



LOCAL A2
Photos from a snowy
Easter egg hunt



SPORTS A5
Baker baseball
sweeps Ontario



SPORTS A6
Baker boys 2nd, girls
3rd at Pendleton

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • HOME & LIVING • SPORTS

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COMING THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Special section focuses on the farming and ranching industry in NE Oregon, focusing on concerns about the ongoing drought.

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Mark Ferns of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Free firewood permits available soon

Beginning May 1, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will offer free personal-use firewood permits, with a limit of 10 cords per household, per year. Permits will be available at local Forest Service offices and through a variety of local vendors, which can charge a \$2 processing fee.

BHS baseball 'Pink Night' for breast cancer awareness

The Baker High School baseball team will have its Pink Night, to raise awareness about breast cancer and honor those affected by it, on Monday, April 25, when the Bulldogs play Heppner/lone at 5 p.m. at the Baker Sports Complex.

Baker players will wear pink uniforms and hats. Everyone is invited to attend and to also don pink clothing.

WEATHER

Today
50/28
Partly sunny



Wednesday
53/33
Afternoon showers



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



Young artists leave a LEGACY

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Penelope Sanchez, a kindergartner at the Baker Early Center, chose red and black for her tile.

Kindergartners create colorful tiles to decorate the Baker Early Learning Center

BY LISA BRITTON
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Kindergartners are very particular about their colors.

Especially when their masterpieces will be preserved, for years to come, on the wall of their school.

On Tuesday, April 12, Penelope Sanchez carefully placed tiny red tiles in the shape of a "P" then surrounded it with black.

Then she held up her masterpiece. "I picked vampire colors," she said with a grin. Fellow kindergartner Silas Roberts made his "S" in blue, surrounded by red. "Like Superman!" he said.

This month, under the guidance of volunteer Andrea Stone, kindergarten classes at the Baker Early Learning Center created individual tiles featuring the first letter of their name.

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Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
This mosaic, created by the 2021 kindergarten students, is displayed on the east side of the Baker Early Learning Center on Seventh Street. This year's version will be installed next to this one.

Baker man arrested after vehicle chase

Baker City Herald
A Baker City man was arrested Saturday morning, April 16, after leading police on a vehicle chase that officers ended due to unsafe speeds on wet, slushy roads.

Rudy Saarheim, 35, was arrested about 10:41 a.m. after returning to the 2900 block of Seventh St., where the chase started. He is accused of reckless driving, attempting to elude and third-degree escape.

A report of a restraining order violation started the incident on a snowy morning when about three inches of snow fell in Baker City.

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COVID remains quiet in county

Baker City Herald
The recent modest increases in COVID-19 cases in Oregon and the nation has not happened in Baker County.

Nationally, daily cases have risen over the past few weeks from about 29,000 per day to about 37,000.

More than 85% of those confirmed cases are the highly contagious BA.2 strain, according to The Associated Press.

In Oregon, the daily rolling average, based on totals from the previous seven days, rose from 288 on April 2 to 421 on April 14.

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Baker Tower owner to turn office space into short-term rental housing

BY IAN CRAWFORD
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The owner of the Baker Tower, also known as Hotel Baker, plans to turn unused office space on the fifth floor of the 10-story structure into short-term rental housing.

Patrick Rhea, who owns the historic building at the northwest corner of Main Street and Auburn Avenue, said he's renovating the space to meet residential standards.

Rhea said he's aware that a recent post on a local Facebook group, along with comments to it, raised the question of whether the space would be used as housing for homeless residents.

That's not the case, Rhea said, but the confusion seems to have stemmed

from the term "transient lodging," which is included in his application to the Baker City/County Planning Department, which department staff approved.

Transient is sometimes used as a synonym for homeless, but the word, when used to describe a type of housing or lodging, also means temporary quarters, including motel rooms.

The tax that guests in motels, bed and breakfasts and vacation rental homes is called the "transient lodging tax" in many jurisdictions, including Baker County.

The planning department approved Rhea's general proposal with a two-year timeline during which he would need to obtain a building permit and pay for city inspections before renting the residential spaces.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
Patrick Rhea, who owns the Baker Tower, plans to transform unused office space on the fifth floor of the 10-story building into short-term rental housing.

County officials to discuss ambulance situation

Baker City Herald
The Baker City Council and Baker County Commissioners will have a joint meeting on Wednesday, April 20, to discuss the ambulance situation that affects both the city and much of the rest of the county.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Residents can attend in person or watch the meeting on Zoom. For the link, go to www.bakercounty.org/online/meetings.html.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the notice the City Council sent to the county on March 22, stating that the city

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TODAY
Issue 143
14 pages

Classified.....B4-B6	Crossword.....B4 & B6	Horoscope.....B4 & B6	Opinion.....A4	Sudoku.....B7
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Community News.....A2	Home & Living.....B1-B3	News of Record.....A2	Sports.....A5 & A6	Weather.....B8