



In SPORTS, A8
Baker swimmers at state

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Steve Bachman of Baker City.

Local, A2

The Baker 5J School Board has appointed an 11-member committee to oversee the district's use of a \$4 million property tax bond measure that district voters approved in the May 18 special election.

It was the first time voters had approved such a measure since 1948.

BRIEFING

City cutting back on irrigation

Baker City started Stage 1 of its four-stage water curtailment plan on Monday, June 28 in response to rising water use amid the heatwave. 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

WEATHER

Today
102 / 58

Sunny

Wednesday
101 / 61

Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Examining The Effects Of April Prescribed Fires Near Phillips Reservoir

Black, Red, Green

■ Forest Service officials say they're pleased with the results from the fires, despite conspicuous scorched trees visible from Highway 7



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Kendall Cikanek, ranger for the Willowa-Whitman National Forest's Whitman District, looks at willow sprouts growing from the charred limbs of a willow tree burned during a prescribed fire on the north side of Phillips Reservoir in mid-April. Cikanek, who visited the site on June 22, said he's pleased with the results of the fire, which is intended to reduce the risk of wildfire.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Trevor Lewis is standing beside the black skeleton of what used to be a willow tree, and he knows how it looks.

It looks bad. Dead.

For drivers whizzing past at 55 mph on Highway 7, just a few hundred feet north of where Lewis stands beside Deer Creek, the charred limbs of the creekside willows, and the rusty orange needles of some nearby ponderosa pines, are conspicuous.

But it's a different color that draws Lewis' eyes, and those of his companions and fellow U.S. Forest Service employees — Kendall Cikanek, Steve Hawkins and Keith Dunn — on the hot afternoon of June 22.

Green.

That shade is widespread in this meadow between the highway and Phillips Reservoir; the latter scarcely visible, so shrunk-en it is by severe drought.

See Fire/Page A3



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Forest Service officials say trees like this one near Phillips Reservoir likely will survive despite having needles low in its crown reddened by radiant heat during a prescribed fire.

Focus on fire safety

■ Property owners along East Eagle Creek form a 'Firewise Community,' the second in Baker County

By Joanna Mann
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With fire season arriving early due to drought and a record-setting heatwave, some Baker County property owners are working with their neighbors to reduce the wildfire risk on their properties.

One group has taken the extra steps of achieving Firewise Community status through the National Fire Protection Association.

Property owners in the East Eagle Creek area, in the densely forested Willowa Mountains about 18 air miles north of Richland, have created a Firewise Community. Known as Eagleton, it's the second such designation in Baker County.

See Firewise/A5

Driver arrested after nearly crashing into multiple cars

A California man who nearly crashed into multiple vehicles while driving erratically in Baker City on Saturday afternoon, June 26, resisted arrest after he pulled into a parking lot following a brief chase.

Matthew David Post, 30, of Berkeley, was taken to the Baker County Jail a little after 5 p.m.

Baker County Dispatch received a report of a vehicle driving erratically on Campbell Street, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Talon Colton saw the 2005 black Acura sedan driving north on 10th Street, pulled behind the car and turned on his emergency lights.

Post, who was driving, changed lanes multiple times then pulled over on 10th Street. When Colton stopped his patrol car, Post drove away, continuing north on 10th Street. He turned east onto Hughes Lane, then pulled into the parking lot for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Forestry office at 2895 Hughes Lane. According to the press release, Post "appeared agitated and refused to exit the vehicle."

See Arrest/A2

BLM enacting fire restrictions

The Bureau of Land Management's Vale District is enacting more stringent fire season restrictions, including a ban on campfires, starting Thursday, July 1.

Cross-country travel with motor vehicles, including ATVs, will also be prohibited; vehicles must be on roads clear of vegetation.

See Restrictions/Page A6



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TODAY
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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE