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Baker City Herald

August 12, 2021

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Catherine Smothers of Baker City.

State/Nation, A5

Eleven state lawmakers on Thursday will begin a politically Herculean task with historically small odds of success: Draw 96 new political districts in 46 days that will be used beginning with the 2022 election.

The six Democrats and five Republicans on the House and Senate redistricting committees are set to receive block-by-block U.S. Census data chock full of population and demographic changes since the last map-making 10 years ago.

Sports, A6

As Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks walked to the line of scrimmage to run out the remaining two minutes of clock, boos rained down on the team from the 15,758 fans in attendance at Lumen Field.

"That was great," head coach Pete Carroll remarked afterward.

After all, it was the first time fans have been able to watch the Seahawks perform in any fashion inside Lumen Field since the end of the 2019 regular season. All nine of Seattle's home games last season came without fans in attendance.

WEATHER

Today

99 / 65 Sunny

Wednesday

100 / 66 Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Face masks to be worn indoors starting Friday, Gov. Brown says

By GARY WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday, Aug. 11, ordered face masks worn indoors in public places by everyone age 5 and over beginning Friday.

At a Wednesday morning press call, Brown said the highly contagious delta variant was pushing the virus spread to the point that each infected person was infecting eight others.

"Moving forward, for the immediate future, masks will be required for all indoor public settings," Brown said.

The mandate applies to adults and

children older than 5. On public transit, also includes children older than 2.

Brown also urged, but did not mandate, wearing masks in crowded outdoor situations. She also urged private companies and other organizations to enact their own indoor mask policies.

Brown's order came the day after the Oregon Health & Sciences University's infectious disease experts forecast the state could see over 1,000 COVID-19 patients per day in hospitals by early next month. Oregon would be about 500 staffed beds short of needs for all patients if the rate hit its projected peak

of Sept. 7.

Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state epidemiologist, said this "fifth wave" of COVID-19 to hit the state in the past 18 months was different than earlier spikes.

More than half the population is vaccinated, but the "relentless" delta variant was spreading rapidly through the estimated 1.2 million Oregon residents who are not inoculated. That group includes children under 12 for whom there is no federally approved vaccine as yet.

OHA has reported patients arriving at hospitals are younger, sicker, require more care and stay longer.

"The COVID-19 situation is dire," Sidelinger said, with the delta variant "far outpacing even the grim scenarios in our latest reported projections."

Oregon will become the third state, along with Hawaii and Louisiana, with a statewide mask mandate.

Cases spike locally Nearly 130 Baker County residents have tested positive for COVID-19 over the last two weeks with 68 the first week and 62 the next.

Continuing this pattern, this week

See, Masks / Page A3

TRAIL TENDERS moves downtown

Nonprofit adjusts with Oregon Trail Interpretive Center closed for extended period



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The Oregon Trail Shop offers traditional trail items, such as bonnets, along with modern Oregon-themed decorations.

By LISA BRITTON

Baker City Herald

If you've always wanted a pioneer bonnet, it'll soon be easy to find one.

The Trail Tenders, the nonprofit group that supports the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, are bringing their gift shop to downtown Baker City.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The popular Penny Pincher machine — a fundraiser for the Trail Tenders — has been relocated to the new Oregon Trail Shop on Main Street in Baker City.

"We're so excited," said Kate Dimon, president of the Trail Tenders.

The shop is at 2015 Main St. A soft opening is set for Sept. 1.

The gift shop provides revenue for the Trail Tenders, who in turn support the center, such as funding special performances and programs.

The center has been closed since Nov. 17, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, this summer has included outdoor performances, as well as programs in Geiser-Pollman Park most Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Now center staff are storing artifacts to prepare the center for an energy-efficient renovation beginning March 1, 2022.

The work is expected to take two years.

"We are the custodians of many non-renewable artifacts held in public trust," said Wayne Monger, manager of the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District, which operates the Interpretive Center. "They must be carefully protected and stored to prevent loss, damage or degradation."

Monger said last week in a press release that this process is at a stage where the Center has to stay closed while the work continues in preparation

for the renovations that start in 2022.

