



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Kim Anderson's underground greenhouse in Baker City lets in ample light during the summer and winter.

GREENHOUSE

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Anderson's goal is to grow the fixings for a salad — lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots.

"If I can get those all winter long, perfect," she said.

The greenhouse interior is lined with shelves for potting plants and nurturing seedlings for her outside garden. Below the shelves are metal tubs filled with soil where she will grow the winter crops.

Last winter, Anderson overwintered geraniums in the greenhouse for a welcome burst of color.

"They bloomed all winter," she said. "It was just awesome."

She plans to grow herbs, too, and has three healthy rosemary plants soaking up the summer sunshine.

Even when the sun is weak in the winter, Anderson said the greenhouse is an appealing place to spend time.

"It's nice to come out in the winter and plan or plant. And smell the rosemary," she said.



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Kim Anderson uses metal tubs for her raised beds.

And although she's gardened for at least 20 years, and completed the Master Gardener course through the Oregon State Extension Service, Anderson said every growing season is different.

"It's always trial and error," she said.

But when those seed catalogs arrive in the middle of winter, she starts looking ahead to the warmer days and planning what else she might try to grow.

"Those seed catalogs get you," she said with a smile.

Forest Service bans campfires

■ Umatilla National Forest is closed to all public entry due to fires, fire danger

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has banned campfires across the forest, and a neighboring national forest, the Umatilla, has closed all public entry to the 1.4-million-acre forest due to extreme fire danger and large blazes burning on the forest.

The Wallowa-Whitman

moved to Phase C of its Public Use Restrictions on Friday, July 16.

The Umatilla and the third national forest in the Blue Mountains, the Malheur, had earlier imposed Phase C restrictions.

In addition to the ban on campfires, chain saw use,

including for firewood cutting, is prohibited.

Visitors can use stoves and heaters that use liquid or bottled fuel.

Within the Eagle Cap Wilderness, campfires are also banned except when using a wood-burning stove equipped with a chimney at least five feet

in length and a spark arresting screen consisting of ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth, and all flammable vegetation within a 3-foot radius is cleared, including overhanging material. Campfires are prohibited year-round within ¼ mile of the lakes listed on the back of Eagle Cap Wilderness permit.

WOLVES

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They determined that the calf at First Creek, which was mostly intact, was not killed by wolves or any other predator.

Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at ODFW's Baker City office, said the Lookout Mountain pack consists of an adult male and female, the breeding pair, two yearlings that were born in the spring of 2020, and an unknown number of pups born in May 2021.

Ratliff said photos from a remote camera showed five pups this spring, but he can't be sure how many of those pups are alive now.

Although the calf at First Creek was

not killed by wolves, ODFW employees did find wolf tracks near the carcass, Ratliff said.

He said the presence of those tracks makes for a minor mystery — and one that actually dates back almost two years.

In August 2019, ODFW workers also found wolf tracks in the First Creek area while investigating the deaths of three adult cows. Biologists couldn't confirm whether wolves were responsible.

In both the 2019 and this week's incidents, location records from the GPS collar fitted to the breeding female wolf in the Lookout Mountain pack showed that that wolf hadn't been in the First Creek area recently, Ratliff said.

The bottom line, he said, is that wolves

were in the First Creek area around this time in 2021 and 2019, but it's not clear where those wolves came from. He said it's possible the wolves are from the Lookout Mountain pack, because the tracking collars aren't foolproof.

(The breeding male in the pack has a radio collar, which, unlike the GPS collar, doesn't record regular locations that biologists can track remotely.)

Ratliff said it's not possible to accurately gauge the age of the wolves based on the tracks.

The pack's two yearlings, born in the spring of 2020, could be roaming away from the rest of the pack, but all the wolves tend to stay relatively close together most of the time, he said.

OUTDOOR

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Once restrictions began to ease this spring, the brothers picked the search back up and decided on the space that formerly housed Chillz frozen yogurt, at 1719 Main St.

"We weren't 100% ready, but we went ahead and dropped the hammer on it," Shane said.

Opening over Miners Jubilee wasn't a coincidence, as the Aldersons knew they would have to go big with COVID-19 cutting this year's spring and summer seasons short. They are still waiting on a few products due to international shipping delays, but there will be fishing and camping equipment to help customers get ready for the outdoors.

Baboon Creek Outfitters will be a year-round shop, with new shipments coming in at the start of each season. The

Aldersons will sell four-season tents, cold weather backpacks, equipment for each hunting season and eventually outdoor-style clothing.

In the fall, Shane said he plans to schedule small, informational classes on various topics related to the outdoors. He also wants to communicate with

the U.S. Forest Service and put up maps that provide information about closures.

"The more accurate information our guests and customers get, the better," Shane said.

The business' name was inspired by Baboon Creek, a stream on the west side of the Elkhorn Mountains.

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Phillips Reservoir, shown here on June 12, 2021, has receded even more, to about 9% of its capacity as of today. With low water and hot temperatures, the state has temporarily ended size and bag limits for fishing in Phillips and some other waterbodies.

State lifts fishing limits in Phillips, the Powder River

■ Temporary cancellation of rules will be in effect through Oct. 10

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.

Based on current drought conditions, observations of fish kills in other local bodies of water, and a forecast for continued low precipitation and warm temperatures, there is a high likelihood that water quality conditions in some locations will become lethal to fish this summer, according to a press release from ODFW.

In Baker County, the bag and size limits will be lifted for the following bodies of water through Oct. 10:

- Phillips Reservoir between Mason Dam and Hudspeth Road.
- Thief Valley Reservoir.
- Powder River between Thief Valley Reservoir and Phillips Reservoir.

In Wallowa County, these waterbodies are included, with rules lifted through Sept. 30: Honeymoon Pond, Tee Pee Pond, McGraw Pond, Salt Creek Summit Pond, Kinney Lake

The exceptions to the rule change are bull trout and tiger muskies (the latter species was released in Phillips Reservoir several years ago because they eat illegally introduced yellow perch, which had displaced rainbow trout). Both species must be released unharmed.

ODFW encourages anglers to keep any fish that they catch not otherwise listed in the exceptions, and practice "if you don't know, let it go" in areas you may encounter bull trout or tiger muskies.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Local students on BMCC honor roll

PENDLETON — More than a dozen Baker County students earned honor roll recognition for the spring term at Blue Mountain Community College.

President's list: 3.75 to 4.0 GPA

Mckay Anderson, Josie Ash, Lindsey Bingham, O'Keeya Brown, Jackson Chandler, Skyelar Evins, Andrew Ferns, Hailey Fisher, Addie Flanagan, Lexie Flanagan, Emma Lowe, William Mercado, Elisabeth Munsell, Naomi Potter, Savannah Potter, Kelly Shank, Maya Smith, Ashley Taylor, Sara Waldrop

Vice President's list: 3.5 to 3.74 GPA

Teygan Coley, Kaycee Cuzick, Serenity Foersterling, Hunter Lind, Gavin Nelson, Taylor Price, Shaylee Villastrigo, Chey Watkins



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