



LOCAL A2
Noxious weed
of the week



SPORTS A6
Baker golf team
wins again



OUTDOORS B1
Mining the forest for
morel mushrooms

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ron Lay of Medical Springs.

BRIEFING

City begins testing fire hydrants

The Baker City Public Works Department started its annual fire hydrant testing and water line flushing Monday, April 25, and the campaign will continue for about two to three weeks.

This work is done each year to flush sediment from the water system and ensure all hydrants are functioning properly and are delivering water at the correct pressure and volume.

Through this, small silt-like particles may become stirred up after settling in water lines that are less active. This can make water run cloudy temporarily. If that happens in your home or business, turn on a cold water faucet outside and let it run until the water is clear.

If you use a water filtration system, remember to clean the screen to restore full water flow.

If your water continues to be cloudy, call the city water department at 541-523-6541.

WEATHER

Today
51/37
Rain showers



Sunday
57/36
Partly cloudy



Monday
52/32
Morning showers



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Aiming for perfection

Baker students compete in trapshooting league

Baker trapshooting team members

These students have been competing for the team: Jose Arment, Remington Benson, Anthony Betts, Liam Blair, Sawyer Blatchford, Gauge Bloomer, Charlie Boulter, Ryan Brown, Cameron Conklin, Mason Downing, Alsitie Elizondo, Cody Eskew, Jaxon Ford, Ryan Hansen, Gage Hatfield, Jack Heriza, Seth Holden, Riley Hurliman, Alex Jaca, Connor Martin, Ethan Morgan, Sam Nelson, Connor Norton, Matt Rabourne, Cris Schuh, Keegan Slobig, Skye Smith, Jimmy Sullivan, Ethan Whiting, Alex Wise, Joe Zikmund

BY IAN CRAWFORD • icrawford@bakercityherald.com

A meadowlark's song graces the air in the prairie just north of Baker City, but Zack Kimball can't hear the bird's call.

He shields his eyes behind the blue sheen of polarized lenses. He holds his breath and yells, "Pull!"

With a snap, his spinning target flies out overhead, as high as the power lines, orange and rising.

Kimball's eyes and hands track the target, the barrel of his shotgun swings and at the squeeze of the trigger the target disintegrates, its pieces flying

away like a firework against a dark sky.

Kimball smiles, pops the break on his shotgun and reloads.

This is his third year serving as a coach for the Baker School District's trapshooting team. Three days a week he helps the athletes hone their skills at practices in preparation for competitions.

See, **Shooting**/Page A3



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
Riley Hurliman, a captain on the Baker trapshooting team, takes aim during a practice at the Baker Trap Club.

Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald
Sam Nelson (left) and Anthony Betts, members of the Baker trapshooting team, during a practice on April 27, 2022.

April makes its mark with chilly temperatures, rain

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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If you happened to see the snow squall that swept through Baker City on Thursday afternoon, April 28, and more so if a few of the slushy flakes trickled down your neck, the following isn't likely to surprise you.

April has been abnormally chilly. And damp.

Whether the month sets any all-time temperature records might come down to the matter of a handful of degrees on its final two days.

But it will be a near thing regardless.

Through April 29, the average low temperature at the Baker City Airport was 25.0 degrees.

That's the second coldest ever at the airport, where records date to 1943. The chilliest average low

temperature during April was in 2008, when the average was 23.8 degrees.

As for daily high temperatures, this April, though much cooler than average, won't set a record.

The average high for the first 28 days was 51.7 degrees, almost 7 degrees below average.

The coldest April by this measure was 1955, when the average high was 50.2 degrees. This year likely will rank fifth on the list, also behind 1970 (average high of 50.8), 1975 (50.9) and 2011 (51.4).

The temperature record most likely to fall is the average daily temperature, which combines the average high and low temperatures for each day.

Through April 28, the average temperature was 38.3 de-

grees, which is 6 degrees cooler than usual.

The record-holder is April 2008, when the average temperature at the airport was 38.1.

This April has also been noteworthy, as you're probably noticed by how frequently you've splashed through puddles or turned on your windshield wipers, for its rain (and snow).

Through April 28, the airport had recorded 1.07 inches of precipitation. It's the first month in almost two years with more than 1 inch — the most recent was May 2020, with 1.11 inches.

Although the total of 1.07 inches exceeds April's average of 0.80, and is the largest amount for April since 2012, it's well below the record high of 3.58 inches in 1978.

Search and rescue teams to gather in Baker County

Training this weekend involves teams from 10 E. Oregon counties

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The searchers will clamber over logs and rock outcroppings and wend their way between the pines, looking for someone who isn't actually lost.

But the status of the "victim" is the only part of the episode that's simulated.

Every other aspect of a three-day training exercise in the forests southwest of Baker City is designed to replicate, as accurately as possible, a real-life mission in which lives are at stake.



Ash

The subject of the search is a real person — just not one who's in danger.

"These are very realistic scenarios," said Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, who is serving as host for the annual regional training bringing together search and rescue members from the 10 counties that comprise the Eastern Oregon Search and Rescue group.

Ash expects about 60 people will gather this weekend at Union Creek campground, on the north shore of Phillips Reservoir, about 17 miles southwest of Baker City.

They'll represent nine other counties in addition to Baker: Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler.

The exercise started Friday, April 29, and will continue through Sunday morning, May 1.

Ash said travelers in the area, which includes the Union Creek Road north of Highway 7, should expect to see official vehicles from all the participating counties. Signs announcing the training will be posted.

He doesn't expect any traffic delays on Highway 7 itself.

See, **Training**/Page A3

Baker City resident warns of Medicare phone scam

Baker City Herald

Phyllis Fox wasn't about to tell the fast-talking man on the telephone any of the details on her Medicare enrollment card.

But she worries that other people might be temporarily fooled by the phone scam.

Fox, who lives in Baker City, said the caller, who spoke with a foreign accent, told her Medicare would be sending her a new card and that he needed the information from her current card.

Fox said the call came on her home line — she doesn't have a cellphone.

After hanging up, she called a Medicare office and spoke with someone who told her the agency had been "inundated" recently with questions about similar scam calls.

According to AARP, phone scams have been common since the federal government sent a new card to every Medicare beneficiary between April 2018 and January 2019. The new cards are designed to reduce the risk of identity theft.

Previous cards showed the person's Social Security number, but the new cards use a unique, randomly assigned combination of numbers and letters — the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier.

In a common type of phone scam, according to AARP, the caller asks the Medicare recipient to verify personal information or pay a processing fee to activate the new card.

According to AARP, Medicare employees won't call unless they're responding to a legitimate request from a beneficiary.



TODAY
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