

Sports

Football’s here, and we’ve got you covered

It seems like it was only a few days ago that we were wrapping up the spring sports season and crowning state champions in track, baseball, softball, golf and tennis.

Yet in the blink of an eye, the fall season has come upon us. Most of the region’s high school teams start their seasons later this week, and football — arguably the most popular sport in our great nation — gets underway in earnest with jamborees this weekend and the official start of the season next week.

We at the Northeast Oregon newspapers of EO Media Group are preparing for the upcoming season, and for our readers, that means a special treat is in store.

It’s one the subscribers of The Observer and Baker City Herald are used to, but that will be new to the readers of the East Oregonian, Hermiston Herald and Wallowa County Chieftain.

One week from today — Sept. 4 — we will be bringing you a special publication, our “Kickoff” magazine.

For the last four years, the sports staffs at The Observer and Baker City Herald have been putting out this magazine each fall. It is a comprehensive look at the football teams in the region as they get set for the upcoming season, and one that has gained a lot of popularity with readers in Union, Wallowa and Baker counties — the region our respective papers cover.

But with EO Media Group’s recent purchase of these two papers came the opportunity to take the next step with this publication. As a result, the 2019 edition



Bond

of this magazine also includes the teams of Umatilla County and has been put together by the staffs of our five Northeast Oregon papers.

What is in our “Kickoff” magazine? A season preview for 21 high school football teams in Baker, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties, and Eastern Oregon University. Stats, facts, schedules, players to know and more for each of these teams. Feature articles on athletes from each county. Dozens of great photos. Pages loaded with Oregon high school football history. And much more.

Perhaps the coolest aspect of the “Kickoff” magazine is that it will feature five unique covers — one each for Union, Wallowa, Baker, East Umatilla and West Umatilla counties.

We just put the final touches on this season preview, and it is a must-have for any high school football fan. A lot of hours from the staffs of our five newspapers have gone into completing this project and making it bigger and better than it has ever been.

The best part? It will be in your hands just in time for the season to begin. You’ll want to be sure to get a copy of the Sept. 4 edition of your hometown paper, see who made the cover (hint: Baker’s Riley Flanagan) and dive in to get yourselves prepared for another season of Friday night football.

We here at EO Media Group hope you will not only keep an eye out for the “Kick-off” magazine, but that you will thoroughly enjoy it and that it will be a resource you will use over and over this fall.

— Ronald Bond is the regional sports editor of EO Media Group’s east side newspapers.



Submitted photo

Amy Forshaw poses with Dave Manley, a New Meadows, Idaho, resident she met recently during a cross-country bicycle trip.

British bicyclists pay a visit to Baker County

By Brandon Taylor
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Two British cyclists pedaled through Baker City over the weekend as part of a cross-country biking trip.

Ivan Brett and Amy Forshaw, both 30 and both from London, booked one-way tickets to New York three months ago, and they’ve been pedaling across America ever since.

So far the pair has biked more than 4,000 miles. Once they hit Astoria, they plan on riding south to San Diego. By the end of the trip, they expect to have covered more than 7,000 miles.

Forshaw said that more than a year ago she evaluated her life and decided she wanted to do something adventurous.

“We were both in careers that we were proud of and comfortable with but wondering if that was it, and looking ahead to the next 40 years,” Forshaw said.



Submitted photo

Ivan Brett in front of the Pine Valley Presbyterian Church at Halfway.

“So far we’ve loved it and we’ve been surprised with the challenges it’s put upon us but also how we’ve been able to cope with them.”

— Bicyclist Ivan Brett

they were frequently being run off the road by cars, so they devised a game where they would rate the cars based on how much stress and danger that car caused. If a car was good, they held up five fingers. If a car was bad, they held up one finger — one particular finger.

Forshaw’s favorite state so far has been Wyoming.

“Going through the high desert was just beautiful, absolutely beautiful and the spaces are just bigger

than anything we’ve had in England,” she said.

They’ve enjoyed the west side of the U.S. more than the east. During their one-night stay in Baker City they had only been in Oregon for a few days, but “Oregon is off to a good start,” Forshaw said.

They’re looking forward to seeing the landscape change as they cross the state.

Forshaw said cycling is a relatively low-impact sport and that anyone can bike across the country.

“You see whole families out doing it, and people in their 70s doing it.”

Brett is thinking of putting their travels in another book.

Meanwhile their latest adventures can be found on Brett’s blog, <https://www.ivanbrett.com>

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