Sam Anthony/Baker City Herald

A bronc rider had a dusty conclusion to his attempted ride during the Haines Stampede rodeo Saturday.

RODEO

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The Stampede had performances on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, said rodeo officials had to make major changes due to the pandemic, but he said residents were determined to make it happen in a summer when most other major local events have been canceled.

"This is a cultural thing for Baker County, there's ranches around here that do stuff like this all the time and they want to compete against one another, it's a good thing," Harvey said. "This is where I got my first ride when I was a youngster a long time ago, so I think it's great for kids to get their start and see if they like it here."

The rodeos were also televised by the Blue Mountain Translator District.

Vendor Randy Garnett, owner of Sammy's BBQ and Appleflat Catering of Wallowa County, said events such as the rodeo are crucial to his business — especially this year, with rodeos and many other events being canceled.

"It's our livelihood, I had every weekend booked this summer and I ended up doing one," Garnett said. "We lost 80% of our business. People in Haines stood up and said 'we're doing it,' and I think that's a great thing."

Carlee Morton, who's from Adrian, south of Ontario, competed in the slack on Friday morning and said that she was happy to be able to participate in a rodeo this year.

"I'm super excited they stuck with it, I think it's a great way to show the community and public what we're all about," Morton said. "I think everybody pulled together and decided we needed to celebrate our country."

Morton wasn't the only out-of-towner at the rodeo.

Nichole Wainwright, who's from Long Creek in Grant County, said she drove 2 1/2 hours for the chance to see a rodeo this year and support her friends who competed.

"This was the first one we've found; we were really surprised it was still on," Wainwright said.

And Katie Hauser, a new resident of Baker City who moved here in April after falling in love with the area, said that she was ecstatic to be able to see one of Baker County's traditions in person.

"I'd never been to a rodeo before so this was exciting," said Hauser, who is the 4-H program coordinator at the Oregon State University Extension office in Baker City. "I liked the barrel races, it's amazing how well trained the youth and the horses are, they must have trained for ages so that was really impressive to me, though the bravery of some of the folks riding the bulls was terrifying to the audience let alone how brave you have to be get out there and do it."

Becky Black, however, had a different take on who showed true bravery at the Stampede.

"I think the pickup men are the real heroes," Black said, referring to the people who help riders safely exit the arena after a ride.

"I think everybody pulled together and decided we needed to celebrate our country."

— Carlee Morton, who competed in the Haines Stampede rodeo

Sam Anthony /Baker City Herald

Spectators in the shaded grandstand Saturday during the Haines Stampede rodeo.

Sam Anthony /Baker City Herald

Bulls gave competitors a wild ride during the Haines Stampede rodeo Saturday.

Parts of Olive Lake campground open

GRANITE — The Umatilla National Forest has opened parts of the Olive Lake campground for day use and overnight camping.

The campground is along Forest Road 10, about 12 miles west of Granite.

The campground had been closed while workers clear lodgepole pine trees killed or damaged by a mountain pine beetle infestation that covers about 250 acres around the 149-acre lake.

Those trees could fall on campsites and other areas that people frequent, according to a press release from the Umatilla National Forest's North Fork John Day Ranger District.

"We know that everyone loves Olive Lake and is eager to come up now that warm weather is finally here," District Ranger Paula Guenther said.

Campsites 1 through 14 are now open, along with the boat launch and docks and the hiking trail that circles the lake.

Campsites 15 through 27, along the east access road, remain closed.

Forest Service officials are considering hiring a contractor to remove hazard trees in that area. Visitors should stay on the hiking trail at the south end of the campground rather than walking along the access road.

Dealing with the pine beetle infestation is one of two major projects this summer at Olive Lake.

The Forest Service is also planning maintenance work later this summer on the dam at the north end of the lake, including installing water level sensors and removing vegetation and debris from the spillway.

SEARCH

Continued from Page 1A

Search and Rescue teams from Baker, Malheur and Umatilla counties searched by ground and air and used sonar search technology to search the waters of Brownlee Reservoir in attempting to find Bah over the weekend.

He was reported missing from his campsite at Hewitt Park, 3 miles east of Richland just off Highway 86, about 9 p.m. Friday. His foster parents made the report after he failed to return from a walk that he started at about 5:30 p.m. that day.

Bah's foster family told searchers it was not unusual for him to take long walks. Bah is unfamiliar with this area, a Sheriff's Office flier distributed as part of the search effort stated. He speaks French and Spanish fluently, but he is not fluent in English.

The flier contained photos and other information about the missing teenager. He is described as having a thin build and short hair. He is 5 feet, 2 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds. He was last seen wearing gray pants and a dark-colored T-shirt.

Baker County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team members began looking for the teenager about 9:45 p.m. Friday. They scoured Hewitt Park and roads in the Eagle Valley area near Richland Friday night.

Baker County Sheriff's Office deputies searched along roads in Eagle Valley and interviewed campers and boaters who might have spotted Bah.

Boat searches began just before midnight Friday and continued throughout the weekend. The Malheur County Search and Rescue Team provided a side-scan sonar system to search the water and was joined in that effort by Baker County marine deputies.

A fixed-wing airplane provided by the Oregon State Police began an aerial search about 1 p.m. Saturday. Two drones with infrared capabilities operated by the Umatilla County Search and Rescue Team and the Oregon Department of Forestry also joined the search from the air.

Ashley McClay, Baker County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman, said she spent the weekend helping with the search effort from the area of Hewitt Park.

About 35 people had been involved in the search as of Monday, she said.

Bah's foster parents said they had been camped with a group of other families vacationing at Hewitt Park. McClay said she was not aware of any strife between the teenager and other members of the group before he went missing.

"We are looking at different theories and trying to look at all different angles," McClay said as the search continued Monday.

Deputies will continue to search along the water and in areas near the campground throughout the week, the press release stated. A Search and Rescue coordinator will be in the area gathering information.

BENEFITS

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Instead of specific cutoff dates contained in the CARES Act — the law that gave unemployed workers an extra $600 per week on top of their regular benefits, but only through July 31 — the Wyden-Schumer proposal would tie benefits to state unemployment rates. The $600 per week would remain until a state's three-month average dropped below 11%, then is reduced $100 for every percentage-point decrease in the rate until that rate falls below 6%.

Regular unemployment benefits, dating back to the 1930s, offset only a part of wages lost through layoffs or furloughs.

"In today's economic conditions, if you want to get full-wage benefits out on time, there is no alternative to $600 per week across the board," Wyden said in the Senate chamber. "Furthermore, there is no good argument for cutting or eliminating benefits for as long as this pandemic is raging — and even getting worse."

In an interview last month, Wyden said support for his position is strong. According to 1,987 voters sampled by Morning Consult June 12-14, 75% say benefits should be extended or even increased — 67% of Republicans, 72% of independents and 84% of Democrats.

The Wyden-Schumer bill also would do two other things.

Workers who exhausted their benefits after 26 weeks would get a 13-week extension in the CARES Act. The bill would extend those benefits through March 2021. A large new group — the self-employed, freelancers, independent contractors, gig and temporary workers — became eligible for unemployment benefits for the first time under the CARES Act. The bill would extend their coverage through March 2021, and future benefits would be tied to states' unemployment levels.

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