



In HOME, B1  
Summer's  
time for  
tomatoes

# Baker City Herald

August 3, 2021

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Teresa Young of Baker City.

**State, A3**

JOSEPH — Quincy Ellenwood smiled as a pair of young Nez Perce men rode their horses across a hay field here Thursday, July 29.

Their pace — slow and steady — quickened without warning. Soon the two men, one shirtless and the other wearing a beaded vest, raced across the grassy slope.

BRIEFING

**Family-friendly, free movies at Central Park**

Every Thursday night this summer, catch a free movie in Baker City's Central Park. "The Croods" begins at 8:45 p.m. on Aug. 5, and 1984's "The Karate Kid" will be shown Aug. 12.

Aug. 19 will feature "Raya and the Last Dragon" and Aug. 26 is "The Goonies."

These screenings are made possible by the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition and Baker School District.

**Baker County Garden Club's annual auction, meeting set for Aug. 4**

The Baker County Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. for the annual auction and meeting at the Daugherty home, 995 J St. Please bring auction items from your garden or extra items from home, along with a sack lunch and beverage.

WEATHER

**Today**

97 / 54  
Sunny



**Wednesday**

96 / 56  
Partly sunny



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



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Rainwater drips from a flower in Baker City on Sunday, Aug. 1.

By Jayson Jacoby

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August arrived as the anti-July.

Everything July was, in terms of weather, the first day of August was not in Baker County.

This July not only was the hottest on record at the Baker City Airport — it was the hottest month, period.

July's average high temperature was 92.3 degrees, nipping the previous record of 92.0 set in July 1985.

But August started cool, with a high of 79 degrees on the first day of the month. It was the coolest day at the airport since June 16, when the high was 76. The high was also eight degrees below average for the first day of August.

The drought that has plagued Baker County and much of the rest of Oregon deepened during July.

A meager .02 of an inch of rain fell at the airport during the month, scarcely enough to moisten the dust.

August, by contrast, needed but a single day to surpass not only July but also June.

Rainfall at the airport added up to 0.34 of an inch on Aug. 1. That tops the combined total of .23 from July and June. It was the wettest day at the airport since May 25, when 0.38 of an inch fell, and the second-wettest in more than a year.

August's cool, soggy start was caused by an in-

## August's soggy start

### Dampest day in more than two months temporarily curbs fire danger, trims Baker City water use

flux of monsoon moisture from the Southwest that brought humidity more typical of the Deep South than of the arid West.

According to the National Weather Service in Boise, the amount of moisture in the atmosphere — measured by a weather balloon released from the Boise Airport — set records over the weekend.

This moist invasion was reflected in two related measurements at the Bak-

er City Airport — relative humidity and dewpoint.

Relative humidity measures the amount of water vapor in the air as a percentage of the total amount of vapor the air could hold, at a given temperature, before some of the vapor condenses into clouds.

Dewpoint is the temperature at which relative humidity would reach 100%.

The higher the humidity, the smaller the gap between the dewpoint and the actual air temperature. At 100% humidity, for instance, the temperature and the dewpoint are equal, and typically fog or low clouds will form.

On a typical summer day in Baker County, however, that gap is quite wide, because the relative humidity, which tends to reach its lowest point during the afternoon, often drops below 20%.

That was the situation on Friday afternoon, July 30. At 4 p.m. the relative humidity at the Baker



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Rainwater drips from the needles of a ponderosa pine tree near Phillips Reservoir on Sunday, Aug. 1.

See, **Rain** / Page A5

## ODFW kills 2 wolves

By Jayson Jacoby

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Employees from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, firing rifles from a helicopter, shot and killed two wolf pups from the Lookout Mountain pack on Sunday, Aug. 1.

On Thursday, July 29, the agency's director authorized either ODFW employees, or a Baker County ranching couple or their designated agents, to kill up to four sub-adult wolves from that pack, which has attacked their cattle at least four times since mid-July.

The Lookout Mountain wolves have killed two animals and injured two others, according to ODFW investigations.

The two wolves killed Sunday are 3 1/2-month-old pups, according to Michelle Dennehy, an ODFW spokesperson.

The agency confirmed earlier this year that the pack's breeding female and male — neither of which can be killed under the permit issued Thursday — produced a litter of seven pups this year.

During the helicopter flight on Sunday, ODFW employees saw at least five pups and the two adults, Dennehy said. They didn't see either of the two yearling wolves, which were born in the spring of 2020.

See, **Wolves** / Page A3

## Settlement conference set Friday in Baker County's road lawsuit

By Jayson Jacoby

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A settlement conference is set for Friday, Aug. 6 in the civil suit Baker County filed more than two years ago seeking to force a landowner near the Idaho border to open a locked gate that has blocked public access to a road since 2017.

The conference is scheduled for 9 a.m. in Baker County Circuit Court in the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

If the suit isn't settled, it's tentatively set to go to trial Oct. 11, 2021.

The Baker County Board of Commissioners decided in early 2019 to file the suit. Larry Sullivan, an attorney from Vale, filed the lawsuit on the county's behalf on Feb. 7, 2019.

The original defendants were Todd Longgood and the Dennis Omer Hansen

Revocable Living Trust.

The county later added Forsea River Ranch LLC of Richland, which owns a parcel adjacent to Longgood's property, as a defendant.

Longgood's attorney, Charles F. Hudson of Portland, in June of this year filed a motion revising the list of defendants.

In addition to Forsea River Ranch LLC, the defendants are Timber Canyon Ranch LLC, of which Longgood is the sole member, Kennerly Ranches LLC, which, according to the motion, has acquired all the ownership interest in the property that Hansen previously had.

Kennerly Ranches is registered to Guy Kennerly of Roseburg.

The lawsuit is based on a contested road that connects two county roads — Daly Creek Road, north-

east of Lookout Mountain, and the Snake River Road just above Brownlee Reservoir.

The road is commonly called Connor Creek Road, as it follows that stream for a few miles from its eastern terminus at the Snake River Road. The gate, however, is at the opposite, western end of the road. Longgood, who along with Hansen bought a parcel of land in that area in early 2017, had the gate locked in August 2017.

In its lawsuit the county contends that the road is a historic public route that can't be blocked.

Longgood's attorneys disagree, citing historic maps, property deeds and other records as evidence that the gated road was built after the land was converted from public to private.

The lawsuit, which

seeks an injunction requiring the defendants to cease restricting public access on the Connor Creek Road, contends that a resolution county commissioners passed in 2002 affirms the road as public and precludes landowners from blocking access on that road.

Commissioners passed that resolution after a different property owner, on the eastern end of the road at the Connor Creek Mine, also put in a locked gate. The resolution, citing a one-sentence federal statute from 1866 that assures public access to routes not otherwise reserved, states that the entire Connor Creek Road, including the section crossing the property Longgood now owns, is a public right-of-way that can't be blocked.

See, **Lawsuit** / Page A5

## West Nile virus found in mosquitoes east of Baker City

### First time virus detected in Baker County since 2019

By Jayson Jacoby

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After a one-year hiatus in 2020, West Nile virus has returned to Baker County.

But so far the virus has been detected in mosquitoes only.

The biting bugs can transmit the virus to people, and to horses.

The virus was found in mosquitoes trapped on July 19 about 15 miles east of Baker City, said

See, **Virus** / Page A3



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TUESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE