

Riders on the way

The Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, one of the more popular summer events in Baker City, was officially canceled in late March, when organizer Mark Dukes of Idaho said there were “too many unknowns” at that time related to the pandemic.

But that won't dissuade many riders from showing up this weekend to

sample the curving highways and byways that make Northeastern Oregon enticing for two-wheel enthusiasts.

Among the 126 comments on the Rally's March 30 Facebook post canceling the official event are “Don't need a rally to ride!” and “We are keeping our reservations!”

Jamie Kassien, co-owner of D&J

Taco Shop in Baker City, read those and other posts from riders who vowed to visit this weekend, and he's anticipating a busy period starting Friday, July 9.

“So I hope Baker's ready because they're going to be here, they're going to come, they're going to do their rides that they love, they're going to

frequent the businesses and they are still coming to support the town that has always supported them,” Kassien said.

Although participants can register for the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, hundreds of riders who have shown up for the event in previous years didn't officially sign up.

MONEY

Continued from Page A1

- \$500,000 to replace the water tower in Unity.
- \$295,000 for the Orpheum Theatre renovation project on Main Street in Baker City.
- \$45,000 for improvements to the Sumpter Valley Railroad.

Baker Early Learning Center

The Center, in the North Baker School building at 2725 Seventh St., houses the Baker School District's kindergarten classes as well as preschool classrooms and agencies that provide other services to children and families, including a new childcare center that will be operated by the Baker County YMCA.

The Center opened in October 2020.

The school district will use the \$1.4 million to finish moving modular buildings that will be part of the childcare center, to build a playground and to install a new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system (HVAC) in the building, the oldest part of which dates to 1909.

The district had planned to use money from the \$4 million bond that district voters approved in May of this year to replace the HVAC system, said Lindsey McDowell, the



Chris Collins/Baker City Herald File Photo, 2020

Baker School Board members and administrative staff from the Baker School District toured the Baker Early Learning Center in August 2020.

district's public information and communications coordinator.

The district will use the bond dollars to replace HVAC systems in all district schools. With costs potentially rising due to inflation, using the \$1.4 million from the state for the Early Learning Center will help the district make the improvements to other schools even with inflation, McDowell said.

Orpheum Theatre

The Baker Orpheum Theatre Restoration project received \$295,000 to continue work on restoring a theater

space in downtown Baker City.

“Fantastic!” was the initial response from Aletha Bonebrake, chair of the building committee.

The Orpheum is a project by Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre. It started when David Burris donated money to buy the 1889 building, at 1821 Main St., in May 2016.

Work has continued with the support of grants totaling \$265,000 and local donations of \$255,000 (not including Burris' donation to buy the building).

This latest infusion of funds will complete phase 5 (construction documents and

permits) and move into phase 6, which includes structural work on the foundation, fly loft, and balcony.

“This new money will move us into construction. We are on the way,” Bonebrake said. “It's a really big deal. It was lobbied for; I testified for it.”

The money will also help secure more grants for the project, she said.

“This will put us in reach to the larger foundations because they see the investment,” Bonebrake said.

The Orpheum project received a grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2020 to develop a patronage database



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald File Photo, 2018

The interior of the Orpheum Theater was stripped to the wood frame a few years ago as part of a renovation that started in 2016. In this photo from November 2018, Aletha Bonebrake, chair of the building committee for the Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, looked at the project in progress.

and narrative to share with potential donors. But that outreach hasn't happened due to the pandemic.

Now that restrictions are

easing, she said a team is ready to provide presentations to interested groups or donors. For information, call Bonebrake at 541-519-3255.

\$250,000 PYRAMID OF PRIZES

ACTIVATE

PHARAOH'S FORTUNE AND WIN

\$100,000 CASH!

THURSDAYS – SUNDAYS

DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 8-11pm
Sundays, 1-10pm

BURGERS

BREWS &

BIRDIES

PLATEAU

FINE DINING

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY | 4pm-CLOSE

\$35

PER PERSON
Wildhorse Golf Course

INCLUDES - 9 HOLES, CART, BURGER & A BREW

Monday-Thursday | After 1pm

\$30

PER PERSON
Golf Course at Birch Creek

A FLAVOR FOR EVERY CRAVING

limited seating - reservations required
541.966.1610 or visit wildhorseresort.com

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV
MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA • FUNPLEX

800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216 • wildhorseresort.com • Owned and operated by CTUIR

Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.

WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO

03638.TT.07.21