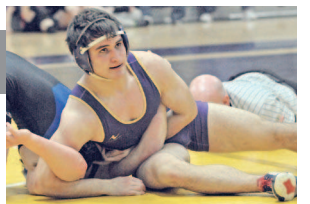


Baker City Herald

February 25, 2019

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In **SPORTS**, 5A
Baker
wrestlers
take 4th

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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ken Stultz of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — A bipartisan bill to remove nonmedical exemptions for vaccinations required for children attending public schools was introduced in the House on Friday.

House Bill 3063 would remove personal, philosophical and religious reasons as grounds for granting exemptions from vaccinations.

Children would not be forced to be vaccinated, but would not be allowed to attend public schools if their parents refused to have them vaccinated.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — A leader of the Oregon Legislature demoted two lawmakers on Thursday for disrespectful and rude behavior as the statehouse struggles to make itself a more respectful workplace.

Rep. Mitch Greenlick, a Portland Democrat, called a pharmaceutical lobbyist “stupid” during a health care committee hearing Tuesday on a drug pricing bill.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, also a Portland Democrat, responded by removing Greenlick as chairman of the committee and from membership in the House Conduct Committee.

WEATHER

Today

40 / 20



Rain and snow

Tuesday

33 / 23



Snow likely

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below will be blank on issues delivered or sold from boxes. The space is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic Offers More Than Cancer Treatments

Help With Healing



Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

Registered nurse Amy Branaugh-Baker takes care of the incision on Ross Funk's ankle, which he broke three years ago. Wound care is one of the services offered at the Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City.

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

Ross Funk, gritting his teeth against the pain radiating from his ankle, says his buddies tell him he needs a better story about how he broke his lower leg.

The truth is, he simply stepped wrong off a curb.

“I knew it was broken right away,” said Funk, 32.

Indeed it was — he had a bimalleolar fracture, meaning he broke both the inside and outside of his ankle bone.

That was nearly three years ago. Since then, Funk has become a familiar sight at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City as he works through recovery.

“I wanted to do it local, without having to travel,” Funk said.

He's had four surgeries on his ankle.

“I had nine screws and a plate put in my ankle,” he said. “Then my body rejected it.”

That was the first surgery, then he had another surgery to remove the metal.

But his healing was slow, and it was discovered he had a serious bone infection called osteomyelitis.

“That's when I began coming here — Aug. 24, 2018,” he said.

“Here” refers to the Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic at Saint Alphonsus. It is an outpatient treatment center providing allergy injections, blood transfusions, chemotherapy, hematology, infusions, treatments for autoimmune disorders, IV antibiotics, and wound care.

Those last two are what brought Funk to the clinic.

He started IV antibiotics to fight the osteomyelitis, which can often lead to an amputation.



Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

Discharged from his appointments at the Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic, Ross Funk, left, says goodbye to Casey Fields, center, and Nathan Neff.

“When I started coming to Billie Ruth, that's when the healing process sped up. It's been a blessing.”

— Ross Funk

His leg was saved.

Following the antibiotics, Funk's appointments were for wound care with registered nurse Amy Branaugh-Baker who made sure his ankle incision was healing. He came once a day for six weeks, then once a week for the next five months.

“When I started coming to Billie Ruth, that's when the healing process sped up. It's been a blessing,” he said. “Even days I didn't want to get out of bed, I'd never miss an appointment.”

He became familiar to all the staff. “I've met some really nice people and made some good friends,” he said.

His appointments were set up so he could go straight from physical therapy to the Bootsma Clinic — an-

other advantage, he says, of staying in Baker City for his care.

Although he has been discharged for wound care — with instructions and supplies for home — Funk still has at least a month of physical therapy ahead of him. He's working on range of motion, balance, and strength with the goal of getting back to hiking and snowboarding.

But he plans to show up at the Bootsma Clinic again, even after he's healed.

“I'll never be fully done — I'll have to come in and say hi. Give my friends a hug,” he said.

About the clinic

The clinic's outpatient services also includes chemotherapy, and Dr. Maynard Bronstein sees patients on Wednesdays. He specializes in medical oncology and hematology (blood disorders).

For more information about the Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic, call 541-524-7870.

Council mulling property rules, carbon bill

By Casey Crowley

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The Baker City Council is slated to vote Tuesday on the second reading of a revised version of an ordinance imposing more severe penalties, potentially including banning access, on properties that the Baker Justice Court deems chronic nuisances.

Tuesday's meeting starts at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Councilors passed the first reading of the ordinance Feb. 12. They met in a work session Feb. 19 to discuss possible changes to the ordinance, but they ultimately didn't do so.

The ordinance is designed to help the city deal with properties that have recurring issues with accumulations of trash.

The Justice Court judge could determine that a property qualifies under the ordinance as a chronic nuisance, which could result in the property being closed, including to the owner, until the property is cleaned up.

See **Council** / Page 3A

February closes in on soggy record

By Jayson Jacoby

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Baker County hasn't seen a February like this one in, well, maybe never.

A month that generally offers something of a respite from winter has instead delivered a nearly incessant series of storms that have boosted mountain snowpacks well above average.

At the Baker City Airport, where some of the precipitation has fallen as rain, this is likely to be the wettest February since record-keeping started in 1943.

See **Record** / Page 3A

Home builders offering two scholarships

The Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association is offering two \$1,500 scholarships to help educate and train individuals in a profession related to the building industry.

April 15 is the application deadline. The scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis of his or her potential to succeed, a press release

announcing the scholarships stated.

Application forms are available from high school counseling offices or by mail at NEOHBA, P.O. Box 436, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Forms also are available online at:

- www.neohba.com
- www.columbiabasinstudenthomes.org

Applicants must be high school seniors, enrolled as college students or participating in a qualified apprenticeship program. They also must live in Baker, Union, Wallowa, Umatilla or Morrow counties and have an interest in or intend to pursue a career in the construction profession in areas such as welding, heating and

ventilation, architecture/engineering and more.

The press release encouraged students to go online to the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council at oregonbuildingtrades.com or to visit sites of different colleges that offer construction management degrees.



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TODAY

Issue 125, 16 pages

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

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

Home 1B-3B
Horoscope 6B & 8B
Lottery Results 2A

News of Record 2A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A

Senior Menus 2A
Sports 5A & 6A
Weather 10B

WEDNESDAY — CLASS 1A STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT PREVIEW