



GO! Magazine New, expanded guide to events happening around Northeastern Oregon

Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Eric Colton of Baker City.

Local, A3

Community Connection of Baker County reopened the Baker City Senior Center on June 28 for some activities, although week-day lunches remain take-out for now. Joe Hayes, Baker County manager for Community Connection, said the Center, at 2810 Cedar St., is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

State, A3

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's death toll from a record-smashing heat wave last weekend topped 100 as of Tuesday, July 6, while Gov. Kate Brown issued heat-related directives meant to protect people from extreme heat in the future.

BRIEFING

Widespread power outage Tuesday

More than 8,000 Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative customers, including all of Baker City, Haines and North Powder, lost power for about two hours Wednesday morning, July 7. Power was fully restored at 9:38 a.m. As of press time Wednesday afternoon, OTEC officials were still investigating what caused a circuit breaker to open at a substation, resulting in the widespread outage.

WEATHER

Today 90 / 48 Sunny

Friday 93 / 48 Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Human-Caused Fire Started Monday Afternoon In Eastern Baker County

Crews Stop Blaze In 'Real Bad Place'



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest/Contributed Photo

A helicopter dumped 900-gallon bucketloads of water on a wildfire in eastern Baker County on Monday evening, July 5. The fire burned about 3.5 acres along North Pine Creek.

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

A wildfire in eastern Baker County that had major potential for rapid growth ended up fizzling early Monday evening, July 5, but it took half a dozen aircraft, along with bulldozers and firefighters on the ground, to foil the flames.

"It was a real bad place for a fire," said Joel McCraw, fire management officer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Whitman Ranger District.

"It was a great catch. That fire could have gotten really bad really quickly."

The blaze, along North Pine Creek in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area about 10 miles northeast of Halfway, burned about 3 1/2 acres.

But the danger was much greater than the comparatively modest size suggests, McCraw said.

"It was a great catch. That fire could have gotten really bad really quickly."

— Joel McCraw, fire management officer, Whitman Ranger District

The combination of thick brush, mature trees and a record-setting heat wave could have proved a combustible mix, he said.

"It's steep, rugged country," McCraw said.

And it's country that's prone to big blazes.

The Foster Gulch fire burned 53,000 acres in the area in July and August 2006.

That fire was sparked by lightning. Monday's fire along North Pine Creek was not.

See Wildfire/ Page A3

Crews quickly corral new lightning fires

Lightning started at least three new wildfires in Baker County on Tuesday evening, July 6, but crews responded rapidly and doused all three before any had burned more than one-tenth of an acre. One fire started near the elk-feeding station on Old Auburn Road, about nine miles south of Baker City. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) handled that blaze. Another fire was about two miles south, near the junction of Denny Creek Road and Highway 7. The BLM was in charge of fighting that blaze. The other fire, under ODF jurisdiction, was near Bridgeport.

Local projects to get \$2.24 million

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Four Baker County projects will receive a combined \$2.24 million in state and federal aid, the county's two state legislators announced on Tuesday, July 6.

Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, and Rep. Mark Owens, R-

Crane, said in a press release that projects across their districts, which include several counties besides Baker, total \$54 million.

"With the state reopening and now this enormous amount of much-needed financial support, I'm optimistic about the future for our region," Findley said in the press release.

Sources for the money include the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which President Joe Biden signed in March, the Oregon general fund and Oregon Lottery bond sales.

Baker County projects: • \$1.4 million for the Baker Early Learning Center.

See Money/ Page A5

Eltrym returns to regular schedule

By Lisa Britton lbritton@bakercityherald.com

With new movies releasing at a regular rate and state guidelines easing, patrons are returning to the Eltrym Theater.

"We're not at average numbers, but not far off," said Terry McQuisten, owner of Baker County's only movie theater, at First Street and Valley Avenue in downtown Baker City.

Throughout the pandemic, movie theaters were hard-hit by restrictions that required closure.

And studios were not releasing films.

The Eltrym, McQuisten said, was down 94% in earned revenue.

That number landed the theater in the "first priority" tier for the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant, which was established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act.

See Eltrym/ Page A3

Missoula Children's Theater Returns To Baker City

Young actors back on stage

By Joanna Mann jmann@bakercityherald.com

The Missoula Children's Theater is back in town for the first time in almost two years, and the budding young actors of Baker County will bring the community "Johnny Appleseed" this Friday, July 9, and Saturday, July 10 at the Baker High School auditorium.

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Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

Young actors learned their parts Tuesday in the Baker High School auditorium.



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