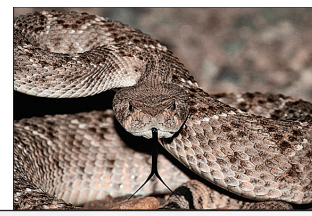




LOCAL A2
Baker City plans to chip seal streets



OREGON A5
Hail storm causes injuries in Willowa



OUTDOORS B1
Close encounter with a rattlesnake

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • OUTDOORS & REC

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Marc Todd of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazan to visit Baker

Christine Drazan, the Republican candidate for Oregon governor, will be in Baker City for a meet and greet event on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Baker County Events Center, 2600 East St.



Drazan

Drazan, who won the Republican nomination in the May 17 primary, is running against Democrat Tina Kotek and independent Betsy Johnson. Drazan is seeking to become the first Republican elected as Oregon governor in 40 years. Victor Atiyeh was elected in 1982 to the second of his four-year terms.

Road over Hells Canyon Dam closed Aug. 17

OXBOW — The road over Hells Canyon Dam will be closed on Wednesday, Aug. 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., PDT. No vehicles will be able to cross the dam during that time, as a large crane will be on top of the dam. Idaho Power Company, which owns the dam, will be using the crane to remove vegetation from the face of the dam. The road will be open to pedestrians.

WEATHER

Today
88/45
Mostly sunner



Sunday
89/46
Sunny



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

BAKER COUNTY FAIR



Nip and tuck at the fair

Clayton Franke/Baker City Herald

From right: Sofie Kaaen, Chase Myatt and Dawson Fletcher prepare to show their rabbits Wednesday morning, Aug. 10, 2022, during the Baker County Fair.

Competitors in the rabbit event deal with pressure — and an occasional bite from their furry entries

BY CLAYTON FRANKE
cfranke@bakercityherald.com

Sofie Kaaen opens her hand to reveal a half-inch cut on her palm. The thin slice is still red, a wound inflicted just minutes earlier.

While the wound isn't the result of a battle with a recent competitor, Kaaen is, at this moment, a champion.

Kaaen, 15, won overall grand champion of the rabbit showmanship at the Baker County Fair Wednesday morning, Aug. 10 at the Baker County Events Center.

Her wound was the product of a mistaken leporid identity and a rabbit's defensive reaction to her foreign touch.

See Fair / A3

Seed-spitter licks the competition

BY CLAYTON FRANKE
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Jose Armenta won the watermelon seed spitting contest at the Baker County Fairgrounds Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 10, even though nobody at the contest knew exactly how far his seed went.

That's because he spit the seed farther than the contest's official tape measure could reach.

The tape measure was 25 feet, and his seed — a tiny, black, saliva-soaked projectile that cut through the hot August afternoon air — hit the concrete and trickled a few inches past that mark.

Baker County Fair intern Kylie Siddoway, who organized the event, said Armenta's winning seed came from a watermelon courtesy of Val's Veggies, who donated six melons for the event.

Siddoway set up a seed-spitting venue on the concrete path just north of the volleyball courts at the fairgrounds.



Clayton Franke/Baker City Herald

Jose Armenta outdueled all competitors to win the watermelon seed-spitting contest at the Baker County Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022.

She marked the resting place of each seed with blue chalk and recorded its distance from the starting line — except for Armenta's seed, which traveled a

distance she simply labeled "Jose."

Contestants filtered over from the nearby volleyball tournament and signed up into three age groups: junior,

intermediate and senior. Armenta won the senior division and the overall competition.

Despite his victory that afternoon, Armenta said he had no real strategy coming into the contest and no prior experience in competitive watermelon seed spitting.

Or any competitive seed spitting. Armenta received a \$5 gift card to Charley's Ice Cream as a prize. Among 12 competitors at the event, two other competitors — Colton Luschen and Kody Roberts — also won their respective age groups and received gift cards with distances of 241 and 117 inches, respectively.

Luschen also said he had no prior experience in competitive watermelon seed spitting, but that he was a seasoned competitive watermelon eater, a skill he put on display by devouring a handful of extra watermelon slices in only a few moments as the contest came to a close.

OTEC plan outlines fire prevention techniques

This is the first year electric utilities had to submit plans to state

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Electric utilities have plenty of incentive to prevent their lines from sparking wildfires.

Such blazes can destroy homes as well as power lines themselves, resulting in long outages that can affect hundreds or thousands of customers.

Last year, the three investor-owned utilities that operate in Oregon — PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric and Idaho Power Company — were



Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative crews install an iron power pole in Grant County.

required for the first time to submit to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) a plan listing their fire prevention strategies.

This year other electric

providers, including cooperatives such as Oregon Trail Electric (OTEC), also had to submit their wildfire mitigation plans to the state agency.

See Techniques / A3

Mother Lode cafe opens in Baker City

BY IAN CRAWFORD
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The history of the Oregon Trail was always, in part, intertwined with the allure of finding glittering treasure. Inseparable from the mythos of the Wild West, in fact.

So if you're rolling down Campbell Street toward the interstate and see the newly

opened Mother Lode Cafe, you can expect they'll indeed have something golden to share.

The location, 791 Campbell St., has seen more than a few owners in the city's history, and the dining train cars themselves have seen more than a few cities in their traveling lifetime.

See Cafe / A3

Battling against book bans

Event planned during Thursday Wine Walk

BY LISA BRITTON
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Betty Books, the Baker County Library and Sweet Wife Baking are teaming up to

talk about books. Specifically, books that have been challenged or banned.

The event, called "Banned Books & Buns," will happen during the Third Thursday wine walk, Aug. 18, which is organized by Baker City Downtown.

See Bans / A3



TODAY
Issue 40
12 pages

Classified	B2-B4	Crossword	B2 & B4	Jayson Jacoby	A4	Opinion	A4	Sudoku	B5
Comics	B5	Dear Abby	B6	Lottery Results	A2	Outdoors	B1 & B2	Turning Backs	A2
Community News	A2	Horoscope	B3 & B4	News of Record	A2	Senior Menus	A2	Weather	B6