



In HOME, 1B
Flavors
of fall
veggies

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Linda Tester of Baker City.

State, 3A

LA GRANDE — The atmosphere at Island City Elementary School in La Grande, is ticking up a beat — and for good reason.

Monday, Oct. 5, was a red-letter date for all elementary schools in the La Grande School District, marking the first time since mid-March that some students attended classes at their school.

Sports, 5A

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Biggest moment of his career. Best game of his life.

Jimmy Butler is clearly not ready to go home quite yet. With a triple-double, he joined NBA Finals lore — and the short-handed Miami Heat might have made this title matchup a series after all.

Butler finished with 40 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, and the Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 115-104 on Sunday night to get within 2-1.

Sports, 5A

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — A couple of unlikely players helped deliver the Philadelphia Eagles their first win of the season.

Travis Fulgham caught a go-ahead 42-yard touchdown pass from Carson Wentz with 5:50 remaining and Alex Singleton returned an interception for a score to lift the Eagles to a 25-20 win over the San Francisco 49ers Sunday.

WEATHER

Today

80 / 37



Sunny

Wednesday

82 / 37



Sunny

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

Baker Technical Institute Earns Training Contract In Idaho

Pushing Forward



Contributed photo

Baker Technical Institute (BTI) of Baker City is training 20 people to operate heavy equipment used in highway construction projects. The Idaho Transportation Department hired BTI for the pilot program.

By Samantha O'Conner
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Doug Dalton hopes the Baker Technical Institute's latest, and largest, contract for job training is just the start.

The Idaho Transportation Department hired Baker Technical Institute (BTI) to train 20 people to operate heavy equipment used in highway construction and repair work.

The \$200,000 to \$250,000 pilot program, which the Federal Highway Administration is paying for, is designed to address a shortage of skilled employees for highway projects, said Dalton, BTI president.

BTI, which is based in Baker City and was started several years ago by the Baker School District, offers training in a variety of professions, including welding, manufacturing and heavy equipment operation.

The latter is the focus of the pilot program for which the Idaho Transportation Department hired BTI.

The 5-week program in Boise



Contributed photo

The 5-week training program started in September near Boise.

started in September, with 20 students selected from about 150 applicants. Most of the students are from Idaho.

Students are learning in a class-

room and a virtual reality lab, in addition to field work where they operate real equipment.

See **Training** / Page 2A

Council talking with manager hopefuls

By Jayson Jacoby
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The Baker City Council interviewed two candidates for the city manager's job Monday evening, and councilors will interview three others today.

Both evenings of Zoom interviews were slated to happen during executive sessions, closed to the public.

Oregon's public meetings law allows city councils and other elected boards to consider certain topics during executive sessions, including, as in this case, the employment of a public officer.

Councilors can't make any decisions during executive sessions, however.

See **Manager** / Page 3A

County's COVID-19 cases lack common thread

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County's rate of new cases of COVID-19 has increased the past two weeks, but the county continues to avoid outbreaks or clusters of cases linked to a single place or event.

"There's no common thread, it's all over in terms of ages," said Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department.

During the 14-day period ending Monday, the county reported 12 new cases.

See **COVID-19** / Page 3A

Cross-Country Bicyclist Stops In Baker City

Pedaling through the coronavirus pandemic

By Samantha O'Conner
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Among the activities people have taken up during this pandemic, riding a bicycle through their town is a small, fun adventure people have come to enjoy.

Matteo Schlitz has taken it to another level: He's pedaling from his home in Washington, D.C., to the Pacific Ocean.

Schlitz, 22, stopped in Baker City on Sept. 29 during his cross-country odyssey, which started July 1.

He plans to arrive at Pacific City, on the Oregon Coast, today to celebrate his 23rd birthday.

Schlitz said he has never done anything like his epic ride.

He doesn't even consider himself a bicyclist. But with universities closing campuses

and shifting to online classes, Schlitz, a student at New York University, said he wasn't ready to transition back to what felt like his high school years.

"I was definitely craving some sort of adventure and freedom," he said.

Schlitz's adventure has come with a few setbacks, including a recent bout with flat tires courtesy of the goat's head (puncturevine) weeds on Highway 86 in eastern Baker County.

A passer-by gave Schlitz a ride into Halfway, where he found someone to help with his tires.

"He was laughing at me, because he told me 'I can't believe you've gotten this far and been so bad at fixing bikes,'" Schlitz said with a laugh.

See **Pedaling** / Page 3A



Samantha O'Conner / Baker City Herald

Matteo Schlitz stopped in Baker City on Sept. 29 during his solo bicycle ride from Washington, D.C., to the Pacific Ocean. He started July 1 and planned to finish today.



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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE