

Local & State



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

A group of young actors from Baker County rehearses a scene from “Johnny Appleseed” on Tuesday, July 5 at the Baker High School auditorium. Performances of the Missoula Children’s Theater production are July 9 and July 10.

THEATER

Continued from Page A1

Missoula Children’s Theater (MCT) travels across the nation and internationally each year, with two-person teams of actors/directors working with local youth from kindergarten through 12th grade, in just five days, to put on performances for their communities.

MCT, which had visited Baker City each summer since 2009, had to cancel the 2020 events due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But this year there will be two performances in Baker City — “Johnny Appleseed” this weekend, and “The Emperor’s New Clothes” on July 30 and July 31.

Masks are part of the costumes this year, as MCT is requiring face coverings for every play, regardless of state guidelines.

Directors Teegan Schriock and Megan Schmidt, who are overseeing “Johnny Apple-

seed” in Baker City, said the local actors have been their most cooperative group in the Pacific Northwest so far with masks, and they have had no problems keeping the face coverings on at all times.

Both Schriock and Schmidt recently graduated from college with theater degrees. Graduating during a pandemic is not easy for anyone, but especially for those in the arts. They both said they feel lucky to have gotten this job, traveling around the country for an entire year and directing one play at a time.

“It just makes me feel so whole,” said Schriock, who graduated from Idaho State

University. “The kids love it, especially since there aren’t many art opportunities in a lot of the communities we go to. So it’s really amazing that we get to bring art to them, and for a week they can forget about everything else and just come in here and put on a play.”

When she and Schriock aren’t directing scenes for the play, they’re leading fun theater games for the kids and teaching them songs and dances.

This year’s Baker City cast is 18 students, which is fewer than most years because it

coincides with the Baker School District’s Summer Academy. Every student who auditioned got a role, and by day two, most of them were rehearsing their lines without help from the script.

Addie Voss, education coordinator for Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, which helps coordinate MCT performances, said it’s all about providing a fun experience for the kids. The rehearsal process runs like a well-oiled machine, with qualified and enthusiastic directors keeping the kids focused and prepared for the weekend performance.

“You can tell that they’ve done this enough that they’ve worked out all the kinks,” Voss said.

Performances are at 6 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday at Baker High School, and everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$5 for adults and children can attend for free with the purchase of an adult ticket.

After heat wave deaths, Brown orders review

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.

Of the 107 deaths recorded so far, the youngest victim was 37 and the oldest was 97. In Multnomah County, where most of the deaths occurred, officials said many victims had no air conditioners or fans and died alone.

The governor on Tuesday directed agencies to complete a review to determine how the state can improve its heat-response efforts and outcomes. She also plans to meet with agency heads, county leaders, Oregon’s Medicaid

Coordinated Care Organizations, and impacted communities over the next several weeks to hear their recommendations and ensure steps are being taken immediately to prepare for the next heat wave.

Oregonians who are Medicaid members may be eligible to receive air conditioners, Brown added.

She also directed Oregon’s Occupational Health and Safety Administration to enact emergency rules to protect workers from extreme heat after a farm laborer collapsed and died June 26 at a nursery in rural St. Paul, Oregon.

The temporary rules are expected to expand requirements for employers to provide shade, rest time and cool water

for workers during heat events, her office said. Oregon OSHA will continue working on permanent rules, which are expected to be adopted this fall.

“I am concerned that our recent record-breaking heat wave in the Willamette Valley is a harbinger of what’s to come,” Brown said in a statement. “Even with the immense resources directed to preparing communities for the excessive heat, it is critical that we need to be better prepared, flexible, and resilient. At the same time, we must center the voices of historically underserved communities in our emergency planning efforts to make sure we’re meeting all community members where they are.”

ELTRYM

Continued from Page A1

The theater received that grant last week.

The Eltrym, which celebrated its 81st anniversary on June 27, is back to showing movies seven days a week.

Masks are recommended but not required. McQuisten is keeping each theater at 50% capacity to help keep space between patrons.

But not all shows are selling out, even with the reduced number of tickets.

“A lot of shows are closer to 25%,” she said.

With the hot weather, the theater can be a welcome relief from the heat — but McQuisten said it’s a balancing act to make sure the interior isn’t too cold.

“It’s a fine line of maintaining coolness but not refrigeration,” she said with a laugh.

As more blockbusters release, she sees business looking more regular this fall.

“I feel like we’ll move into normal numbers,” she said.

Recently, theaters have competed with on-demand streaming services, which often release new movies at the same time the shows hit the theater.

McQuisten sees that approach

phasing out in the coming months.

As for the Eltrym’s operations, the only major change is a shift to more afternoon shows and no late shows starting at 9:30 p.m.

But that schedule dates to before the pandemic.

“Our matinees were picking up and the late shows were dying off,” McQuisten said.

Movie tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.eltrym.com or at the theater.

Although most movies do not sell out, she said it does happen occasionally for the two smaller theaters.

For movie times, check the website or Facebook page.

Baker City Senior Center has reopened

By Samantha O’Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Community Connection of Baker County reopened the Baker City Senior Center on June 28 for some activities, although weekday lunches remain takeout for now.

Joe Hayes, Baker County manager for Community Connection, said the Center, at 2810 Cedar St., is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One group of card players has returned, he said.

“There is a sign in/sign out sheet for potential contact tracing,” he says.

The Senior Center is open for line dancing, card players, pool, tai chi, and

stretch and flex senior mobility exercises.

“We are going to restart bingo Tuesday, July 20th,” Hayes said.

Bingo will run as it used to, every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m.

Hayes said he hopes to resume in-person lunches within a month, pending state approval.

“They have to approve an outline of reopening with safety precautions, as well as limited capacity,” said Hayes.

He said there will be more to come on that with announcements on the Community Connection of Baker County Facebook page.

WILDFIRE

Continued from Page A1

The fire was human-caused, and investigators are still assessing the blaze, McCraw said.

The fire was reported Monday afternoon in the dispersed camping area beside the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road, also known the Forest Road 39.

The area is about five miles north of Highway 86, which runs between Halfway and Oxbow, at the Snake River.

McCraw said no one was camping in the area when fire crews arrived. The fire apparently started on the east side of North Pine Creek, which runs beside the Loop Road.

Campfires are not allowed at that site because it’s not a designated campground or recreation site, and the Wallowa-Whitman last week enacted Phase B of public use restrictions, McCraw said.

Under Phase B, campfires are allowed only in designated sites and in wilderness areas.

The Forest Service temporarily closed a section of the Loop Road, it reopened Tuesday, July 6.

McCraw said firefighters from Wallowa-Whitman offices in Halfway, Baker City and Enterprise rushed to the fire.

They were helped by five single-engine air tankers dropping fire retardant, three of which flew from Burns, and two from La Grande, McCraw said.

The John Day Interagency Dispatch Center summoned a heavy helicopter capable of dropping 900 gallons of water from its dangling bucket.

Crews used bulldozers to open a couple of old roads and use those as firelines, and firefighters also dug line on other parts of the blaze, McCraw said.

“They did a really good job with the initial attack,” he said.

By dark Monday the fire had quieted, and it was surrounded by control lines.

On Tuesday morning the 20-person Union Hotshot crew, along with a 20-member crew from the Bureau of Land Management’s Vale District, were securing those lines and starting to mop up, McCraw said.

He said it was vital to corral the fire on Monday, given the weather forecast for continued hot temperatures and the potential for lightning, which starts most fires in the area, as well as gusty afternoon winds.

More fires reported Wednesday

Firefighters continued to respond to new lightning-sparked blazes Wednesday morning, July 7.

Two fires were reported in the Russell Mountain Lookout area, near Fish Lake north of Halfway. One was estimated at 3 acres, no size on the other as of press time Wednesday.



Jason Jacoby/Baker City Herald

The Eltrym Theater celebrated its 81st anniversary on June 27.

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel
Introducing the INOGEN ONE — It’s oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It’s small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-839-0752

© 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. MKT-P01 08

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. (where available)

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$64.99 MO. for 12 Mos. America’s Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DSH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/14/21.

dish ALLURE

Your home is only as smart as your Internet.

Plans up to 100 Mbps*
Free Smart Home Manager App with Parental Controls.
The bandwidth to power multiple devices at once.
Get a seamless whole-home Wi-Fi experience with AT&T Smart Wi-Fi.*

AT&T Internet \$40/mo. (where available)

12 mo. agmt. other qualifying service reqd. (See att.com/SmartWi-Fi for details. Speeds not guaranteed. ©2020 AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All rights reserved. *Offer may be subject to change without notice. Offer may be discontinued at any time without notice. Other conditions apply to all offers. ©2020 AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All rights reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo and all other AT&T marks and service marks are trademarks of AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All other marks are trademarks of their respective owners.

Cut cable internet and switch to AT&T Internet. Call now!

By Support Holdings LLC 888-486-0359

AT&T Preferred Dealer