

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Judy Lutz of Baker City.

Local, 2A

A persistent weather pattern that has trapped cold air in Baker and many other Northeastern Oregon valleys for most of the past two weeks has also prompted the National Weather Service to issue an air stagnation advisory for much of the region.

The most recent advisory continues through 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and includes Baker County.

This dry pattern, which is relatively common during the fall and winter when a ridge of high pressure settles over the Pacific Northwest and sometimes lasts for a week or longer, can result in poor air quality as woodstove smoke, vehicle exhaust and other pollutants accumulate near the ground.

Oregon, 3A

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, is among just 27 Republican members of Congress who will say Democrat Joe Biden has been elected president, according to a survey by The Washington Post published Saturday.

Walden, who did not run for reelection and will leave Congress after 20 years in office, represents all of Oregon east of the Cascades and a portion in the southwest.

WEATHER

Today

43 / 23

Partly sunny

Wednesday

41 / 24

Light snow possible

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Baker City Cowboy Jesse Brown Competing At National Finals Rodeo

Getting Down And Dirty in Texas

Jackie Jensen/Contributed

Jesse Brown of Baker City wrestles a steer during the first round of the National Finals Rodeo on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. Brown finished tied for first. The event, known as the Super Bowl of Rodeo, continues through Dec. 12.

By Jayson Jacoby

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Jesse Brown rode onto the biggest stage in rodeo for the first time in his career.

His debut at the National Finals Rodeo on Thursday, Dec. 3, lasted all of 3.9 seconds.

And then the waiting started.

The anxious, agonizing waiting as Brown, of Baker City, watched his 14 fellow steer wrestling competitors try to beat his time as the first rider out of the gate.

Not one did.

Two other cowboys, Dakota El- dridge of Elko, Nevada, and Blake Knowles of Heppner, tied Brown at 3.9 seconds.

Each won \$20,872.

And Brown, after such an auspicious start, prepared to try to do the same thing on each of the next nine days.

Although he was excited about his performance on Dec. 3 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, Brown, 28, has bigger ambitions.

He's aiming for the \$70,000 prize that goes to the steer wrestler with the lowest average time over the 10 rounds.

The National Finals Rodeo continues through Dec. 12.

"It's not a sprint," Brown said in a phone interview on Monday morning, prior to that day's competition.

"Each night you're trying to win,

but you're also thinking about the overall average."

Through Sunday's fourth round, Brown was fifth with a total time of 20.8 seconds.

Stetson Jorgensen of Blackfoot, Idaho, was in first, at 16.6 seconds.

Brown is also in contention for the world champion title for 2020, which is based on total prize win- nings during the year, including the National Finals.

Through Sunday, Brown was in eighth place in earnings, at \$88,559.

Jacob Talley of Keatchie, Louisi- ana, was in first with \$116,047.

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Prep sports facing longer delay

■ With basketball and wrestling both prohibited due to COVID-19 rules, winter sports won't start on Dec. 28

By Corey Kirk

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High school sports in Oregon will be delayed even longer than previously planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the previous sched- ule, traditional winter sports were slated to start Dec. 28.

But two of those sports — basketball and wrestling — are full-contact sports that aren't allowed now under Oregon Health Authority re- strictions designed to slow the recent surge in virus cases.

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) executive board on Monday, Dec. 7, voted to revise the 2020-21 sports calendar.

"Basketball and wrestling currently are still prohibited by the state," Peter Weber, OSAA executive director, said during a virtual meeting Monday morning. "We need to make some changes."

One of those changes is to move the season for winter sports, which includes swim- ming as well as basketball and wrestling, to the spring.

Under the new plan, high school sports would start first with traditional fall sports — football, volleyball, soccer and cross-country. The tentative start date for that season is Feb. 22.

That season would be fol- lowed by traditional spring sports, and the year would conclude with traditional winter sports.

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Dry-cleaning service opens

By Samantha O'Conner

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Baker City has a new dry-cleaning location at 1900 Resort St.

Corina Davidson of North Powder opened Blue Mountain Dry Cleaners on Nov. 2.

She said a friend had remarked to her, when they were taking their own items to Ontario for dry cleaning, that she should start such a business here.

"So I did," said Davidson, 41.

Davidson does not do the dry cleaning in house. She takes items to Ontario on Mondays and Thursdays, bringing them back the fol-

lowing week unless other- wise requested.

"I'm just a drop off, pick up location," Davidson said.

So far, she said, business has been steady.

"I think I had my first customer two or three days after I opened," Davidson said.

In addition to dry clean- ing, Davidson can handle alterations, zipper replace- ment and other garment work.

"Just about anything you can think of that you can't really do yourself," she said.

With winter coming, Davidson has taken quite a few wool jackets to Ontario,

among other things.

Davidson said she recently changed her hours, and she's more than happy to stay open for anyone who needs her and can't make it there by her normal closing at 5 o'clock.

The normal weekday hours are noon to 5 p.m., with 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

"I'm open on Saturdays to accommodate people that can't make it in during the week. I'm trying to make it work for everybody," Davidson said.

She and her husband moved to Baker City from Unity around nine years ago and moved to North Powder six years ago.

Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Blue Mountain Dry Cleaners opened Nov. 2.