

GO!
EASTERN OREGON

Rodeo
TIPS: DANIELA CHIEF JOSEFA DAVIS RODEO BEGINS JULY 27

GO! Magazine:
Your guide to arts and entertainment events around Northeastern Oregon

Baker City Herald

July 22, 2021

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

IN THIS EDITION:

Business & Ag Life • Local • Sports

\$1.50

DROUGHT
Dry conditions bring hardship to Eastern Oregon farms and ranches

10
12
16
22

AgriBusiness

INCLUDED WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

24-page special section examines the effects of severe drought on farming and ranching in Northeastern Oregon, and other topics related to agriculture.

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Chris Draper of Baker City.

Local, A3

Two Baker City men riding motorcycles were critically injured in separate crashes over a one-hour period Tuesday afternoon, July 20.

The first was reported at 3:13 p.m. on Old Trail Road near Lake Bob, about two miles north of the Baker City limits.

Sports, A6

TOKYO — Sweden didn't have to bunker down on defense against the Americans this time.

Stina Blackstenius scored a pair of goals and the Swedes stunned the United States at the Olympics with a 3-0 victory Wednesday in the women's soccer tournament.

WEATHER

Today
84 / 42

Smoke likely

Friday
87 / 44

Smoke likely

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Senior Center Reopens For In-Person Lunches After 16-Month Closure

Lunch Bunch



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

From left, Ludy Busciglio, David Bowers, Barbara Burton, Tami Ritter and John Sutton gathered at the Baker City Senior Center for lunch on Tuesday, July 20. It was the first time the Center had an in-person lunch since March 17, 2020. During the pandemic the Center has offered takeout lunches and Meals on Wheels.

By Joanna Mann
jmann@bakercityherald.com

Seniors streamed into the Baker City Senior Center on Tuesday, July 20, eager to reconnect with old friends over spaghetti, garlic bread, vegetables and tapioca pudding.

It was the first on-site lunch at the Center since March 17, 2020.

The next day the facility, operated by Community Connection of Baker County at 2810 Cedar St., was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since then Community Connection has served takeout meals on weekdays, and seen a major increase in Meals on Wheels requests.

But on Tuesday the doors reopened for lunch, which is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"I think it's wonderful," said Colleen Anderson, who has been meeting her friend Connie for lunch every Tuesday at the Center for years. "We've been waiting for this a long time."

Colleen and Connie kept up their

"I think it's wonderful. We've been waiting for this a long time."

— Colleen Anderson, who had lunch on Tuesday, July 20 at the Baker City Senior Center

weekly lunch date even when the Center was closed for 16 months. Colleen would pick up the takeout meals and the two would meet at her house.

"Doesn't this just raise your spirits?" Nadine Guymon said Tuesday, gesturing to the balloons and streamers draped across the ceiling. A "Welcome Back" banner greeted lunch-goers in the dining room, and there were door prizes to celebrate the occasion as well. The winners would receive a collapsible garden bag, candles, locally grown honey jars, an umbrella light and a wind chime.

Albertsons donated several boxes of vanilla and chocolate cupcakes to go with the meal.

The chef made enough meals to feed 100 people, and there were coffee

and tea stations where people could catch up before lunch. One group of friends joyfully greeted each other at the table they've been sitting at for decades, before COVID-19 broke up the daily lunch date.

"We all love it," Barbara Burton said. "We used to come here every day."

Burton and her five friends were busy chatting after nearly a year and a half of separation. One absence was particularly felt at the table, as one of the group's regulars has since passed away. While his friends wish he were still there to enjoy the reunion, the rest of the group was overjoyed to be back together again.

Joe Hayes, manager of Community Connection of Baker County, is also glad to be up and running with the in-person lunches.

"We're ready to go," he said.

Lunches are served at the Center every weekday from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. The meals cost \$5 for those 60 and older, and \$7.50 for everyone else.

ATTORNEY SAYS POLICE LISTENED TO PRIVILEGED PHONE CALLS WITH HIS CLIENT

Man accused of murder in Baker City seeks dismissal of charges

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The attorney for Shawn Quentin Greenwood, the Vale man accused of murdering a woman in Baker City in January 2020, has filed a motion seeking to dismiss criminal charges because several phone calls from the Baker County Jail between Greenwood and the attorney in 2020 were allegedly recorded, and law enforcement officers listened to the recordings.

James A. Schaeffer, a La Grande attorney, filed the motion June 25, 2021.

Schaeffer writes in the motion that criminal charges against Greenwood, including first-degree murder, should be dismissed "due to the serious and egregious constitutional violation of law enforcement listening to communications protected by the attorney/client privilege."

Greg Baxter, Baker County district attorney, declined to comment.



Greenwood

A hearing on Schaeffer's motion has been scheduled for Aug. 13 at 8:30 a.m. in Baker County Circuit Court.

Greenwood, 50, is accused of fatally shooting his former girlfriend, Angela Michelle Parrish, 30, of Vale, on Jan. 13, 2020. Police found Parrish's body in a building just north of H Street in Baker City, on property that previously was owned by the New Tribes Mission, south of the Powder River Correctional Facility.

Greenwood is also ac-

cused of shooting, in the hand, Nathaniel Leeland Brown, also on Jan. 13, 2020. Brown was treated and released at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

Greenwood was initially charged with second-degree assault for allegedly shooting Brown, but that charge was changed to first-degree assault in September 2020 after a grand jury heard evidence that Brown's injury was more serious than first thought.

See Charges/Page A3

Bulls, broncs founder dies

Ken McPheron, who died Tuesday at 82, started one of Baker City's signature events

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Ken McPheron was best known in Baker City for starting its signature rodeo event in 1995, but the indelible memory for Shane Pierce is how Ken made his mom, Shirley, smile.



McPheron

Ken was Shane's stepfather, but such distinctions meant nothing for the blended family of five children that Ken and Shirley forged when they were married in 1992.

"They made each other's world go around, and you could see it," Shane said on Wednesday, July 21, the day after Ken died at age 82. "When you saw them together you could tell they were each other's person."

Shane worked with his mom and stepfather beginning with the inaugural bull riding competition at the Baker County Fairgrounds in Baker City in 1995, adding the bronc riding event in 1997, and continuing for almost another quarter century.

During that time the two-night event — broncs on Friday, bulls on Saturday, both coinciding with Miners Jubilee — became a popular draw for rodeo fans across the West.

See McPheron/Page A3

City's water use down slightly

By Samantha O'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Baker City residents have cut back on their water use since city officials asked them to do so, but the daily demand remains high enough to cause concern in City Hall.

"I thought I might see a little bit more of a reduction but I am encouraged to see the numbers coming down," Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, said on Monday, July 19.

That was one week after the city enacted Phase 2 of its water curtailment ordinance.

See Water/Page A3



TODAY
Issue 31, 32 pages

Business.....B1-B2
Classified.....B2-B4
Comics.....B5

Community News.....A3
Crossword.....B2 & B4
Dear Abby.....B6

Horoscope.....B3 & B4
Lottery Results.....A2
News of Record.....A2

Obituaries.....A2
Opinion.....A4
Senior Menus.....A2

Sports.....A6
Turning Backs.....A2
Weather.....B6

SATURDAY — BAKER SANITARY SERVICE OPENS COMPOSTING FACILITY