

Baker City Herald

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In SPORTS, 6A

Baker volleyball

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV \$1

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Arlene Bobo of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

REDMOND — One of the largest U.S. congressional districts voted overwhelmingly for Donald Trump in 2016, yet an Oregon Democrat campaigning against a Republican incumbent doesn't see it as hostile territory. Buoyed by electoral wins by a couple of Democrats elsewhere in Trump territory, candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner is undaunted, traveling the district — that's as big as North Dakota — in her Jeep, pulling a tiny trailer that she sometimes sleeps in. McLeod-Skinner is enduring all this because she doesn't think the incumbent is focused on the district's issues.

BRIEFING

Nichols, Harvey to speak at miners' meeting this evening

Baker County Commissioners Bruce Nichols and Bill Harvey, who will square off in the Nov. 6 ballot for Harvey's seat as commission chairman, are both scheduled to be guest speakers this evening at the Eastern Oregon Mining Association's meeting. The meeting, which is open to the public, will start at 6:30 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St.

YMCA receives two grants for fitness center expansion

The Baker County YMCA has received a \$20,000 grant from Ash Grove Cement and \$10,000 from Union Pacific Railroad for the Y's proposed expansion of its fitness center in Baker City.

The grants put the Y's fundraising total over \$300,000 for the project, which also includes adding a gymnasium.

The Y is seeking local donations to add to the \$150,000 it has allocated for the project. For more information, or to make a donation, call the Y at 541-523-9622.

WEATHER

Today

87 / 42



Mostly sunny

Saturday

79 / 45



Mostly sunny

Sunday

83 / 42



Mostly sunny

Baker County Event Center On East Street

Ready To Remodel



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The north entrance to the Baker County Event Center will be remodeled as part of a \$346,000 project the county commissioners approved Wednesday.

By Casey Crowley

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The Baker County commissioners on Wednesday awarded a \$346,452 bid to remodel the Baker County Event Center at the Fairgrounds.

The remodel at the Center, formerly the Oregon National Guard Armory at 2600 East St., will include repairs to the roof, which has been leaking around skylights and heating and air vents. Workers will also install insulation under the roof which is not insulated now.

The contractor is Sid Johnson and Company of Baker City.

Of the \$346,000, about \$190,000 will go for roof repairs.

The remaining \$156,000 will be used to improve the north entrance to the building. The county received a \$20,000 grant from Ash Grove Cement to make improvements to that entrance.

For the project the commissioners also approved an addendum that also instructs the company to install new fascia in the roof.

The Event Center project was one of two roof-related items on the commissioners' agenda Wednesday.

They also approved a contract



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The Baker County Event Center roof will have insulation added as part of a \$346,000 remodeling project.

with Palmer Roofing Co. to replace the roof at the Baker County Jail.

Tri-County Weed Agency

Commissioners approved the final version of an agreement with the Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Agency.

Commissioners from the two other counties, Union and Wallowa, had already signed the deal.

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The Union and Wallowa county commissioners did not accept amendments proposed by Baker County commissioners in August.

The agreement does not require that the agency maintain a full-time employee in Baker City, one of the requests that Baker County commissioners had made.

CYCLE OREGON STARTS AND ENDS IN BAKER CITY

Bicyclists begin arriving today

By Casey Crowley

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This weekend, 1,600 cyclists arrive in Baker City for the 30th week-long Cycle Oregon Classic ride. In addition to the cyclists, the event will bring an influx of business.

The ride typically brings in around \$600,000 total, distributed among the several cities where riders spend the night, Cycle Oregon Executive Director Steve Schulz said.

Each rider will spend roughly \$200 on gifts, food and drinks, he said.

Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, said the event should provide a nice infusion into the local economy.

"I have no doubt this will be a great weekend," Cutler said.

This year riders will pedal out of Baker City on Sunday morning and over the next week overnight in

Halfway, Wallowa Lake, Elgin, Pendleton (two nights) and La Grande before returning to Baker City on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Though the ride doesn't begin until Sunday, many riders, along with friends and family, are expected to arrive today to explore the town. Riders will begin arriving in town between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and most will not use their cars after they arrive, Cutler said.

The Chamber has

worked with local businesses to ensure that they are prepared for the event. Cutler said all the business owners she has talked with are ready for the riders' arrival.

Cutler said businesses are accustomed to large numbers of visitors thanks to other summer events such as Miners Jubilee and the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally.

See Cycle/Page 2A

Senators question drought monitor

By Jayson Jacoby

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Oregon's U.S. senators are asking federal officials to review the criteria for rating the severity of drought, arguing that the current process misses important measurements.

Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, co-signed a letter Thursday to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

The official U.S. drought monitor, which federal officials use to determine such things as declaring drought disasters and making federal aid available to affected farmers and ranchers, is produced weekly at the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska.

Both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, part of the Commerce Department, and the Agriculture Department contribute to the Drought Monitor, which was established in 1999.

In their letter, Merkley and Wyden note that the Drought Monitor factors in rainfall, but the senators wrote that they have had constituents ask whether the officials who produce the weekly drought map are also considering such factors as heat waves or scanty winter snowpacks.

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Man cited for taking gun from site of suicide

By Chris Collins

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A 14-year-old Baker City boy found dead at the skate park near Sam-O Swim Center Wednesday died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said this morning.

The Baker County Major Crime Team investigated the death of Izah Nicholas Gonzalez. He was found dead about 4:30 p.m. at the skate park in east Baker City. The investigation was delayed because a .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun had been removed from the scene where Izah was found, Shirtcliff said.

Oren Shaile Moore, 20, of 240 Foothill Drive, has been charged with two counts of first-degree theft. Moore is accused of taking the gun from the skate park and selling it.

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TODAY

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MONDAY — HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND SPORTS ROUNDUP



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