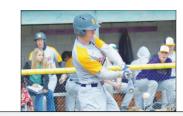


LOCAL A2 **Photos from a snowy Easter egg hunt**



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

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 • \$1.50

man

after

chase

A Baker City man was arrested Saturday morning, April 16, after

leading police on a vehicle chase that officers ended due to unsafe

rested about 10:41 a.m. after

third-degree escape.

returning to the 2900 block of Seventh St., where the chase

started. He is accused of reckless driving, attempting to elude and

A report of a restraining or-der violation started the inci-

COVID

remains

quiet in

county

The recent modest increases in

COVID-19 cases in Oregon and

the nation has not happened in

Nationally, daily cases have

More than 85% of those con-

firmed cases are the highly con-

tagious BA.2 strain, according to

erage, based on totals from the

previous seven days, rose from from 288 on April 2 to 421 on

In Oregon, the daily rolling av-

See, COVID/Page A3

The Associated Press.

County

risen over the past few weeks from about 29,000 per day to

Baker City Herald

Baker County.

about 37,000.

April 14.

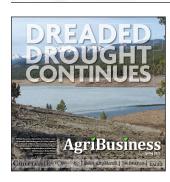
dent on a snowy morning when

See, Arrest/Page A3

Baker City Herald

Baker

arrested



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 Wal-Iowa-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/ Ione 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







Geste color fultiles to decoratetheBaker ly Learning Center

BY LISA BRITTON

🖊 indergartners 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 sur-

rounded 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.

See, Learning/Page A3



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.

The space below is for a postage label

for issues that are mailed.

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

BY IAN CRAWFORD

icrawford@bakercityherald.com 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 twoyear timeline during which he would need to obtain a building permit and pay for city inspections before renting the residential spaces.



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.

officials to discuss ambulance situation

Baker City Herald

The Baker City Council and **Baker County Commission**ers 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

See, Council/Page A3



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HoroscopeB4 & B6 Lottery Results......A2 News of Record......A2

Senior Menus.....A2 Sports A5 & A6 Sudoku..... R7 Turning BacksA2

Weather.....B8