

Baker City Herald

July 29, 2021

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GO!
EASTERN OREGON

Fair time!
Kick off to county fairs
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SIDE
BREWING

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

IN THIS EDITION:

Business & Ag Life • Local • Sports

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

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

Oregon, A5

PENDLETON — More than half of all patients currently hospitalized at CHI St. Anthony hospital in Pendleton have tested positive for COVID-19, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

The hospitalizations come as Umatilla County reports one of the largest surges in COVID-19 cases in Oregon, reporting about 8% of the state's total cases over the past two weeks despite accounting for just 2% of its population. The county's case rate during that same time period was more than seven times higher than Multnomah and Washington counties, which both have more than 500,000 more residents than Umatilla County.

Local, A6

Art lovers gathered outside of Royal Artisan Saturday morning, July 24, to brighten Main Street sidewalks with chalk creations.

Jessica Dougherty, who has been organizing "Chalk It Up to Art" for the past three years, said the annual event is just a fun way to bring people together and make public art.

WEATHER

Today

94 / 54



Sunny

Friday

98 / 60



Smoke likely

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

LaDonn And Matt McElligott Honored For Contributions To Baker County Fair

Friends of the Fair



Joanna Mann/Baker City Herald

LaDonn and Matt McElligott are being honored as the Baker County Friends of the Fair for 2021.

By Joanna Mann
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Matt and LaDonn McElligott have been named Baker County Fair Friends of the Year for 2021.

"I thought part of the criteria was you had to be old," Matt laughed.

The McElligotts, who live between Haines and North Powder, actually found out that they were going to be named Fair Friends in 2020.

But the usual festivities that go along with the award were canceled due to the pandemic, although some fair events did happen.

This year, the McElligotts were honored on Tuesday, July 27 at the annual dinner and pie auction at the Baker County Event Center.

The couple claim to have no idea why they received the honor, but their longtime involvement with and dedication to 4-H programs exemplify the criteria for the award.

LaDonn's involvement in the program began when she was a child growing up in Montana. She showed heifers and steers and her mother was a 4-H leader, just like LaDonn is now. The family's passion for showing animals is generational.

"Once you're involved in it, you want your kids to be involved in it because it's a really good learning tool for them," LaDonn said.

Matt was also involved in 4-H during his childhood in Ione, in

"The good thing about 4-H is it teaches kids and young adults responsibility."

— **Matt McElligott, who with his wife, LaDonn, was honored as Baker County Fair Friends of the Year for 2021**

Morrow County, where he showed pigs and steers for years. He met LaDonn at Montana State University and they've been married for nearly 32 years.

Their two children, Kayla and Lee, were born at Nampa, Idaho, and the family moved to Oregon in 2006. They've lived on their ranch near North Powder ever since.

Kayla began showing pigs in 4-H when she was just eight years old. Now 27, she lives in Portland and works as an event coordinator for the city of Newberg.

Lee began showing rabbits when he was eight, later moving on to pigs and then steers. Now 24, he is learning to be an Air Force pilot at Del Rio, Texas.

"The good thing about 4-H is it teaches kids and young adults responsibility," Matt said. "Whether you're in sewing, photography or livestock, you have a project and you set a goal and the steps along to get to that goal."

Matt has been a Purina representative for 32 years, traveling the Northwest and giving seminars to children on how to feed their livestock. For the past year and a half, he's been giving these

Baker County Fair Begins August 1

After a pared down version of the Baker County Fair in 2020 due to the pandemic, the event returns with its traditional schedule Aug. 1-6 at the Fairgrounds in Baker City. The Baker County Horse Show is set for July 30-31.

For more about this year's Fair, see Go! magazine, included with today's issue.

For a complete schedule, turn to Page A3 of today's issue.

seminars over Zoom.

Although Matt said he adjusted pretty quickly to the new format, he said the online seminars aren't the same.

"You can't see facial expressions," he said. "If you're standing in a room full of 100 people, you can tell if you're on point, because you can read their body language. You can't tell on a Zoom call."

LaDonn works as a loan specialist for the USDA Rural Development agency. She's also a 4-H leader and a swine superintendent for the Fair.

See **Fair Friends** / Page A3

COVID cases surge

By Jayson Jacoby
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The surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the more contagious delta variant has spread to Baker County, which reported 19 new cases on Tuesday, July 27, the second-highest one-day total during the pandemic.

Only Dec. 28, 2020, with 25 new cases, had more.

As of 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the county had recorded 11 more cases, with potentially more before the end of the day, County Commissioner Mark Bennett said.

"We're seeing an increase in cases, and we need to get a handle on it or we're going to be in bad shape as a county," Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, said. "We know that when cases spike, many people are exposed to people who are contagious, and it takes a long time for infections to go down."



Staten

See **Surge** / Page A2

Drunken driver gets 60 months for fatal 2020 crash

By Jayson Jacoby
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A 32-year-old Baker City man who was driving while intoxicated when he crashed near Baker City on Nov. 30, 2020, killing one of his passengers, was sentenced to 60 months in prison on July 21 after pleading guilty to several charges.



Schlett

Mathew Guy Schlett was sentenced by Judge Thomas B. Powers.

Tahnee Main, 36, died in the one-car crash on Pocahtontas Road near Washington Gulch Road.

See **Prison** / Page A2

Wolves kill one heifer, injure steer

By Jayson Jacoby
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Wolves from the Lookout Mountain have killed another cow, and injured one steer, in eastern Baker County over the past week, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) concluded after biologists investigated the two cases.

See **Wolves** / Page A3



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