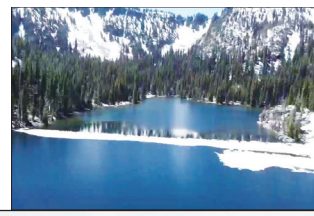




LOCAL A2
Wyden welcomes news about clinic



SPORTS A5
Little League all-stars take 2nd at district



OUTDOORS B1
Mosquito-free visit to Van Patten Lake

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Sandra Grover of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Nominees sought for Baker County Fair Family

Baker County Friends of the Fairgrounds are seeking nominees for the 2022 Fair Family of the Year. Nominations are due by July 10. Nomination letters can be emailed to bakercity-friendsofthefair@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed to help with library book sale July 14-17

Friends of the Baker County Library need volunteers to help sort books and to work as cashiers during the book sale July 14-17. Volunteers can sign up at the library, 2400 Resort St., or by calling Jen at 541-519-7828.

Baker County Garden Club to meet July 6

The Baker County Garden Club will meet July 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the Eastern Oregon Museum, 610 Third St. in Haines. Please bring a sack lunch. Water and chairs will be provided. New members are always welcome.

WEATHER

Today
89/52
Sunny

Sunday
77/49
Storms possible

Monday
73/47
Morning showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Night Counselor Winnie-the-Pooh — with the help of Missy Grammon — reads a story to the stuffed animals who stayed overnight at the Baker County Library on June 16.

Melissa Grammon/Contributed Photo

Lots to do at the library

Reading challenges, games, movies and even a campout for stuffed animals

BY LISA BRITTON

It's not every day you'll see a campout in the library, complete with hiking and s'mores. Not with real fire, of course — books are, obviously, kind of flammable. But the night of June 16 saw unusual activity in the Baker County Public Library with the "Stuffed Animal Overnight Campout" — just one special activity organized

Baker County Library Basics

- 2400 Resort St.
- bakerlib.org
- 541-523-6419

Hours

- Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

for the summer reading program, which is themed "Read Beyond the Beaten Path."

"I had a lot of fun with this one," said Missy Grammon, youth services coordinator. Children handed their special stuffed animals to Grammon on the afternoon of June 16, and she gave each one a nametag on a lanyard.

Then the adventures ensued, written up in a journal entry that was picked up the next day, along with the animal.

An excerpt: "Once we checked in at the library, we started our camp-out off with a fun hike! We climbed the bookshelves in the teen room and then hiked our way to the Storytime room."

See **Library** / A3

COVID-19 cases more than double in Baker County in June

BY JAYSON JACOBY

COVID-19 cases in Baker County more than doubled during June compared with May. The county reported 110 cases from June 1-29, according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). June's total surpasses the combined total of 76 for the previous three months — May (49), April (13) and March (14).

Baker County reported 18 cases on June 27, the highest daily total since Feb. 8, during the omicron surge.

Meghan Chancey, director of the Baker County Health Department, said the agency hasn't seen a significant increase in the volume of calls from residents regarding COVID-19. Chancey said department employees continue to offer residents home test kits and vaccinations.

She said recommendations are the same as they have been during

COVID-19 cases in Baker County

June 2022: 110 (June 1-29)	August 2021: 300
May 2022: 47	July 2021: 91
April 2022: 13	June 2021: 70
March 2022: 14	May 2021: 51
February 2022: 230	April 2021: 162
January 2022: 646	March 2021: 97
December 2021: 106	February 2021: 70
November 2021: 143	January 2021: 106
October 2021: 168	December 2020: 196
September 2021: 465	November 2020: 141

the pandemic — if you feel ill, stay home and consider taking a test.

"We're here to provide any information and resources," Chancey said on Friday, July 1. "We always welcome anybody calling in."

The health department's phone number is 541-523-8211. The office is at 2200 Fourth St.

Case numbers well below winter peak

Although June's case rate was higher than during the late summer and spring, it was well below the peak during mid and late winter.

See **COVID-19** / A3

Crews get handle on range fire

Willowcreek fire in Malheur County has burned 40,274 acres

BY JAYSON JACOBY

Crews have gotten a handle on the first major wildfire of 2022, burning since Tuesday, June 28 in remote rangeland northeast of Vale, in northern Malheur County.

The Willowcreek fire, which has burned 40,274 acres, was 75% contained as of Friday morning, July 1.

"If conditions stay the same today, we'll be looking at a patrol and monitor status," said Justin Fenton, fire duty officer for the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District.

Fenton said fire lines have been holding.

Cooler temperatures are forecast for Sunday, July 3, and Monday, July 4, with higher humidities and a chance of showers and thunderstorms.

"That will help the firefighters with mop up," Fenton said.

See **Fire** / A2



Vale District Bureau of Land Management/Contributed Photo

The Willowcreek fire burns in northern Malheur County on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Republicans upset about 'harassing' letters from lawyer

BY JAYSON JACOBY

A Baker City couple are vowing to consider filing a lawsuit after receiving a letter accusing them of disrupting a private meeting of local Republican Party officials in Baker City on June 7.

The letter was on behalf of an attorney representing the six-member Baker County Republican executive committee, which met that day at the GOP office at 2100 Main St.

Susan and Jason Bland wrote in a response letter that they weren't involved in the June 7 incident.

"The correspondence you sent to us is threatening and harassing — it makes us feel unsafe," Susan Bland wrote in a June 23 response letter.

The Blands received a letter on June 21 by certified mail from Kevin Mannix, a Salem attorney who was the Republican candidate for Oregon governor in 2002.



Bland

See **Letters** / A3



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Andrew Gettle on the lift on Resort Street, sketching his mural first with spray paint and outlining the radial waves of color for his design on July 1, 2022.

Resort Street mural project underway

Andrew Gettle painting mural on wall previously tagged with graffiti

BY IAN CRAWFORD

"How it all began was, we were called to remove graffiti off of buildings," said Be Tiedemann, who manages the White House Art and Design shop on Main Street. "The main thing was the graffiti, but then it developed into this art."

Tiedemann serves on the public artworks subcommittee, which operates with grant funding under the Baker City Downtown design committee.

If you've ever wondered who to ask about arranging for a steel giraffe or rhino to grace your business doorstep, she's a go-to.

The graffiti itself, a rudimentary skull and crossbones, was tagged onto the back wall of The Trailhead, 1828 Main St., on the wall facing Resort Street.

Though the responsible parties were dealt with legally, the actual task of removing the graffiti provoked thought among Tiedemann and others.

"Tom Novak, a popular artist here in Baker, says 'If you want to get rid of graffiti, put a mural there.' So I thought to myself that this would be a perfect spot," Tiedemann said.

See **Mural** / A3



TODAY
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