



In SPORTS, 6A

Baker girls, boys soccer in action

# Baker City Herald

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### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Marion Price of Baker City.

### BRIEFING

#### City eases burning restrictions

Due to rain and cooler temperatures, the Baker City Fire Department has eased, but not completely canceled, fire restrictions. Campfires for cooking purposes only are allowed, as are burn barrels. Open burning of yard waste will still be prohibited, however, Fire Chief John Clark said.

#### Blood drive set for Sept. 16 at Nazarene Church

The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive for Sept. 16 at the Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. Please call Myrna Evans at 541-523-5368 to make, cancel, or reschedule an appointment. Please note the change in venue to the Nazarene Church.

#### Free tours of Rock Creek Power Plant Sept. 12-21

The owners of the historic Rock Creek Power Plant, in the Elkhorn Mountains west of Haines, will offer free tours Sept. 12-21, by appointment. To schedule a tour call Terry Daugherty at 208-412-9813 or Don Wagner at 208-412-9812. The power plant was built in 1903 and closed in 1995.

### WEATHER

#### Today

70 / 40



Mostly sunny

#### Thursday

79 / 45



Mostly sunny

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### Portland Trail Blazers Bring Rip City Rally To Baker City

# Happy Hoopsters



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The Trail Blazers Rip City Rally on Main Street put kids on a basketball court Monday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Challenging each other, at near left, are 10-year-old enthusiasts Daecee Darnell and Quin Wellman.

By Samantha O'Conner  
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Beginning a day of activities and fun with the Rip City Rally, representatives and personalities from the Portland Trail Blazers gathered Monday afternoon at Baker City's Brooklyn Primary School to put on an assembly for more than 300 students.

Brooklyn Principal Phil Anderson told his students he received a call last spring from the Trail Blazers about having an assembly at their school.

"I've been waiting for this for a long, long time," Anderson said.

Todd Bosma, director of game operations for the Trail Blazers, led the assembly in encouraging students to be active instead of going home and watching TV or playing video games all day.

Joining Bosma were members from Moda, the insurance company for whom the Blazers' arena in Portland is named — Mina Zarnegin, Noah Pietz and Mike McGuffey. Two Blazer Dancers, Natalie and Jackie, and Blaze the Trail Cat were there as well.

To help keep them active, McGuffey, also called "Moda Mike" by Bosma, presented new playground balls for the Brooklyn students from Moda Health.

"Moda is giving you guys brand new playground balls because they want to make sure you have everything you need to go outside and play, so we will give you these playground balls if you promise to use them," Bosma said.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Remington McMurdo, left, and Rogue Lunyou start their race across the gym. They will do jumping jacks, race back to the start for jump roping, race to the far side again to race back on tricycles to finish. Blazer Dancer Jackie and mascot Blaze Trailcat are in background.

The students promised to use them.

Bosma told the students that the Trail Blazers' players were in Portland getting ready for their upcoming season, which starts Oct. 23 with a game at the Moda Center against the Denver Nuggets.

The Blazers' preparation is comparable to what the students are doing at Brooklyn, Bosma said.

"You guys are getting ready for whatever the next grade is going to be, whatever's going to happen next week here, if you have any assignments," he said. "So, we're excited that we are out here to get you guys ready not only for the Rip City fair, the Trail Blazers' season, but an awesome school year."

See **Blazers**/Page 2A

### BAKER CITY COUNCIL

# Deer versus fence height

By Samantha O'Conner  
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The issue of city-dwelling deer returned to the Baker City Council Tuesday when a resident told councilors the city's fence height limit conflicts with her plan to keep deer out of her organic vegetable garden.

Robin Laakso, of 2339 Auburn Ave., said she bought the property in May 2018 and moved in this spring.

She said a group of deer stays on the property and she wanted to build a fence to keep the animals out of her garden. Laakso is asking the city for permission to build a fence taller than city standards allow.

See **Council**/Page 5A

# Crossroads, Orpheum Theater receive state grants

Two Baker City organizations have been awarded grants through the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center will get \$13,701 to support all-inclusive access for children with limited mobility or cognitive abilities, or sight or hearing issues.

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre will receive \$16,734 for its project to restore the historic Orpheum Theater at 1821 Main St.

Work on the Orpheum, which closed in 1956 and was converted to retail space, started in 2016.



Sabrina Thompson/The (La Grande) Observer

Gus Macy, 3, of Baker City checks out his painted portrait during a ceremony Friday in La Grande for the Portrait Connection project.

### NONPROFIT GIVES PAINTED PORTRAITS TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

# Picture perfect

By Sabrina Thompson  
The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — When a family has a child with a chronic illness or special medical needs, sometimes life can get bogged down in constant doctors' appointments, treatments and therapy sessions. Being reminded of the joy life brings can revive the spirits of those often overwhelmed families. Portrait Connection, a nonprofit organization, creates portraits of the children and gifts them to the families to bring hope and celebration to their lives.

Friday in La Grande, eight families received their portraits in a special unveiling ceremony.

The founder and executive director of Portrait Connection, Elaine Eisenbraun, was inspired to start the nonprofit in 2016.

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FRIDAY — OUTLOOK FOR UPLAND GAME BIRD, WATERFOWL HUNTING