



The Baker County Press

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East side takes the win!

• BRIDGER COOK SHINES AT 63rd ANNUAL EAST-WEST SHRINE ALL-STAR GAME

BY BRIAN ADDISON
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Baker Bulldog football fans have reason to be proud after local standout Bridger Cook played the entire game at the Center position and anchored a dominant offensive line leading the East team to

victory by a score of 25-0 in Oregon's 63rd Annual East West Shrine All-Star Football Game, August 1.

Cook, at 5'9" tall and weighing in at 195-pounds, used his quickness and overall football savvy to turn in a nearly flawless performance.

The play of Cook and his fellow O-linemen protected the two East team quarterbacks allowing a potent passing attack, and continually blew open holes in the West team defensive line providing open ground for East team running backs.

On the other side of the ball, the East team defense proved equally as effective shutting down the West team offensive and entertaining football fans delivering several bone-jarring hits against opposing running backs.

"One more game on the home field was really nice," said Cook several days after the game. "The home field advantage was a topic of conversation and I had teammates from Mac-High and Ontario who said this was the only time they ever looked forward to playing on Baker's

field."

Cook attributed much of the East team's success to team camaraderie.

Both East and West teams spent a week of practice in La Grande and during that time the East team all purchased Razor scooters and together bonded as they scooted through the streets of La Grande. "I want to give special thanks to the Razor scooter company," Cook joked. "There wasn't one Razor scooter left at Wal-Mart after we left. We cleaned them out."

SEE SHRINE GAME PAGE 7



Brian Addison / The Baker County Press

Baker Bulldog Bridger Cook anchored the East team offensive line playing at Center position for the entire game Saturday.



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Jason Jordan Smith played the bagpipes for his seventh year in a row, the notes of 'Amazing Grace' filling the air as the luminarias were lighted.

Luminaria lighting set to music

BY KERRY MCQUISTEN
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The local Relay for Life luminaria-lighting ceremony was held Friday night under both a Blue Moon and the shine of the International Space Station. While the event showed noticeably less attendance this year, some things remained unchanged.

For the seventh year in a row, Baker City's Jason Jordan Smith volunteered to play the bagpipes, walking around the Baker High School track as the luminarias were set aglow. The event is always solemn, made more so by the haunting notes of "Amazing Grace" as attendees stood with lowered heads remembering loved ones who had passed from cancer.

"I'm not quite sure who it was that originally contacted me, but I remember it being 2009," said Smith. "I've played every year since. I don't charge anything for playing at Relay for Life. It's a good cause and walking around the track once playing 'Amazing Grace' is the least I could do. We've all been affected by cancer in one way or another. I just consider it my turn to give back. I can't tell you how many times I've had people approach me and say, 'Thank you so much. You made us cry.' When I hear that, that in and of itself is a reward on its own. It's great to know that you're able to bless people's lives in some way."

SEE LUMINARIA PAGE 5



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Luminarias surrounded the BHS track Friday night in memory of those who were lost to cancer.

Eastern Oregon counties enact plan to protect local interests

• FRED KELLY GRANT BRINGING 3-DAY COORDINATION WORKSHOP TO TOWN

BY BRIAN ADDISON
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There is a policy change sweeping across three county governments in rural eastern Oregon as county commissioners look to protect local interests from federal agency projects.

The concept of local government forming a partnership with federal land management agencies through a legal process known as "coordination" has caught on and now spreads like wild fire across several eastern Oregon counties.

"This is huge," says chairperson of the Baker County Commissioners Bill Harvey as he explains that Harney County and Wallowa County, like Baker County, have begun the process of coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

SEE EASTERN OREGON COUNTIES PAGE 9

Local youth score high in recent NRA competition

• THREE FROM BAKER CITY TRAVEL TO NEW MEXICO COMPETITION

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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Each year at the end of July the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) is held. This year the event was held at the NRA's Wittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. Local competitors Gauge Bloomer, Braden Staebler-Siewell and Ben Spough scored high in the event.

Wittington is a 36,000 acre facility about 30 miles from the Colorado border and is an international level shooting range where wildlife is extremely abundant. Many national championship shooting events are held there. Buck Buckner, Oregon Director for YHEC said, "They (the wildlife) are used to being around people and hearing gunfire. I shot there in the National Silhouette Championship one time and we had to stop the shooting to let an elk cross the firing range."

SEE NRA COMPETITION PAGE 7

Friday Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 80s. East winds around 3-8 mph. Lows in the upper 40s.

Saturday Partly sunny with highs in the mid 80s with a slight chance of thunderstorms. North winds around 5-10 mph. Lows in the upper 40s.

Sunday Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 80s with a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds around 5-10 mph. Lows in the upper 40s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC COOP

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