



In HOME, B1
A bounty of flaky biscuits

Baker City Herald

July 6, 2021

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Mitch Thomas of Baker City.

State, A3

Summer is normally a relatively quiet time in Oregon politics. But 2021 has been about as abnormal as a year can be. The Legislature adjourned June 26.

The West, A5

Imagine Bend being Oregon's eastern most city, a short drive from Redmond, Idaho. "Greater Idaho," the concept of transferring parts of southern and eastern Oregon to Idaho — making Redmond, Idaho, a reality — is gaining traction in some rural areas. According to Mike McCarter, the chief petitioner of Move Oregon's Border, a nonprofit advocating for Greater Idaho, the change would give rural Oregon counties a longed-for Republican-led legislature by leaving liberal strongholds like Portland and Eugene behind in Oregon.

BRIEFING

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.

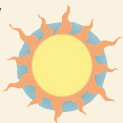
WEATHER

Today
97 / 57



Sunny

Wednesday
92 / 51



Sunny

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

Independence Day In Haines: Parade, Arts, Rodeo & Fireworks

Back In The Saddle



Travel Baker County/Contributed Photo

After a one-year hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fourth of July parade returned to Haines on Sunday, July 4. The Haines Stampede Rodeo, which wasn't canceled last year, had a good turnout.

By Joanna Mann and Jayson Jacoby
Baker City Herald

Haines was its usual bustling self on Independence Day, a distinct change from the relatively placid 2020 version of the holiday.

A year ago, with the COVID-19 pandemic well underway, some of the traditional events in the community, population about 415, were canceled.

The list included the parade, cowboy breakfast and arts festival.

In 2020 two other cornerstones of the holiday — the two-day Haines Stampede Rodeo and a fireworks display after dark on the Fourth — did happen.

This year, on a sizzling Sunday, the regular roster of Haines festivities was on display.

Garla Rowe, of Friends of Haines, the volunteer group that organizes the events with the exception of the Haines Stampede, said this spring that she was excited about the return

of the favorite events after the one-year hiatus.

"I'm really excited for the Fourth this year," Rowe said in May. "I think the community needs to have something positive to celebrate."

The Haines Stampede had a large turnout of spectators on both days, July 3 and 4, despite the persistent heat wave that pushed temperatures to near triple digits.

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Fireworks calls kept police busy

Baker City Police, Baker County Sheriff's responded to 26 complaints during holiday weekend

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker City Police and deputies from the Baker County Sheriff's Office responded to more than two dozen calls about fireworks during the Independence Day weekend, most of those on Sunday, July 4.

Most of the complaints were in Baker City, but there were also calls from Haines, Halfway, Huntington and Unity Lake State Park.

Detective Mike Regan of the Baker City Police said the volume of fireworks complaints was comparable to recent years when the holiday also coincided with a weekend.

In 2020, when Independence Day was on Saturday, there were 25 complaints, and in 2015, when it was also on Saturday, there were 30 calls, Regan said.

In 2018, by contrast, when Independence Day was on Wednesday, the Baker County Dispatch Center recorded just eight complaints about potential fireworks offenses.

Regan said that as in previous years, calls ranged from people who were annoyed by loud fireworks late at night, some who reported illegal fireworks, and others concerned about fireworks potentially sparking blazes.

See Fireworks / Page A3

Brian And Corrine Vegter Receive State Grant

Churchill renovation project gets a boost

Couple will use money for roof and window repairs

By Joanna Mann
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Turning a 95-year-old schoolhouse into a modern venue for music, art and hospitality is no easy task, especially when virtually every part of the building needs renovation.

That's why it meant so much for Brian and Corrine Vegter, the Baker City couple who bought Churchill School in May 2018, to receive a Preserving Oregon grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The \$4,607 grant, which the Vegters will match with \$4,645, will help the couple as they continue work on the project of a lifetime.

"Corrine and I both look at what we're doing as preserving a piece of shared history for the entire community," Brian Vegter said. "What we do with the space is provide opportunities for community

gatherings, and we see ourselves as a key part of the arts and culture community for the county and Eastern Oregon in general."

The state grant program is for historic property preservation and archaeology projects across the state. Brian Vegter said he had applied for the grant four times, but this is the first year he has been successful.

The application process is intense, he said, with no communication between the applicant and the reviewers during the judgment-making period. The application has to explain in detail everything the grant money would be used for, and Vegter believes he didn't receive the grant the first three times because of miscommunication in the application process.



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

Brian Vegter shows some of the windows in the Churchill School that he and his wife, Corrine, plan to repair with help from a state historic preservation grant.

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THURSDAY — THE NEW, EXPANDED GO! MAGAZINE MAKES ITS DEBUT