

Baker City Herald

October 1, 2018

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports Monday **\$1.50** Baker's Alejandro Davila

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Doris Hutton of Baker City.

Sports, 6A

TEMPE, Ariz. — Add Eno Benjamin to the list of running backs that have very big nights against Oregon State's creaky run defense.

And for Benjamin, it was a record-breaker.

The sophomore from Wylie, Texas, rushed for a school record 312 yards on 30 carries and scored four touchdowns as Arizona State beat Oregon State 52-24 on Saturday night, giving coach Herm Edwards his first Pac-12 victory.

Sports, 8A

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Every time it seemed like California might be ready to mount a comeback, Oregon's opportunistic defense stepped up and delivered.

A week after a crushing collapse, the Ducks responded with a resilient performance for their first Pac-12 road win since 2016.

Justin Herbert threw two touchdown passes to help No. 19 Oregon build a big lead and the Ducks used five takeaways and two defensive touchdowns to avoid a repeat of last week's loss to Stanford, beating No. 24 California 42-24 on Saturday night.

BRIEFING

GOP to host political forum tonight at Elks

The Baker County Republican Party will host a political forum tonight at 6 o'clock 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, go to the Baker County Republicans Facebook page or call 541-519-5035.

Baker County Garden Club meeting Oct. 3

The Baker County Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 10:15 a.m. at the Library, 2400 Resort St., to carpool to the Delsmans' for a meeting. Bring a shovel and dirt in containers, plus a sack lunch.

WEATHER

Today

70 / 33



Mostly sunny

Tuesday

69 / 32



Chance of showers

Structure Replaces One That Collapsed Under Snow Load In January 2017

Halfway's New Hall



Photo from Friends of Pine Valley Fairgrounds

A new exhibit hall opened this year at the Baker County Fairgrounds in Halfway. The structure replaces a building that collapsed under the weight of snow in January 2017.

By Casey Crowley
crowley@bakercityherald.com

In January of 2017 the exhibit hall at the Baker County Fairgrounds in Halfway collapsed under the weight of a snowfall that was excessive even for a part of Baker County renowned for its snow depths.

Less than two years later the town of 290 has a new exhibit hall.

The old building stood for 90 years, almost since the annual fair started in 1921 at Halfway, about 53 miles east of Baker City. Some people thought the new exhibit hall wouldn't be ready for this year's fair.

Lynda and Dave Bird were not among that group.

"I was very heartbroken when I knew the old building had collapsed," said Lynda, 77.

One thing that made replacing the building difficult was that unlike other structures that also succumbed to snow during the winter of 2016-17, the exhibit hall was not insured.

That's not the case now — the Birds asked an insurance company to insure the new exhibit hall for

\$170,000.

The couple, who have been married for more than 55 years, helped raise more than \$140,000 to build the new exhibit hall.

The process started in March 2017 after the snow had melted and the damage could be assessed.

The Birds then began talking to possible donors.

Over the next year or so they received numerous donations, ranging from a few dollars to more than \$25,000.

The Birds themselves donated \$5,000.

The campaign received more than \$20,000 each from the Leo Adler Foundation and Cycle Oregon. Baker County contributed \$10,000.

The Birds teamed with United Community Partners to take donations while they set up their own nonprofit. Eventually they started Friends of Pine Valley Fairground, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In January of this year, Friends of Pine Valley Fairgrounds took over fundraising efforts from United Commu-

nity Partners.

"Our goal was to have it open for this last fair, which was over Labor Day weekend, and we were able to accomplish that," said Dave, 75.

This is not the first time the Birds have been at the center of fundraising efforts in Halfway. The couple also helped raise money to replace the grandstands at the Halfway fairgrounds after they had been condemned. Before that they also helped when the fair association couldn't pay the bill for a pavilion built in 2001.

The couple has a history of involvement in the fair and in ranching. Both are fourth-generation Hereford breeders and have families who own Century Farms (farms that have been in the same family for more than 100 years). The Birds have been showing cattle at the Halfway Fair since the 1980s.

Lynda has lived in Halfway all her life and has been going to the fair since she was a kid.

See Halfway / Page 3A

NELLIE FORRESTER OF HALFWAY RETIRING FROM BAKER COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

At 94 she's a key board member

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Nellie Forrester first attended board meetings of the Baker County Library District as an observer, to know what was happening.

Then a position opened as a board member.

"Because I had been there, Aletha (Bonebrake) asked me if I'd be willing to accept a position. I said sure."



Forrester

That was 19 years ago. On Oct. 8 Forrester, who turns 95 in January, will attend her final meeting of the library board.

