



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The rebuilt bar at SweetWife Baking was the “swan song” for Randy Joseph, whose son, Loran, is co-owner of the bake shop. Randy Joseph died suddenly on May 27, 2020, at age 69.

SWEET WIFE

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The building most recently housed Stockman's Bar.

The Joseph family bought the building in August 2019 with plans to renovate it for the bake shop's new home.

“We'd talked about expanding,” Jenny said.

Loran and his father, Randy Joseph, tackled the renovation. They stripped the walls to the original brick, shored up the structural supports, and removed the false ceiling.

“We completely gutted it,” Jenny said.

The back bar was intact, but only pieces of the actual bar remained in the building.

“We had four legs and two panels,” Loran said.

Randy designed and built the bar, and had a hand in most of the other improvements.

“He did all of the design,” Loran said.

But Randy won't be there for the reopening.

He passed away suddenly on May 27, 2020. He was 69.

“This was his swan song,” Loran said of the bar, inlaid with strips of wood in a chevron pattern requested by Jenny.

After Randy's death, Loran built the front counter to match the bar design.

Although adding cocktails and dinner are a future endeavor, for now patrons can sit at the bar to eat their



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Kayla Keith makes a selection from the wall of tools in SweetWife Baking's new location on Main Street.

Sweet Wife treats.

The new space has increased seating both inside and outside. Customers can enter either from Main Street or through the back door on Resort Street.

“I want someplace for the community to come. I've always wanted that,” Jenny said.

The shop's work space is outfitted with a wall full of

bakery tools, a new oven, a walk-in freezer and a 60-quart mixer.

Jenny started Sweet Wife in January of 2011, and started offering retail sales in August 2015 in its Resort Street location.

To stay updated on Sweet Wife Baking, follow the shop on Facebook and Instagram or check the website at www.sweetwifebaking.com.



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The new location of SweetWife Baking has increased seating, both inside and outside. Starting July 8, the shop will be open Thursday through Sunday.

FIRES

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The biggest fire burned three acres near the upper Grande Ronde River. The fire, along Clear Creek near Camp Carson south of Starkey, had not been confirmed as a lightning fire as of press time.

The fire was reported at 6:35 a.m. on Thursday, July 1. It burned in grass, timber and slash.

Other blazes, confirmed as lightning-sparked, were reported in that area on Thursday morning.

• Forest Road 73, Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway, about 15 miles west of Haines and southwest of Anthony Lakes, reported at 6:39 a.m. The fire burned one-third of an acre in dead and down timber.

The fire was contained at

12:08 p.m. on Thursday.

• Big Four Mine, Umatilla National Forest about 25 miles west of Haines, reported at 9:06 a.m. The fire burned about .15 of an acre in young timber, and was contained at 6 a.m. on Friday, July 2.

• Meadowbrook Creek, 11 miles southeast of Starkey, 9:36 a.m. Thursday. The fire burned one-tenth of an acre and was contained at 2:03 p.m. on Thursday.

• Crane Creek area, about four miles north of Granite, 9:51 a.m. Thursday. The fire burned one-tenth of an acre and was contained at 1:33 p.m. Thursday.

• Chicken Creek area, 11 miles south of Starkey, 12:19 p.m. Thursday. The fire burned one-tenth of an acre and was contained at 2:35 p.m. Thursday.

According to a Forest Service press release, fire crews have confirmed 23 new fires this week between the Blue Mountain and John Day dispatch centers.

Garrett said local firefighting resources so far have been sufficient to quickly respond to new fire reporters.

There is increasing competition for aircraft to fight fires, however, with large fires burning in several western states.

The hot weather is forecast to continue for at least another week.

Thursday was the fourth straight day with a record high temperature at the Baker City Airport. It was the warmest June on record, with an average high temperature of 84.3 degrees. The previous record was 84.1, set in 1961.

Sports

Sprinter suspended

By Eddie Pells and Pat Graham
AP Sports Writers

American champion Sha'Carri Richardson cannot run in the Olympic 100-meter race after testing positive for a chemical found in marijuana.

Richardson, who won the 100 at Olympic trials in 10.86 seconds on June 19, told of her ban Friday, July 2 on the “Today Show.” She tested positive at the Olympic trials and so her result

is erased. Fourth-place finisher Jenna Prandini is expected to get Richardson's spot in the 100.

Richardson accepted a 30-day suspension that ends July 27, which would be in time to run in the women's relays.

The 21-year-old sprinter was expected to face Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce in one of the most highly anticipated races of the Olympic track meet. On Thursday, as reports

swirled about her possible marijuana use, Richardson put out a tweet that said, simply: “I am human.” On Friday, she went on TV and said she smoked marijuana as a way of coping with her mother's recent death.

“I was definitely triggered and blinded by emotions, blinded by badness, and hurting, and hiding hurt,” she said on “Today.” “I know I can't hide myself, so in some type of way, I was trying to hide my pain.”

The world is ready for the Olympic Games to return

The Summer Olympics are a highlight for sports fans. Whether it's watching Michael Phelps dominate in the pool, Simone Biles sticking a landing in her floor routine, or Sha'Carri Richardson exploding out of the starting block, patriotism courses through the veins of every sports fan glued to their television for the non-stop action.

What was supposed to be the highlight of the summer of 2020 was understandably placed on the shelf as the world figured how to maneuver through the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, just a year later, the purpose of the games in Tokyo isn't going to be the medal count.

These Olympics have gained a newfound perspective.

Let's not neglect that around the country, professional sports have slowly returned to something approaching normalcy. We have seen professional athletes go through fewer COVID-19 protocols. Mask wearing went from mandatory to a matter of preference. Most importantly, we have begun to see fans being allowed to return to the stands, and even capacity limitations being lifted.



COREY KIRK

That's just in our country — things are returning to normal worldwide.

According to the website www.Statista.com, for the 2016

Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, more than 3.6 billion viewers tuned in to TV coverage. As the first event with global appeal since the pandemic started, it wouldn't surprise me if the 2021 Tokyo Olympics viewership eclipses that figure.

These Olympic games are destined to help mend a world that has endured quarantine, social distancing and the cancellation of most large gatherings.

The world, frankly, needs these games.

I am excited to see the ripple effect of what is to come after the Tokyo Olympics conclude Aug. 8. It's going to be a major component of seeing a drastic return to world events. The entire world is ready to return to what it was, and if these Olympic games go without a hitch, we may be closer to where we were pre-pandemic.

Corey Kirk is the Baker City Herald's sports editor.

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