



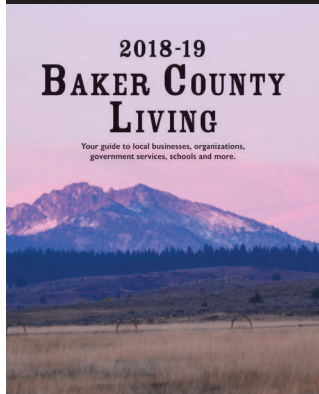
In **SPORTS, 8A**
Baker
 upsets
 Astoria

Baker City Herald

October 29, 2018

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports Monday **\$1.50**



2018-19
BAKER COUNTY LIVING

COMING IN WEDNESDAY'S ISSUE

Our annual guide to businesses, government agencies, schools and other services in Baker County

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Marty Lien of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Downtown trick or treating set for Wednesday

The Baker City Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the annual trick or treating event in downtown Baker City on Halloween from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Businesses on Main Street and some side streets will be handing out treats to children.

Main Street will be closed to traffic between Church Street and Auburn Avenue.

Baker County Seniors plan fall bazaar Nov. 3

The Seniors at Community Connection will have their 23rd-annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St.

There will be 38 vendor tables displaying handcrafts, food, collectibles and a variety of gifts. Saint Alphonsus Hospital Auxiliary will have several tables with food and crafts as part of its fundraising program.

Joe Hayes, Community Connection manager, said there will also be a luncheon featuring taco salad served from noon to 1 p.m. for a minimal charge.

Proceeds from the bazaar go the senior nutrition program. Baker Seniors Inc. raise an average of \$25,000 yearly to support the nutrition program. More information is available by calling Community Connection at 541-523-6591.

WEATHER

Today
 51 / 29



Rain showers

Tuesday
 52 / 30



Partly cloudy

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Baker City Man Suffered Severe Brain Injury At Bronc Riding Event July 20

Roger's Recovery



Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald

Roger Coles of Baker City talks Thursday about his recovery from a traumatic brain injury on July 20.

By Jayson Jacoby
 jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

The moment when Roger Coles almost died is a mystery to him. It always will be.

This is, Roger admits with a chuckle, a curious situation that he finds himself in, at age 64.

"In my mind this is like a movie, something that happened, but it couldn't have happened to me," he said Thursday afternoon, a bit more than three months after a horse, as he puts it, "threw him around like a dish rag."

Roger knows what happened to him on the evening of July 20 at the annual Baker City Bronc Riding, an event he has been involved with for 11 years.

He knows because he's talked with many people, most notably his wife of 33 years, Dawn, who saw it happen.

They saw the horse crash into the exit gate at the Baker County Fairgrounds, a place where Roger had been stationed for previous bronc riding competitions, a place where he never felt the slightest trepidation.

They saw Roger flung into the air.

They saw him lying still in the dirt.

"My memory stops two hours before the show. It doesn't pick up for a week. It's blank, as white as the ceiling. Everything I've been told has been hearsay."

— Roger Coles, who remembers nothing of the July 20 accident in which he suffered a traumatic brain injury

"I wasn't breathing when Dawn got to me," he said.

Roger remembers none of it. Not the thunder of the hooves.

Not the wailing siren on the ambulance that brought him to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

Not the roar of the helicopter that flew him to Saint Alphonsus in Boise.

"My memory stops two hours before the show," Roger said, referring to the bronc riding event. "It doesn't pick up for a week. It's blank, as white as the ceiling. Everything I've been told has been hearsay."

Roger suffered what doctors call a "traumatic brain injury."

His skull wasn't fractured but his brain bled in two places, one in the front and one in the back.

His neurosurgeon told him that the impact was so severe that three nerves in his spinal column "were literally pulled out by the roots."

Roger said the doctor told him it was very likely that the nerve

damage would have left his right arm — Roger is right-handed — all but useless.

But that didn't happen.

Roger said he doesn't have full use of his right arm, and he suffers from numbness that has also crept into the fingers of his left hand.

He'll undergo an MRI in early November that should help the neurosurgeon gauge how much, or whether, Roger's condition will improve.

But already he feels fortunate.

"The neurosurgeon was stunned that I had this much mobility in my arm," he said.

Although Roger said he probably will never remember the accident, his memory and other mental faculties have gradually improved.

"Some things I've got to focus a little more on, which drives me crazy because I like to get right on a task and get it done," he said. "I'm not there yet."

See **Recovery** / Page 3A

City picks fire chief

By Casey Crowley
 ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

Baker City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said a Michigan man has accepted the job as Baker City Fire Chief, contingent on a background check and drug test.

John Clark would take over for interim chief Cliff Hall, who has been in that role since Chief Tom Wills retired this summer.

Clark, 57, most recently served as chief of the Delta Township Fire Department in Lansing, Michigan. In July, he resigned from his position where he had served seven years as the chief. His stated reason for leaving was that he want to relocate to a new area, according to a story in the Lansing State Journal newspaper.

Prior to serving as the chief, Clark worked for almost 40 years as a firefighter. Clark was previously one of two finalists for another job in early September in Pleasant Hill, Iowa, according to the Des Moines Register. The city didn't end up hiring either of the candidates after one of the candidates withdrew his application. The Pleasant Hill administration didn't disclose which candidate withdrew.

See **Fire Chief** / Page 3A

Council reschedules meeting for Tuesday

After canceling its Oct. 23 meeting because it lacked a quorum of four councilors, the Baker City Council has rescheduled the meeting for Tuesday at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Four councilors have confirmed they plan to attend Tuesday's meeting — Mayor Mike Downing, along with Rosemary Abell, Loran Joseph and Randy Schiewe.

Joseph and Schiewe both told their colleagues they wouldn't attend the Oct. 23 meeting.

Downing, Abell and Arvid Andersen arrived at City Hall for the Oct. 23 meeting. A few minutes after the meeting was scheduled to start, Councilor Adam Nilsson notified City Hall that he wouldn't be able to attend, leaving the Council without a quorum.

See **Council** / Page 3A

TODAY
 Issue 74, 18 pages

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

Community News.....3A
 Crossword.....5B & 7B
 Dear Abby.....8B

Home.....1B & 2B
 Horoscope.....5B & 7B
 Letters.....4A

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

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

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



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