

# Baker City Herald

October 28, 2019

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In SPORTS, 7A

## Baker girls top Mac-Hi

**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 Mary Sue Rightmire of Baker City.

#### Sports, 6A

Baker boys soccer coach Victor Benites had his fingers crossed Sunday afternoon, and he wouldn't mind if Bulldog fans follow suit for the next couple days.

Benites' team lost 1-0 to Mac-Hi in its regular-season finale Saturday at the Baker Sports Complex.

But the Bulldogs' season isn't officially over, and that's where the superstition comes in.

As of Sunday Baker (5-5-2 on the season) was ranked 14th by the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA), and the top 20 teams advance to the Class 4A playoffs.

### BRIEFING

#### Downtown trick-or-treating set for Halloween

The annual Baker City Kiwanis Downtown Trick-or-Treat event is set for Thursday, Oct. 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Main Street will be closed to traffic between Auburn Avenue and Church Street. Businesses and organizations both on and off Main Street are invited to participate. More information is available by calling Debbie Poe, Kiwanis president, at 541-403-0483.

### WEATHER

#### Today

45 / 16



Partly sunny

#### Tuesday

36 / 6



Sunny and cold

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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### Solar Farm Under Construction Near Baker City

# Powering Forward



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Workers installing frames that will hold solar panels near Sutton Creek Road about six miles southeast of Baker City.

By Samantha O'Conner  
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Construction is nearing completion on Baker County's first two solar power farms, the larger of which is near Sutton Creek Road about six miles southeast of Baker City.

That array of about 50,000 panels is about one mile east of the landfill and about 7/10th of a mile south of Interstate 84.

Enerparc Solar Projects LLC of Oakland, California, is building that solar farm as well as a second project near Unity, in southern Baker County.

Construction manager Douglas Stevens said work on the Sutton Creek project started Aug. 30, and company officials expect the farm to be online around Dec. 15.

"This one is fast-paced," Stevens said. Currently, workers are driving in piles — the metal bars that will hold the solar panels. The piles have been driven a minimum of six feet into the ground.

Stevens said he hopes to have the 50,000 panels installed within two weeks. The panels are on motorized tracks that shift the panels as the sun moves to maximize power production.

See **Solar Power** / Page 3A



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Enerparc's solar farm project includes Idaho Power Company's substation near Interstate 84.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Workers continue construction of a solar farm southeast of Baker City

# County to ask voters for EMS money

By Chris Collins  
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As Baker County Emergency Management director, Jason Yencopal's phone has been on speed dial to the county counsel's office in recent weeks.

That's because he's been busy making inquiries and checking the legalities of procedures needed to establish a ballot measure to help fund ambulance services in the county in time for the May 2020 election.

Yencopal says a new funding mechanism is needed to make up for a shortfall in providing adequate ambulance service to all county residents.

See **Money** / Page 2A

# Frightful frosty forecast

By Jayson Jacoby  
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In case you haven't settled on a Halloween costume, here's a bit of advice. Something fuzzy.

A polar bear, for instance, would be perfectly appropriate attire for trick-or-treating or any other holiday festivity that involves being outside for more than a few minutes.

An arctic front is scheduled to invade Baker County Tuesday, bringing temperatures more typical of January than October.

See **Frosty** / Page 3A

# Natural gas rates will rise

Cascade Natural Gas customers will see an increase in their rates starting Nov. 1, the Oregon Public Utility Commission announced Friday.

The PUC approved a rate increase of 8.3% for Cascade Natural gas residential customers.

The monthly bill of a typical customer using 62 therms per month would rise by \$3.89, from \$46.69 to \$50.58.

The PUC also approved rate hikes for Oregon's other natural gas providers, Avista Utilities and NW Natural.

See **Rates Rise** / Page 3A



**TODAY**  
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**WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE**