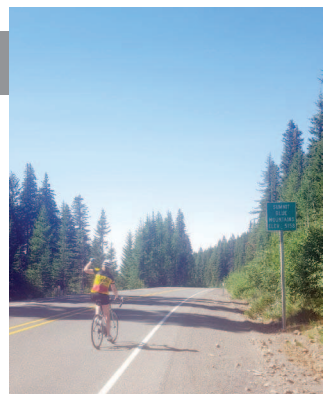


Baker City Herald

September 28, 2018

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Celebrating at the summit of the Blue Mountains near Tollgate

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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dalene Davis of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Powder River cleanup set for Saturday

The Powder Basin Watershed Council's annual Powder River cleanup is set for this Saturday, Sept. 29, starting at 10 a.m. in the Lions Club picnic shelter at Geiser-Pollman Park.

Volunteers will pick up litter along a 2.5-mile reach of the river along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. Snacks, water and tools will be provided.

GOP to host political forum on Monday

The Baker County Republican Party will host a political forum Monday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St.

There will be a debate between county commissioner candidates Bruce Nichols and Bill Harvey, and a discussion of the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance, County Measure 1-84. For more information, visit the Baker County Republicans Facebook page or call 541-519-5035.

Community Choir practicing for Christmas concert

The Baker Community Choir has started weekly rehearsals for its Christmas performances. Rehearsals are Mondays at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1995 Fourth St. The next rehearsal is Oct. 1, and singers who haven't already picked up their music should arrive at 6:45 p.m.

No experience is necessary. High school students are welcome. Middle schoolers can participate if accompanied by a parent or guardian. The cost is \$15 per person.

For more information, call LaVonne at 541-523-2347.

WEATHER

Today
80 / 36



Sunny

Saturday
79 / 41



Mostly sunny

Sunday
65 / 34



Showers possible

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Washington State Couple's Pickup Truck Collided With Semi-Truck/Trailer

2 Killed in I-84 crash



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

A Superior Towing crew from Baker City helped clear the scene Wednesday.

A husband and wife from Washington state died Wednesday morning in the westbound lanes of Interstate 84 when their pickup truck collided with a semi-truck and trailer north of Baker City.

Eugene Rowley, 65, the driver of a 1993 GMC pickup truck pulling a U-Haul trailer and his passenger, Ellen Rowley, 63, both died at the scene, Oregon State Police spokesman Timothy R. Fox stated in a press release.

Rowley reportedly was traveling west when he passed a 2013 Freightliner truck driven by Alexandr Ciubuc, 58, of Tumwater, Washington.



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Westbound travelers in a pickup truck died from a crash with a semi-truck and trailer Wednesday morning near Baker City.

The accident happened about 10:10 a.m., on a straight stretch of freeway near milepost 301.

The vehicles collided, went through the median and came to rest adjacent to the eastbound lanes, Fox stated. The pickup truck and U-Haul

trailer were crushed under the jackknifed Freightliner truck.

Both eastbound and westbound fast lanes were closed for about five hours.

Ciubuc was transported by Baker City ambulance to St. Alphonsus Medical Center in

Baker City with injuries that were not life-threatening.

OSP was assisted at the scene by the Baker County Sheriff's Office, Baker City Fire Department, Baker Rural Fire Protection District and Oregon Department of Transportation workers.

Oregon road deaths up 11 percent

After the yearly death toll on Oregon's roads dropped in 2013 to the lowest total since World War II, the number of fatalities was higher in each of the ensuing four years.

And 2018 has already surpassed the 2013 total, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

In 2013, 313 people were killed in crashes in Oregon, including highways, local roads and city streets.

The number of fatalities rose to 357 in 2014 — a 14-percent increase.

The trend not only continued, but it accelerated.

The death toll in 2015 rose by 25 percent, to a total of 446.

The 2016 total was 495, the highest since 2003, when 512 people were killed in crashes.

Fatalities dipped to 439 in 2017, but so far 2018 is on pace to reverse that

trend. As of Sept. 24, 337 people had died on Oregon's roads this year, up from 302 for the same period in 2017.

Although the number of miles driven in the state has risen over the past five years, the death toll has increased at a faster rate.

The death rate per 100 million miles traveled increased from 0.93 in 2013 to 1.35 in 2016. The rate for 2017 is not yet available.

School board honors bank workers

By Chris Collins
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The Baker School District honored Umpqua Bank employees Thursday night for their support of the District's programs throughout the year, both financially and through personal volunteer service.

"They are highly supportive of Baker schools," Superintendent Mark Witty said in honoring the employees.

Umpqua provides each employee 40 hours per

year to volunteer during their work time, and many choose to read in the schools with the REAL program (Read Everyday And Learn), a District press release stated.

Volunteers from the bank read with students four times a week during the school year and also spent 61.5 hours reading with kids every day of Summer Academy.

Witty said the bank donated \$10,300 for books

for the REAL program, coordinated by Jim Tomlinson, from 2014 to 2016.

"You are 25 percent of the volunteers for our program, so we absolutely need you guys to do that," Witty said.

In addition to helping students improve their reading skills, the volunteers also serve as mentors for the students, the superintendent said.

"You are another adult in their lives that helps them along their path," he said.

Umpqua employees also participate in a monthly giving program to support the schools and even provided ice cream to students participating in Summer Academy, Witty said.

Chris Knoll, Umpqua Bank manager in Baker City, also taught a class called "Financial Beginnings" for intermediate grade students during Summer Academy this year.

See Schools/ Page 6A

Jobless rate is down, but fewer people working

By Casey Crowley
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Baker County's unemployment rate dropped slightly in August, but fewer people are working in the county than a year ago.

The county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped to 5.0 percent in August, down from 5.1 percent in July and from 5.4 percent in August 2017.

There were 6,654 people employed in the county in August, which is 243 fewer than were working in August 2017, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

But the unemployment rate still dropped because the civilian labor force — the number of people 16 and older who are either working or are considered unemployed — has shrunk even more.

Baker County's civilian labor force, which does not include retirees, dropped from 7,253 in August 2017 to 6,963 in August 2018.

For all of 2017 the average unemployment rate in Baker County was 5.5 percent — the lowest annual rate since the state started tracking it in 1990, said Christopher Rich, Eastern Oregon regional economist for the Employment Department.

Rich said Baker County is on pace to break that record in 2018 with an even lower annual unemployment rate.

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Sam-O reopens Oct. 24

By Casey Crowley
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Sam-O Swim Center will re-open on Wednesday, Oct. 24 after the conclusion of annual maintenance.

Work at the city-owned pool this year includes changing the sand in the pool filters, replacing the caulking, repairing locker room doors and working on the starting blocks.

The closure also gives employees from the Baker County YMCA, which operates the pool, time to complete many cleaning tasks.

Sam-O, at 580 Baker St. in east Baker City, has been closed since Sept. 1.

TODAY

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Calendar.....2A
Classified.....4B-7B
Comics.....3B

Community News.....3A
Crossword.....5B & 6B
Dear Abby.....10B

Horoscope.....5B & 6B
Jayson Jacoby.....4A
Lottery Results.....2A

News of Record.....2A
Opinion.....4A
Outdoors.....1B & 2B

Senior Menus.....2A
Sports.....5A
Weather.....8B

MONDAY — WEEKEND HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP



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