



GO! INSIDE
Festivals celebrate cherries, melons



SPORTS A6
Seahawks breaking in new linemen



OREGON A5
Hail damages crops in Union County

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber John Tabor Clarke of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Six more batches of mosquitoes positive for West Nile virus

Six more batches of mosquitoes, all trapped in the Keating Valley about 15 miles east of Baker City, tested positive for West Nile virus. Each group of mosquitoes generally consists of about 10 to 50 insects, said Matt Hutchinson, manager of the Baker Valley Vector Control District. The six recent positive tests brings to nine the total number of mosquito "pools" that have tested positive for the virus since late July. All nine were trapped in the Keating Valley. There have been no cases of infection in people. Mosquitoes can infect people with the virus, which causes no symptoms in many people and minor illness in some, but can in rare cases cause lasting neurological problems or prove fatal. Hutchinson recommends residents take precautions against mosquitoes, including eliminating sources of standing water where the insects breed, wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, and using insect repellent.

Mental Health, Alcohol Drug committees to meet Aug. 23

The Baker County Local Alcohol Drug Planning Committee and Mental Health Advisory Council Joint Committee will meet Aug. 23 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at New Directions Northwest, 3425 13th St.

WEATHER

Today
97/57
Mostly sunny

Friday
92/54
Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Drazan brings campaign to Baker

She hopes to become first GOP candidate elected governor since 1982

BY CLAYTON FRANKE
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Christine Drazan, who hopes to become the first Republican elected as Oregon governor in 40 years, visited the Baker County Events Center Tuesday evening, Aug. 16 for a speech to about 120 people.

In closing her 25-minute speech to the audience, a group she described as "the winning team," Drazan emphasized the importance of

voting. "I need you guys to know this: your votes matter," Drazan said. "Your votes are going to make a difference this year. Every single vote this year is going to make a difference. The next governor of Oregon is not going to be elected by Multnomah County."

Multnomah County, which includes Portland, has about 560,000 registered voters out of almost 3 mil-

lion registered in the state.

And more than half of those voters are registered Democrats, a big reason why Oregon has not elected a Republican to the state's top office since Victor Atiyeh, who won his second four-year term in 1982.

That's led people in counties like Baker, where 47% of the 12,800 registered voters are Republicans, to feel "uncomfortable" with representation, as one question from

the crowd on Tuesday night put it.

That person also asked Drazan about the possibility of Eastern Oregon becoming a part of Idaho, an idea the Move Oregon's Border group has promoted.

Drazan had said earlier in her speech that she had been working with Idaho Gov. Brad Little, also a Republican, and that she saw an "incredible" opportunity for collaboration between

the states.

"We were having a conversation about what it would be like to have a partner, where we could work together on transportation, on infrastructure, on agriculture issues," Drazan said.

But she said voters should focus on fixing issues in Oregon even if they feel disenfranchised with the state's politics.

"I want you to fix Oregon, and I want you guys to be a part of your home state," Drazan said.

See **Drazan** / A5



Drazan



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Elena Maddy, left, and Chris Bradford are actor/directors with Missoula Children's Theatre. This week they brought "The Little Mermaid" to Baker City. Performances will be at 6 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday at Baker High School.

Taking a show on the road

Missoula Children's Theatre returns to Baker City this week

Performance Schedule

Local youth actors will perform "The Little Mermaid" twice this weekend. • Friday, Aug. 19, 6 p.m. • Saturday, Aug. 20, 3 p.m. Both performances will be in the auditorium at Baker High School, 2500 E St. Admission is \$5, or free for ages 12 and younger who come with a paid adult.

BY LISA BRITTON

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Chris Bradford didn't intend to be an actor.

Elena Maddy didn't intend to be traveling with Missoula Children's Theatre.

But circumstances they didn't foresee has led them both, from opposite sides of the country, to be on a stage in Baker City while working for MCT.

"Sort of an accident," Bradford says with a laugh as he tells his tale of theater.

He grew up in Bakersfield, California. When he was a freshman in high school, he decided to see a show.

"I showed up super early — two hours early," he said.

The theater director asked if he could sing.

"Next thing I know, I'm auditioning for 'The Little Shop of Horrors,'" he said.

Bradford graduated from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix in 2021 with a degree in theater and drama. This is his first year touring with MCT.

"You learn a lot from teaching kids," he said. "It's been a real growth experience for me."

"You learn to adapt," Maddy added with a smile.

See **Theatre** / A3

County deems section of Pine Cr. Rd. as public

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR AND JAYSON JACOBY

Baker City Herald

The Baker County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 on Wednesday morning, Aug. 17, to approve a resolution designating a section of Pine Creek Road, which is the subject of two current civil lawsuits, as a county road open to the public.

Commissioners approved the resolution after a brief public hearing at the Courthouse.

There was applause and

cheering from the audience of about 20, which included several people who live in the Pine Creek area.

Some of those residents urged commissioners, during an April 19 public hearing, to take action to ensure the public can travel the road.

The resolution states, in part, that "all private gates, structures, and obstructions" on the section of road surveyed last year "are hereby ordered to be removed."

Commissioner Mark

Bennett emphasized that although commissioners' vote was "certainly a step forward," the process under state law includes a 60-day appeal period.

Bennett said he wants residents to understand that the gate that property owner David McCarty installed in 2020 won't be unlocked or removed immediately, and he cautioned people to avoid taking any action on their own.

Bennett said he didn't

See **Pine Creek** / A2

Chilly spring gave way to persistent heat

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Remember the cool spring that persisted right up to the solstice?

The chilly mornings and the brisk afternoon winds and the frequent showers of rain that well into May occasionally thickened into snow, fragments of winter carried along like flotsam in a stream?

Probably you don't remember those strange days, at least not with great clarity.

The weather pattern in the second week of July didn't so much shift, which suggests a modest change, as it lurched,

like an airplane that plummets when it hits a patch of turbulent air, spilling noncomplimentary drinks over passengers' laps.

Since then the heat has rarely relented, and even then it receded only slightly.

And briefly. After more than a month of stifling weather, the spring might seem as distant and as indistinct as the last time you shoveled snow.

Indeed this summer, which started so unlike its record-setting predecessor, has turned into a season with rather a lot in common with the 2021 version.

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