

Baker City Herald

July 3, 2021

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com



IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Neil Carroll of Baker City.

Local, 3A

The Baker and Haines United Methodist churches have resumed in-person worship services after a 16-month closure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual worship services will continue, according to a press release from the churches.

BRIEFING

God and Country service Sunday in Geiser-Pollman

The 28th-annual Baker County God and Country service is set for Sunday, July 4 at 10 a.m. in Geiser-Pollman Park. Everyone is invited. Pastor Garth Johnson of Agape Church will be the special guest preacher. Liberty Quartet will lead the worship.

Baker County Garden Club to visit lavender farm

The Baker County Garden Club will meet July 7 at Curtis Lavender Farm, 44368 Pocahontas Road. Everyone is welcome to meet at 10 a.m. at Ace Nursery to carpool to the farm. Bring a sack lunch and chair. Some shade will be provided.

WEATHER

Today
97 / 54
Sunny

Sunday
94 / 52
Sunny

Monday
97 / 53
Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Fireworks Shortage Affecting Selection At Local Stands

Not Such A Big Bang



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

A nationwide shortage of fireworks has had an effect on the selection at Baker City stands.

By Joanna Mann

jmann@bakercityherald.com

The Fourth of July is right around the corner, and fireworks are harder to come by than usual. A nationwide shortage of fireworks has affected stands across the country, including in Baker City.

Kristin Neff, who runs a firework stand on Campbell Street, said she received about 60% of the fireworks she usually gets each year.

"This year when the boxes got here, I was like, 'Are you kidding me?'" Neff said. "What do you mean, you don't have colored smoke balls?"

Each year, she puts in the order for the next year on July 5, only one day after the big day. The order is a seven-page list of everything she needs, plus whatever her supplier recommends based on her previous sales.

Neff said fireworks that crackle are usually her best sellers, and she's already had to make multiple reorders for those. The crackling type comes from China, where there's been a significant shipping delay due to a shortage of long-shoremen and truck drivers.

"We're lucky that we got anything that crackles," Neff said.

Her stand is a fundraiser for the



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

Some items are well-stocked at a Baker City fireworks stand.

Apostolic Lighthouse Church of Baker City, where her husband, Nathan Neff, is the pastor. This year, she said, people have been nervous that they might not be able to set the fireworks off at all due to extreme heat and the risk the explosives pose to wildfires.

"I just think the heat has made people nervous," Neff said. "It's kind

of a lucky shot."

Matt Diaz, who runs the firework stand in the Safeway parking lot, said he actually has about twice as much product as usual because he received all the fireworks that usually are sold from a stand in Ontario, which is not operating this year.

See **Fireworks** / Page A3

Crews keep fires small

Lightning has started at least two dozen blazes this week in NE Oregon, but most have burned less than one acre

By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Lightning has sparked more than 20 wildfires in Northeastern Oregon this week, but crews, with an assist from rain showers, have quickly corralled most of the blazes before they burned more than one acre.

A series of storms spawned dozens of lightning strikes across the region the afternoons and evenings of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Fortunately those cells dropped rain along with the lightning bolts, said Jerry Garrett, assistant manager at the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center at the La Grande/Union County Airport.

Most of the new fires started in the mountains, where lingering moisture from the winter snowpack has kept the fire danger from reaching the extreme levels at lower elevations, Garrett said.

"They're not seeing extreme fire behavior by any means," he said. "It's still early in the season and the fuels are not quite cured out."

Much of the lightning on Wednesday afternoon and evening struck in the northern part of the Elkhorn Mountains west into the North Fork John Day River region.

See **Fires** / Page A6

Sweet Wife Baking Prepares To Open In Its New Main Street Location

A fresh start

The bake shop is in the historic Lynndale Building at 2028 Main St.

By Lisa Britton

lbritton@bakercityherald.com

After nearly two months, Sweet Wife Baking will again satisfy local cravings for sweet rolls, cookies, coffee, savory sandwiches and more.

The bake shop opens July 8 in its new location, 2028 Main St.

Owners Jenny Mowe and Loran Joseph said the bakery will be open Thursday through Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Going forward, they plan to be open for the First Friday art walk and display work by a featured artist.

The new location is in the historic Lynndale Building, built in 1890.

See **Sweet Wife** / Page A6



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Jenny Mowe and her husband, Loran Joseph, will reopen their business, Sweet Wife Baking, in its new Main Street location on July 8.



TODAY

Issue 23, 12 pages

Classified..... B2-B4
Comics..... B5
Community News.... A3

Crossword.....B3 & B4
Dear Abby..... B6
Horoscope.....B2 & B4

Jayson Jacoby.....A4
News of Record.....A2
Obituaries.....A2

Opinion.....A4
Outdoors...B1 & B2, B6
Senior Menus.....A2

Sports.....A6
Turning Backs.....A2
Weather..... B6

TUESDAY — CHURCHILL SCHOOL GETS GRANT TO REPAIR WINDOWS