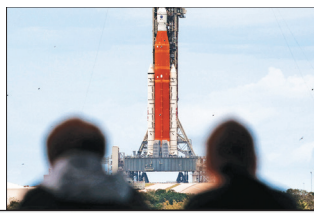
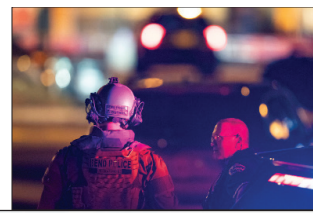




SPORTS A6
Baker cross-country teams off to strong start



NATION A5
NASA delays launch of moon rocket



STATE A3
3 dead in shooting in Bend Safeway

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • HOME & LIVING • SPORTS

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ronald Waltman of Baker City.



INSIDE TODAY

Football kickoff section includes previews from Baker, Pine Eagle and Huntington, along with other regional high schools and Eastern Oregon University.

LOCAL, A2

The benefits provided by four giant hydroelectric dams on the Snake River must be replaced before the dams can be breached to save endangered salmon runs, according to a final report issued Thursday, Aug. 25 by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Washington U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

BRIEFING

Emily Black graduates from Pacific

FOREST GROVE — Emily Grace Black of Baker City recently earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Pacific University.

Tyler Thomas delegate to Angus Convention

SALT LAKE CITY — Tyler Austin Thomas of Baker City has been elected as a delegate to the 139th American Angus Association Convention of Delegates set for Nov. 7 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City.

WEATHER

Today
95/50
Sunny

Wednesday
97/50
Sunny

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



Casey Taylor/Contributed Photo

New siding has been installed at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Additional work includes new windows, doors and an HVAC system. The renovations are expected to reduce energy consumption by 73%.

‘Shiny and new’

Renovations continue at Interpretive Center

BY LISA BRITTON
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Work is “on track” at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, which is closed for an energy-efficient upgrade.

The renovation began in March 2022, and hasn’t been affected much by supply issues, said Sarah Sherman, project manager.

“Hopefully that will continue,” she said. The center, which is 30 years old and 30,000 square feet, is getting new siding, insulation, roofing, windows and doors.

The \$6.5 million remodel, funded in part by the Great Americans Outdoor Act, is expected to reduce energy consumption by 73%.

The center is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

“We want to be good stewards of our natural resources,” said Vale District manager Wayne Monger, whose office oversees the center. “This design utilizes high thermal insulation value materials and high efficiency heating and cooling technology to counter energy demands during summer and winter.”

Work is about one-third finished. Sherman describes it as “facelift” because much of the work won’t be obvious to visitors.

“Structurally, it will be the same, but shiny and new,” she said.

So far, construction has included new insulation and a new roof. The next projects focus on new siding, windows, doors and lights.

The HVAC system is expected to take the most time.

See Renovations / A3



A temporary HVAC system is in place and vents for the new system have been created near the entrance to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Sarah Sherman/Contributed Photo

5 fires burning in Eagle Cap Wilderness

But Forest Service monitoring, rather than fighting, the blazes

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Forest Service officials are monitoring five lightning-sparked fires in the Eagle Cap Wilderness with the intention of letting the blazes burn naturally.

The agency has employed that strategy for more than 30 fires over the past quarter century in the Eagle Cap, which at 365,000 acres is Oregon’s biggest federal wilderness.

It’s also the place Forest Service officials have most often allowed lightning fires to burn themselves out.

That’s not a coincidence.

The Eagle Cap not only is bigger than either Multnomah or Hood River county, but the wilderness has areas where fires, rather than turning rapidly into conflagrations that threaten people and property, tend to grow slowly, often because there are natural barriers, such as outcrops of rock, that help keep the flames contained.

Moreover, Forest Service officials say, the fires typically help rather than harm the forest, in particular by reducing the fuel loading and making it less likely that a future fire will spread fast.

“The Eagle Cap is a very large, very intact wilderness that we can use to learn more about how fire behaves and how it benefits the resources,” said Anthony Botello, deputy supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, which manages the wilderness.

See Eagle Cap / A3

Crocketts Knob forest fire keeps growing

Baker City Herald
About 100 more people arrived over the weekend to work on the Crocketts Knob fire on the Malheur National Forest about 19 miles north of Prairie City.

The blaze, sparked by lightning on Aug. 22, is the biggest burning in North-eastern Oregon, estimated at 1,632 acres on Monday morning, Aug. 29.

The fire, burning in a remote area of the Greenhorn Mountains north of the Middle Fork John Day River, was 0% contained.

A community meeting with updates about progress on the fire is set for Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. To view a live stream of the meeting, go to www.facebook.com/CrockettsKnobFire (a Facebook account isn’t needed to watch).

A total of 352 people are assigned to the fire, up from 258 at the start of the weekend.

The fire is primarily in the area burned in the Summit fire in 1996. Since then the burned area has been recolonized by dense stands of young lodgepole pines, some up to about 20 feet tall, as well as snowbrush patches 4 to 10 feet tall that are difficult for firefighters to get through.

See Crocketts Knob / A3

Reprieve was brief: Heat wave could last through Labor Day

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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After a brief reprieve, the heat has returned to Baker County.

The coolest weekend in almost 2 months surrendered to the latest in a nearly summer-long series of heat waves, one that’s forecast to persist into, and perhaps beyond, the Labor Day weekend.

And like previous torrid spells, this one has the potential to break daily temperature records.

The modest cooldown over the

weekend, however, might block the current month’s bid to become the hottest August on record at the Baker City Airport.

August is almost certain, though, to finish in the top four based on temperature records that date to 1943.

The high temperature at the airport on Saturday, Aug. 27 was 77 degrees. That was the coolest day since the Fourth of July, when the high was 74. It was also just the fourth day since June 25 when the temperature didn’t reach at least 80 at the airport. Satur-

day was also the first sub-80-degree day during August — and it’s all but sure to be the only one.

In the 66 days since June 25, the temperature has been 90 or hotter on more than half — 35 days.

That includes 19 days from Aug. 1-29.

Until the comparatively balmy weekend — highs of 77 and 80 on Aug. 27 and 28 — August was on pace to be the hottest ever, surpassing August 2017, when the average high was 91.7 degrees.

Through Aug. 28, the average was

90.6 degrees, which would rank as the fifth-hottest.

However, based on the National Weather Service’s forecast for the final 3 days of the month, this August will end up with an average high of 91.1. That would rank third, behind 2018 and 2022 (91.2-degree average).

As for daily records, Wednesday, Aug. 31 is the day most likely to have a new record. The National Weather Service is forecasting a high of 100 degrees, which would break the current record of 96, set in 2019.



TODAY
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68 pages

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Community News	A2	Home & Living	B1 & B2	News of Record	A2	Sports	A6	Weather	B6