"It has been the most enjoyable board that anybody would want to serve on," she said. "It's a joy. It's taken me a year to make up my mind. I'm going to miss it, and miss the people."

Forrester's position will be filled by a board appointment.

See Forrester / Page 3A

Lindy Petrik interim CEO for YMCA

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Lindy Petrik joined the YMCA board of directors last month, but her role has already changed.

She is the interim CEO, bridging the time between the departure of Heidi Dalton and the hiring of a new CEO.



Petrik

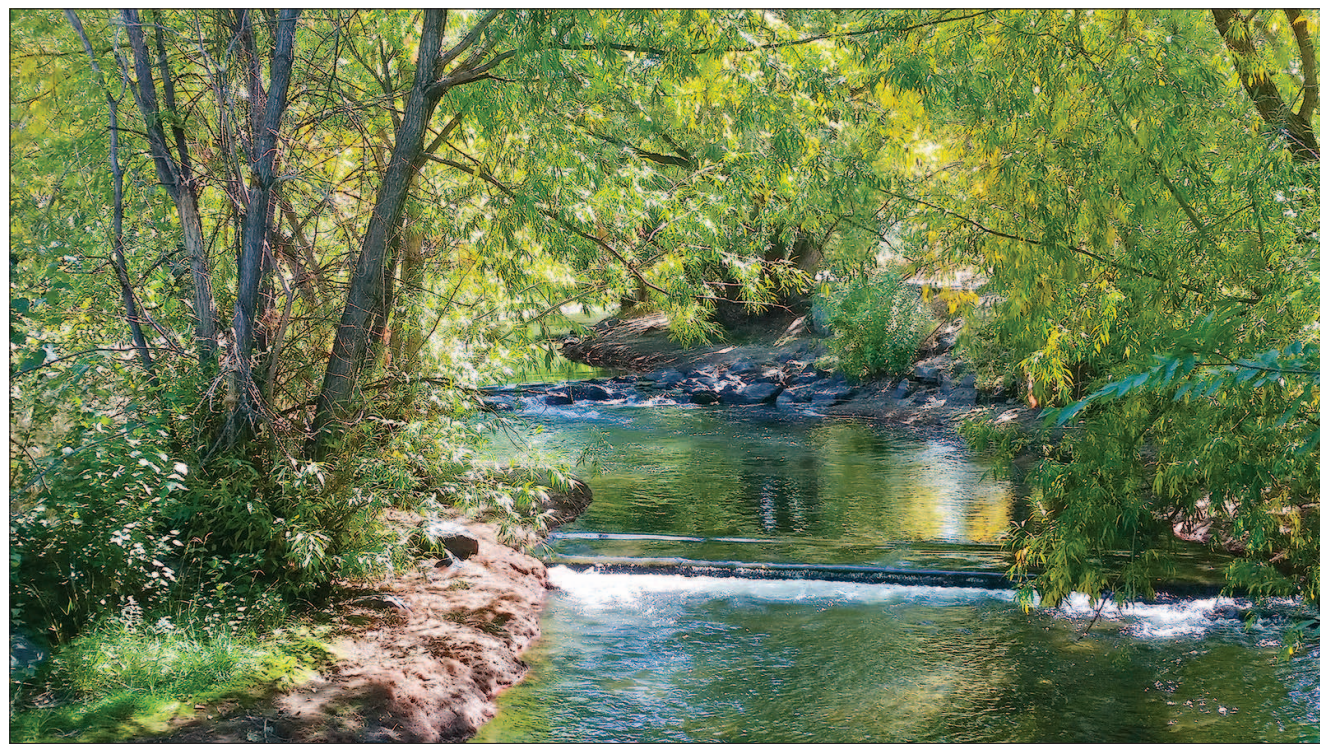
"I'm excited to be part of the Y team and build on the foundation that Heidi has laid, and to work with the board too," she said.

Dalton served as CEO for six years, and was on the YMCA board of directors for two years prior.

Petrik moved to Baker City 12½ years ago with her husband, Rodger. They have three children.

See YMCA / Page 3A

Flowing Into Fall



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Crisp September nights activated autumn's color palette along the Powder River with its gentle flow reflecting the transition. Autumnal weather is in the forecast with a chance of showers later in the week. Full forecast on Page 10B.

TODAY

Issue 62, 18 pages

Calendar.....2A
Classified.....5B-9B
Comics.....4B

Community News.....3A
Crossword.....6B & 8B
Dear Abby.....10B

Home.....1B-3B
Horoscope.....6B & 8B
Letters.....4A

Lottery Results.....2A
News of Record.....2A
Obituaries.....2A & 3A

Opinion.....4A
Sports.....5A-8A
Weather.....10B

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

