

# Baker City Herald

July 17, 2021

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IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • TV

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ralph Ward of Baker City.

**Local, A2**

Baker City brothers Shane and Mark Alderson had too much fishing and hunting gear to fit in their two garages.

Their solution? Start a business.

The Aldersons opened Baboon Creek Outfitters on Friday, July 16, just in time for Miners Jubilee weekend.

**Local, A3**

Due to severe drought conditions coupled with abnormally high temperatures, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has ended all size (minimum and maximum) and daily limits for most species of fish in several waterbodies in Baker and Wallowa counties, including Phillips Reservoir and the Powder River between Thief Valley Reservoir and Phillips Reservoir.

**State, A5**

Gov. Kate Brown should stop urging Oregonians to get vaccinated against COVID-19 because she is the "least trusted" figure for unvaccinated individuals and could be undercutting the state's efforts to reach herd immunity, according to new survey results released Tuesday, July 13.

WEATHER

**Today**

90 / 51



Sunny

**Sunday**

98 / 55



Sunny

**Monday**

90 / 54



Sunny

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

**Baker City Gardener Builds An Underground Greenhouse**

## Above Average Crops, Below The Ground



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Kim Anderson based the concept of her sunken greenhouse on a technique that gardeners used in the Andes Mountains of South America.

**By Lisa Britton**

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Kim Anderson wants to pick a ripe tomato or pull a carrot any time of year, and she's using the insulating power of the earth to make it happen.

Anderson's greenhouse looks like it sunk into the ground, but the design is based on one she's studied for a while.

"I researched it for 10 years before I did it," she said.

She discovered that this concept is used in the Andes Mountains.

"They dig into the side of the mountain," she said.

Without a mountain in her backyard, Anderson went down instead.

*"I'm still learning — it's all a learning process."*

— Kim Anderson, who built an underground greenhouse

The structure, which measures 12 feet by 10 feet, is sunken five feet below ground level. The north wall is painted black to absorb heat, and the roof slants toward the south for sun exposure. A clear polycarbonate roof lets in light.

Too much light, sometimes — Anderson covered the top with shade cloth to counteract the recent hot weather. The thermometer, which she resets each day, registered a high temperature of 106 degrees from

the day before. A solar attic fan also helps remove some of the hot air.

This warmth works well in the winter, though.

"It heats up enough that the snow just slides off," she said.

This is the second year for her greenhouse, and she's still experimenting with crops.

Last winter, she had tomatoes until January, but her carrots didn't do so well.

This year, she'll adjust the schedule and sow carrot seeds a bit later to see how it works.

"I'm still learning — it's all a learning process," she said.

See **Greenhouse** / Page A3

## Wolves kill calf in Baker County

**By Jayson Jacoby**

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Wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack killed a five-month-old calf on a public land grazing allotment in eastern Baker County this week.

Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) examined the carcass on Wednesday,

July 14 in the Manning Creek area northeast of Durkee.

The rancher who owns the calf found the carcass while checking cattle that evening, and biologists estimate the calf died about 36 hours earlier.

Most of the carcass had been consumed.

The carcass had numer-

ous parallel pre-mortem tooth scrapes up to five inches long and one-quarter inch wide on the rear of both back legs above the hock, injuries consistent with wolf attacks on calves, according to an ODFW report.

A wolf from the Lookout Mountain pack that's fitted with a GPS tracking collar was at the location where

the carcass was found at about the approximate time of death, according to an ODFW report.

Biologists also investigated a second dead calf on Tuesday, July 13. That calf was found in the First Creek area near Virtue Flat, east of Baker City.

See **Wolves** / Page A3

## Prison for man who assaulted police officer, robbed woman

**By Jayson Jacoby**

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A 24-year-old Baker City

man was sentenced to almost nine years in prison on Thursday, July 15 after pleading guilty to first-degree robbery and to spraying bear spray in the face of a Baker City Police officer in May 2021.



Sprague

Travis James Sprague also faces multiple charges in Union County, where he fled after committing the crimes in Baker City. If convicted there he could face additional prison terms longer than the ones from Baker County, said Greg Baxter, Baker County district attorney.

Sprague is accused of shooting at a person in La Grande on May 19, and breaking into a home in La Grande the following day and putting the barrel of a sawed-off shotgun to the homeowner's forehead.

See **Prison** / Page A5

## County has 16th COVID-related death

A 59-year-old Baker County man died on July 13, six days after testing positive for COVID-19, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported on Thursday, July 15.

The man had underlying medical conditions, according to OHA.

His death was the 16th in Baker County attributed to the virus since the pandemic started in March 2020, and the first since May 15.

"I send my condolences to his family and friends, I'm so sorry for their loss," Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said.

See **COVID** / Page A5

MINERS JUBILEE RETURNS AFTER 2020 CANCELLATION

## Vendors glad to be back

**By Joanna Mann**

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New and returning vendors pitched their tents and stocked their shelves Thursday, July 15 as country music blasted through Geiser-Pollman Park.

They didn't get to enjoy Miners Jubilee last year, so this year the excitement was palpable as people prepared for the weekend ahead.

"It's like a family reunion," Terry Magill said as he strung up lights across his lemon-shaped lemonade stand. Terry and his wife, Julie, have been pouring

glasses of flavored lemonade at Miners Jubilee for the past 27 years. And even after a quarter century the couple, former Baker City residents who now live in Boise, look forward to returning every July.

Another longtime vendor at Miners Jubilee is Debra Peters, who has been selling everything from tie-dye shirts to dreamcatchers for 25 years. Her eye-catching shop, Chaos By Nature, carries imported goods from 12 countries.



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

See **Vendors** / Page A2 Vendors set up on Thursday, July 15 in Geiser-Pollman Park.



TODAY

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TUESDAY — COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS STILL IN PLACE IN COUNTY JAIL