When the center is closed, no visitors are buying memorabilia in the gift shop.

"That's why it was imperative we made the decision to come downtown," Dimon said.

The shop's inventory has been moved to the new space, as well as some new Oregon-themed items and a section dedicated to Native Americans.

Favorite attractions remain, Dimon said, pointing out the box of polished rocks and the "penny pincher" machine that makes souvenir coins.

Beginning in September, the Oregon Trail Shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In addition to sales, Dimon said their goal is to be a resource for town visitors who may not know about the Interpretive Center, which is located five miles east of Baker City.

She hopes to also bring awareness to the Trail Tenders, which is in need of board members and volunteers.

"We're at a place where we can revamp who we are," Dimon said.

When the center reopens in two years, she hopes the Trail Tenders keep a presence in Baker City.

See, Trail / Page A3

Heat Stroke vs. Heat Exhaustion

Tips and tricks for battling the worst heat wave the northwest has seen for a while

By ANN BLOOM

For the Baker City Herald

Elvis Presley may have felt his temperature rising to 109 if he'd been living in Wallowa County a few weeks ago during our unprecedented heat wave.

This summer has seen hot temperatures like no other. The mercury soared into the triple digits on several consecutive days in heat wave after heat wave. Heat advisories and red flag warnings have become part of our everyday vocabulary. Wildfires in Oregon have made the national news. This is the time of year when heat related illnesses such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion are on everyone's mind from medical personnel to veterinarians, from parents to pet owners. Whether you have two legs or four legs, you and your pet are susceptible to the heat and its effects. But what exactly is a heat related illness? Here is what to look for in heat-related illnesses, how to treat and how to prevent them.

Different illnesses

First, heat stroke and heat exhaustion are different. But both are serious medical conditions. Heat stroke is a life-threatening illness and requires immediate medical attention. It happens when the body gets too hot and is characterized by confusion, dizziness, rapid pulse, throbbing headache, extreme thirst, nausea and vomiting, having deceptively cool skin, and a high body temperature. It most often occurs when people exercise too much or are overly active during hot weather without drinking enough fluids.

According to Theresa Russell, Family Nurse Practitioner at Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic, the key factor for heat stroke is a body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. At

See, Heat / Page A3

City Council discusses Visitor's Services Request for Proposal

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

Baker City Herald

Baker City Council will be scheduling a joint work session with the Baker County Commissioners to discuss the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Visitors Services Contract.

Councilors discussed the RFP at their regular session Tuesday evening, Aug. 10, voicing their concerns.

Councilor Shane Alderson, who is on the Transient Lodging Tax Committee, explained they are looking at complete separate budgets for the Visitors Service Center and if they want to host an event, they would come to the TLTC to request grant money to be budgeted for the event so there

wouldn't be crossover for the budget.

"The other thing that was kind of concerning was this tosses, basically, the evaluation and selection back to TLTC and one of the discussions that had happened with Chair Harvey and the three of us in that work group was we did not want to repeat the same mistakes that we went through last time," said Mayor Kerry McQuisten.

She said they had discussed putting together a separate committee of county and city to deal with them this time.

"We need to do something to make this process professional and neutral," said McQuisten.

Councilor Joanna Dixon expressed wanting people who are not involved in

events to go through the scoring process in the RFP so there is no bias.

Councilor Lynette Perry said she thinks it is much cleaner having the Visitors Center be its own entity being paid for by the TLT.

Dixon said when they had been in the city-county work group, they had anticipated getting the RFP done and out so Visitors Services was funded. Once the RFP was out, they would go back and "tear TLT apart."

"Do we need the marketing sub-committee? Economic development shouldn't even be in TLT. Do we want marketing and Visitors Services under

See, Council / Page A3



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

A joint work session has been scheduled between the Baker City Council and the Baker County Commissioners to discuss the Request for Proposal for the Visitors Services Contract at the Visitors Center, shown here.



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SATURDAY — ABANDONED MINE PERFECT FOR HORROR MOVIE, IN OUTDOORS