



# Baker City Herald

October 31, 2018

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

GO! Magazine

Your guide to events happening around the region

### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber John Wickert of Baker City.

#### Sports, 5A

HOUSTON — Damian Lillard and Jusuf Nurkic scored 22 points each, and the Portland Trail Blazers never trailed in a 104-85 rout of the struggling Rockets on Tuesday.

### BRIEFING

#### BHS musical rescheduled for Nov. 30, Dec. 1

The Baker High School presentation of "Just Another High School Musical" scheduled for this weekend has been canceled. It is rescheduled for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

#### 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. St. 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. raises an average of \$25,000 yearly to support the nutrition program. More information is available by calling Community Connection at 541-523-6591.

#### Natural gas rates dropping as of Thursday

The Oregon Public Utility Commission has approved a cut in natural gas rates for customers of Cascade Natural Gas.

The PUC adjusts rates each year to reflect the actual wholesale cost of natural gas.

The rate reductions, which take effect Thursday:

- Residential customers, 2.8 percent
- Commercial customers, 3.2 percent
- Industrial customers, 11.4 percent

### WEATHER

Today 50 / 42



Rain showers

Thursday 60 / 35



Rain showers

### City Hall Clock Tower Has Jack-O'-Lanterns On Each Of Its Four Faces

# A Top Level Treat



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Each of the four sides of the clock tower at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St., is illuminated by an orange light and decorated with black paper cutouts that form jack-o'-lantern faces.

By Jayson Jacoby  
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Dennis Bachman steps carefully off the aluminum ladder onto a platform that's almost as high above the ground as you can get in Baker City and still have your feet on good solid boards.

He glances at his wristwatch and issues a warning. "Two minutes."

Close to that, anyway. Bachman concedes that his modern digital watch might not be in perfect sync with the 113-year-old, and decidedly analog, timekeeper that he just climbed 92 steps to see.

When the massive iron bell in the clocktower at Baker City Hall sounds the time — half past 1 on Tuesday afternoon, in this case — it's best to be prepared lest the terrific din takes you (and your heart rate) by surprise.

"Fortunately it's only one ring this time," said Bachman, who works for the city's public works department.

He's made the long climb from street level — the last 55 steps on a series of steeply pitched wooden staircases that could star in a horror film — to explain how the city is using this most conspicuous clock to add a bit of color to various holidays.

This isn't the first year Bachman has set up colored lights to illuminate the tower's four clock faces, each about 7 feet in diameter.

But Halloween marks the first time he's augmented the colorful display — orange, of course — with black paper cutouts that turn the faces into whimsical jack-o'-lanterns.

"I thought about doing it last year — the clock faces already look like pumpkins," Bachman said.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Dennis Bachman makes sure a paper cutout that forms one of the "eyes" of a jack-o'-lantern on a clock face at Baker City Hall is taped securely.

This year he enlisted help from two other city employees, Meagan Paoletti and Meranda Christensen, who made the paper cutouts.

Bachman taped them to the clock faces and flipped on the LED floodlights that illuminate the faces.

He's pleased with the results.

"It seems like they show up pretty good," he said.

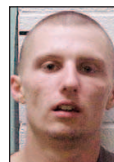
Bachman said the city started lighting the clock faces several years ago during Christmas — red and green, naturally.

But that initial experiment, which employed incandescent floodlights, wasn't a complete success. Bachman said the lights weren't especially bright and the bulbs heated up.

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# Halfway man charged with sex abuse

A Halfway man was arrested Monday on multiple felony charges alleging that he had sexual contact with a 12-year-old Baker County girl and also sent pornographic images of himself to the victim.



Minner

James Orion Minner, 21, of 45586 Lone Fir Road, was taken to the Baker County Jail on charges of first-degree sex abuse, second-degree online sexual corruption of a child, and luring a minor.

Deputies from the Baker County Sheriff's Office began investigating a report of sexual abuse on Oct. 23 after being contacted by the Baker School District, according to a press release from the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Travis Ash said Minner was acquainted with the girl, who is a Baker School District student, before the alleged crimes took place over the past two to three months.

See Arrest / Page 2A

# Council OKs fund for money from land sales

By Casey Crowley  
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The Baker City Council was back to full strength on Tuesday after canceling its Oct. 23 meeting because just three councilors attended.

The city charter allows the Council to meet with fewer than four members present, but they can't make any decisions.

All six councilors attended Tuesday's meeting and they approved two resolutions — one that sets up a special fund for revenue from the sale of land at Elkhorn View Industrial Park and one creating two loading zones on Resort Street.

The loading zones came at the request of Appliances and More, just south of Broadway Street, and Courtesy Home Furnishings, between Church and Broadway.

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. announced that Baker City will host the Capitol Christmas tree for the first time on Nov. 14.

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TODAY  
Issue 75, 114 pages

Business.....1B & 2B  
Calendar.....2A  
Classified.....5B-9B

Comics.....4B  
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Senior Menus.....2A

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Sudoku.....4B  
Weather.....10B

FRIDAY — EVENT SCHEDULED TO HONOR LOCAL VETERANS

