outages possible if wildfire risk gets severe

By Samantha O'Conner soconner@bakercityherald.com Oregon Trail Electric

Cooperative wants its members to know that there is a potential that the cooperative will temporarily cut power this summer to reduce the risk of power lines sparking wildfires. The Baker City-based

cooperative urges members to prepare for that possibility.

See Power/Page A3

### From the ice to the sky

Wynnae Dyess, formerly a competitive ice-skater, now teaches people how to fly at the Baker City Airport

By Joanna Mann jmann@bakercityherald.com

Wynnae Dyess feels the most free in flight.

The 28-year-old flight instructor, who works for Baker Aircraft, the fixed base operator at the Baker City Airport, earned her pilot's license in Driggs, Idaho, when she was just 17.

Originally from Jackson, Wyoming, Dyess lived in Idaho and at Mesa,

Arizona, before moving to Baker City in

June 2020.

"Going into school, I thought I was probably going to be an airline pilot," Dyess said. "But now coming here to Baker, I've realized I really liked the small airplane general aviation stuff and the more personal connections I make.'

See Flight/Page A2



Wynnae Dyess is a flight instructor for Baker Aircraft.





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