

Baker City Herald

July 13, 2021

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dixie Amis of Baker City.

BRIEFING

P.E.O. awards five scholarships

Five local women have received scholarships from P.E.O. after being nominated by the organization's Chapter CJ in Baker City.

•Torie Andrews received a \$2,800 Program of Continuing Education scholarship to continue her education in Biblical Counseling at Calvary University in Kansas. Her goal is to work with teens and support their spiritual and religious growth.

•Mckenzie Hall received a \$2,250 Marguerite Scholarship to continue her education at Eastern Oregon University, where she is studying to become a registered nurse.

•Naomi Potter received a \$1,250 Marguerite Scholarship to continue her education at Blue Mountain Community College, where she is pursuing a degree in psychology.

•Savanna Potter received a \$1,250 Oregon scholarship to continue her education at Eastern Oregon University, where she is pursuing a degree and hopes to become an ophthalmologist.

•Keegan Masterson received a \$7,000 Oregon Cottey scholarship to continue her education at Cottey College in Missouri, where she is studying international relations.

WEATHER

Today
94 / 50



Sunny

Wednesday
97 / 53



Sunny

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

Work Continues On Baker City's Wastewater Lagoon, Pipeline

Baker's Big Dig



Anderson-Perry and Associates/Contributed Photo

This view from a drone shows the wastewater lagoon under construction in Baker Valley.

By Samantha O'Conner
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Work continues on Baker City's biggest public works project in years, a \$5.7 million job to build a new wastewater storage lagoon and a pipeline between the new and existing lagoons.

Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, expects the project to be finished around May 2022.

The City Council voted in January of this year to hire Gyllenberg Construction of Baker City, the lowest among 10 bidders, to do the work.

In May, councilors approved a \$150,000 addition to the initial \$5.57 million contract due in part to winter storms that damaged petrochemical plants on the Gulf Coast and increased the cost of pipe.

The construction is the culmination of a project that's been on the city's agenda for about a decade.

Since the early 1960s the city has piped its wastewater to a complex of four lagoons off Imnaha Road about a mile north of town. The city adds chlorine to the wastewater to kill bacteria, then uses sulfur dioxide

The Project

At an estimated \$5.7 million, it's one of the bigger public works projects in Baker City in the past few decades. The job involves:

- Building a new wastewater storage lagoon on a 51-acre parcel the city bought in 2019 for \$123,000.
- Building a seven-mile pipeline between the city's existing storage lagoons, off Imnaha Road about one mile north of town, and the new lagoon, which is at the northeast corner of Baker Valley, south of Highway 203.

to remove the chlorine before the wastewater is released into the nearby Powder River.

But several years ago the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) told city officials that the agency would eventually prohibit the city from piping wastewater

into the river because the water could promote algae blooms and otherwise pollute the river.

"Baker City Public Works has been working on a new method of disposing our effluent for a number of years and we finally got the go ahead to move to a land application as opposed to depositing our effluent into the Powder River," Owen said,

City officials considered several alternatives, including using the treated wastewater to irrigate non-food crops near the current lagoons, but settled on the current plan that includes building a new pipeline and lagoon. In 2017, the city entered into a Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with DEQ that required the city to pursue a modification to the wastewater treatment process.

Owen said the new lagoon will increase the city's wastewater storage capacity, making the city better able to deal with population growth.

The additional storage also will allow the city to hold water when there's no need for irrigation water.

See Big Dig/ Page A6

Jubilee parade is on

By Joanna Mann
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The Miners Jubilee parade will happen after all.

The parade had been in jeopardy due to a lack of entries, even though other Miners Jubilee events return this weekend after being canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. But a late flurry of entries was enough to justify the parade Saturday morning, July 17.

See Parade/ Page A5

County vaccine rate 10th lowest in state

By Jayson Jacoby
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State restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have ended, and Baker County's rate of new cases has remained well below a spring peak during April, but Nancy Staten is concerned that the county's relatively low vaccination rate makes the county vulnerable to future outbreaks.

Staten is director of the Baker County Health Department.

"COVID has not left our community," Staten said on July 6. "I still encourage vaccination."

As of July 9, Baker County's vaccination rate — 44.9% of residents 16 and older — ranked as 10th lowest among Oregon's 36 counties.



Staten

See Vaccine/ Page A5

Honoring a vet

Patrick Morrissey recognized for his service during World War II in Europe

By Samantha O'Conner
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A smile of excitement and joy crossed Patrick Morrissey's face as his family gathered at Settler's Park with him Thursday afternoon, July 8.

Rick Gloria, Baker County's Veteran Services Director, stood in his military uniform and saluted Morrissey for his service in World War II.

Morrissey, who turned 96 in March, was drafted into the military in 1943, not long after he had turned 18.

After D-Day, the June 6, 1944, Allied invasion of Nazi-controlled France, the Army needed tens of thousands of fresh troops. Morrissey, a private first class, went to France as a member of the 99th Infantry Division in September 1944.

In December 1944 Morrissey fought in one of the worst battles of the war, a German counterattack in Belgium known as the Battle of the Bulge.



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

See Honor/ Page A3 World War II veteran Patrick Morrissey was honored for his service on Thursday, July 8.



TODAY
Issue 27, 14 pages

CalendarA2
Classified B4-B6
Comics B7

Community NewsA3
CrosswordB5 & B6
Dear Abby B8

HomeB1-B3
HoroscopeB5 & B6
Letters A4

Lottery ResultsA2
News of RecordA2
ObituariesA2

OpinionA4
SportsA6
Weather B8

THURSDAY — THE NEWLY EXPANDED, 20-PAGE GO! MAGAZINE