



In SPORTS, A6  
EAST  
DEFEATS  
WEST IN  
SHRINE  
GAME

# Baker City Herald

August 10, 2021

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscribers Lorrie and Larry Hill of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Fundraiser Aug. 13 to benefit toddler who has leukemia**

A fundraiser to help Ben and Emily Becktold's daughter fight leukemia is happening Friday, Aug. 13. The couple's 14-month-old daughter, Naomi, is currently with her mom at Seattle Children's Hospital.

The fundraiser starts at 6 p.m. at the Baker City Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St. The evening includes a pulled pork dinner, cornhole tournament, and silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the Becktold family to help with medical and travel expenses.

Dinner tickets are \$15, and available at the event. There is a limit of 200 meals.

Entry in the cornhole tournament is \$10 per person or \$20 per team. There are slots for 32 teams.

JR Streifel said donations are still coming in for the silent auction.

"It's awesome to see the community support and rally around one of ours in need," he said.

To donate, call Streifel at 541-379-5174.

For those who would like to make monetary donations, an account has been set up at Old West Federal Credit Union under the name Naomi Becktold Benefit Fund.

Donations can also be made through Venmo: @NaomisVillage.

WEATHER

Today

92 / 52  
Sunny



Wednesday

95 / 56  
Partly sunny



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

## A family legacy

Mason Van Arsdall becomes third member of his family to partake in East-West Shrine Game



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

In a game with so many different players in the fold, Van Arsdall was able to have ample playing time, and even was able to record the sack in the midst of the 69th Oregon East-West Shrine game on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021.

By Davis Carbaugh

The Observer

The Van Arsdall name has quite a legacy at the Oregon Shrine game.

Mason Van Arsdall, a multi-sports athlete for Baker High School, became the third-generation Van Arsdall to compete at the East-West Shrine Game in the 2021 rendition on Saturday, Aug. 7. Van Arsdall started on the offensive line for the East and helped the team to a 34-6 victory over the West.

"It's great to keep the tradition and I just feel awesome that I get to be a part of this," Van Arsdall said.

Van Arsdall's father, Jef, and grandfather, Jim, both played in the Shrine Game in previous years. Jef was selected out of Seaside High School in 1990 and Jim represented Franklin High School in 1961.

"I'm incredibly proud of him," Jef Van Arsdall said. "He's a great kid and he's dedicated to his team and he's just a good dude. It's a great sendoff to represent Baker one last time and be the hometown athlete."

The East-West Shrine Game

involves the state's elite football players from the 1A to 4A state levels. Football coaches from across the state nominate players to compete in the game and partake in the fundraising and festivities. The Shrine Game raises money for the Shrine Hospital for Children in Portland and is recognized as the organization's largest fundraiser.

The players involved are aware of the game's cause, but Van Arsdall has learned the importance of the game through his predecessors who previously played in the past.

"It's huge for our community and it's a huge event city-wide," he said. "It's just an amazing organization. Getting to not only win, but just be a part of this whole thing, is just so awesome."

According to Jef, competing in the game and raising funds for the hospital is a way of being a servant to the community.

"It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself," he said. "The Shrine Hospital is an amazing place and the service they provide is just incredible for folks that might not otherwise have the opportunity to have access to medical care."



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Baker Bulldog graduate Mason Van Arsdall (right) poses with his dad Jef (left) at the conclusion of the 69th Oregon East-West Shrine Game. The East went on to win the game, 34-6.

With the East holding a comfortable lead in the second half, Van Arsdall took additional reps on the defensive line. The versatile lineman recorded a sack near the sidelines that drew a huge eruption

from the crowd at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium. After the game, Van Arsdall was swarmed by friends, family and fans.

See, Van Arsdall/Page A6

## County sets work session to discuss visitor center contract

Baker City Herald

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will meet for a work session Wednesday, Aug. 11 to discuss the Request for Proposals (RFP) for operating a visitors center in Baker City.

Commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. at the Baker County Event Center, 2600 East St.

The work session will not be available on Zoom.

A copy of the draft RFP

is available on the county's website, www.bakercounty.org.

It sets a deadline of Sept. 17 for prospective contractors to submit a proposal. The schedule also calls for the county to issue a notice of intent to award the contract on Sept. 30, and for the Baker County Board of Commissioners to potentially sign the contract on Oct. 6.

The current contract, for about \$77,000 per year,

is with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which operates the visitor center at 490 Campbell St., near Interstate 84. The money comes from the local tax that guests pay at motels, bed and breakfasts, vacation rental homes and other types of lodging.

The county put out an RFP in the fall of 2019, and in December 2019 it received two proposals, from the Chamber of Commerce and from the non-

profit that owns Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

Both the county Economic Development Committee and the committee that oversees the lodging tax, which advise county commissioners, endorsed the Anthony Lakes proposal.

But in February 2020 commissioners postponed awarding the contract. In November 2020 commissioners decided to restart the process, after the

county's attorney determined there were potential conflicts of interest.

In March 2021 commissioners extended the contract with the Chamber of Commerce through Aug. 31, 2021.

Both Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, and Peter Johnson, general manager of Anthony Lakes, said they plan to submit a proposal to the county.



TODAY  
Issue 39, 12 pages

Classified.....B2  
Comics.....B5  
Community News....A2

Crossword.....B2  
Dear Abby.....B6  
Horoscope.....B2

News of Record.....A2  
Obituaries.....A2  
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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE