



In SPORTS, 6A

Top-ranked
La Grande
pins No. 4
Bulldogs

Baker City Herald

January 10, 2020

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

IN THIS EDITION:

Local News • Outdoors • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish
To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Ann Mehaffy of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — The Oregon state Legislature's short session begins Feb. 3, with lawmakers planning to resurrect climate legislation after last session's controversial "cap-and-trade" proposal failed.

And Timber Unity, the group heading protests last year, will be back.

Sports, 6A

CORVALLIS — Despite Arizona State's lopsided loss at Arizona in its Pac-12 opener last weekend, Remy Martin expected to see a different Sun Devils team Thursday against Oregon State.

Martin scored a game-high 24 points to lead Arizona State (10-5, 1-1 Pac-12) to an 82-76 victory.

BRIEFING

Farmers Market membership meeting Feb. 5

The Baker City Farmers Market will have its annual membership meeting on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. Anyone who wants to help the market be successful in 2020 is welcome to join.

WEATHER

Today

31 / 30

Snow likely



Saturday

39 / 30

Snow likely



Sunday

40 / 27

Snow likely



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.

Local Firefighters Aiding In Battle To Douse Australian Wildfires

Helping Out Down Under



Darrian Traynor/Getty Images-TNS

Fire crews monitor fires and begin back burns between the towns of Orbost and Lakes Entrance in east Gippsland, Australia, on Jan. 2.

By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

A few federal firefighters from snowbound and chilly Northeastern Oregon are traveling more than 8,000 miles to help battle catastrophic blazes in the parched and blazing southeastern corner of Australia.

Nathan Goodrich, fire management officer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Wallowa Fire Zone, is returning late this week after spending the past month or so in Australia, said Noel Livingston, fire staff officer for the Wallowa-Whitman.

Todd Pederson, assistant fire management officer for the Wallowa Fire Zone, is traveling to Australia, Livingston said.

The Bureau of Land Management also recently sent four firefighters from the region to Australia, including Justin Fenton of Payette, Idaho, who works for the BLM's Vale District in Oregon, said Larisa Bogardus, public affairs officer for the



David Gray/Getty Images-TNS

Firefighters prepare as a bushfire approaches homes on the outskirts of the town of Bargo near Sydney, Australia.

Vale District.

Livingston said the Forest Service's Region 6, which includes Oregon and Washington, is assembling a 20-person firefighting crew to

deploy to Australia, and that group could include an employee from the Wallowa-Whitman.

See **Fires** / Page 5A

Baker City Bronc & Bull Riding Join Regional Rodeo Series

New Bull/Bronc organizer: 'Everyone knows Baker City'

By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

An injury — that all-but-inevitable bane of the professional bull rider — cost Jason Mattox his chance to compete in Baker City years ago.

But now that he has a chance to put on the Baker City Bronc and Bull Riding events, his enthusiasm seems to overwhelm any lingering disappointment.

"I'm excited to be able to continue this event in your

community," said Mattox, who lives in Roseburg and owns the Coastal Farm & Ranch Challenge of Champions Tour, which has added the Baker City rodeo events to its roster.

The group of volunteers, led by Ken McPheron, who have overseen the events for the past 25 years under the nonprofit Baker City Bronc & Bull Riding Inc., decided last year to look for a new organizer.

Mattox, a former bull

rider, said that when he heard there was a possibility the iconic event, which coincides with Baker City's Miners Jubilee festival the third weekend of July, wouldn't happen, he got in touch with the local board of directors to offer to help in any way.

The Baker City Bronc and Bull Riding events are renowned among rodeo contestants and fans, Mattox said.

"In the Northwest every-

one knows Baker City," he said. "It's the biggest stand-alone bull and bronc riding event in the Northwest."

Mattox said his initial conversation with Baker City Bull & Bronc Inc. board members led to him adding the events to the Challenge of Champions Tour, a series of 18 rodeos in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and Nevada.

See **Rodeo** / Page 2A

County cuts parks job

■ County will hire a contractor to manage Hewitt and Holcomb parks near Richland

By Samantha O'Conner

sococonner@bakercityherald.com

Baker County will eliminate the job of parks coordinator and instead look to hire a contractor to manage Hewitt and Holcomb parks near Richland.

The decision county commissioners made Wednesday was prompted by declining revenue from the two parks and the lack of any sustainable alternate sources of income.

"It's not a choice I'm trying to make, it's one we have to make," Commissioner Chairman Bill Harvey said. "Because we can't tax the citizens of Baker County for a very expensive model when you can have something that would be almost equal cost to what we're bringing in."

See **Parks** / Page 2A

School board ready to put bond on ballot

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

When it meets next week, the Baker School Board is expected to give final approval to a plan that will ask voters to approve a \$7.5 million bond measure in the May 19 election.

The Board made a final review of the plans that would relieve overcrowding and make safety and security upgrades in district schools during a work session Thursday night.

If voters approve the bond proposal, the District will add to it a \$4 million matching grant received through the Oregon School Capital Improvement (OS-CIM) program, \$2 million from the District's Capital Projects Fund and \$3 million from the Student Success Act, state funding approved by the 2019 Legislature, part of which can be used to pay for school safety improvements.

See **Schools** / Page 5A



8 51153 00102 0

TODAY

Issue 114, 12 pages

Calendar2A
Classified2B-4B
Comics5B

Community News3A
Crossword3B & 4B
Dear Abby6B

Horoscope3B & 4B
Jayson Jacoby4A
News of Record2A

Obituaries2A
Opinion4A
Outdoors1B

Senior Menus2A
Sports6A
Weather6B

MONDAY — BAKER BASKETBALL TEAMS OPEN GOL PLAY AT LA GRANDE