



In SPORTS, A6
Beavers,
Ducks
prepare

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscribers Tom and Kathy Fisk of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Baker County Cultural Coalition offering grants

In 2022, the Baker County Cultural Coalition will return to its traditional grantmaking schedule. The first deadline for applications is Dec. 15, 2021, for projects in the first half of 2022. The second deadline is May 15, 2022, for projects slated in the second half of 2022. Project reports are due Oct. 31, 2022. The BCCC typically awards up to \$500 per project. Grant applications are available online at https://www.bakercounty.org/cultural_plan/grants.html.

Two free movies to be shown in Baker City

Two free outdoor movies are happening this week in Baker City. "Goonies" will be shown Thursday, Aug. 26, at 8 p.m. in Central Park. Concessions will be available. The second event is a Back-To-School drive-in movie featuring "Toy Story 4" at Churchill School on Saturday, Aug. 28. Gates open at 7:30 p.m., and the movie starts at 8 p.m. Concessions will be available. These events are sponsored by the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition, Baker School District, and New Directions Northwest.

WEATHER

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



Jackie Jensen

Baker City steer wrestler Jesse Brown competes at the National Finals Rodeo in Arlington, Texas, in December 2020.

Ready For Rodeo

Jesse Brown of Baker City is ranked second in professional steer wrestling

By JAYSON JACOBY

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While almost everyone is sleeping, Jesse Brown is apt to be in the driver's seat of a pickup truck, chasing his headlights through the night on one of the great byways of the West, to a city where steers wait to be wrestled to the ground.

When the sun emerges, Brown might be in Kalispell, Montana.

Or Tremonton, Utah.

Or Prineville, Oregon.

Or any of a dozen other places where people gather in bleachers to watch men in jeans grapple with steers and try to stay aboard bulls or broncs for eight seconds.

Brown, who grew up in Baker City and still lives here — at least when

there's not a rodeo going on, which isn't all that often — is one of the top steer wrestlers in the world.

Brown, 29, is ranked second this season, with earnings of \$75,184.

That puts Brown in a great position to achieve one of his top goals — qualifying for the "Super Bowl of Rodeo," the National Finals Rodeo Dec. 2-11 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

In 2020, Brown made it to the National Finals for the first time.

But it was a near thing.

The top 15 nationally ranked competitors in each rodeo event can compete in the National Finals.

In late September 2020, with two rodeos left in the season, Brown was in 16th place, just \$500 short of 15th place.

In a rodeo at Rapid City, South Dakota, Brown won the second round and claimed \$2,010.

Although he had to wait, and

watch other competitors at later rodeos, Brown ended up finishing in 15th place, by a margin of \$1,560.

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 National Finals, which take place on 10 straight nights, were moved from Las Vegas to Arlington, Texas.

Brown, a 2011 Baker High School graduate who played football at Washington State University before transferring to Montana State University and taking up rodeo full time, tied for first in the first round at Arlington, bringing down his steer in 3.9 seconds and earning a \$20,872 check.

Brown tied for second in the fourth round to win \$18,192.

He ended up ranked 13th for the season, with total winnings of \$88,558.

This year, Brown's situation is quite different.

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Firefighters, others to protest vaccine mandate

They'll gather Tuesday evening at Baker City Hall

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Baker City Fire Department firefighters and other health care workers plan to rally at Baker City Hall Tuesday evening, Aug. 24, to protest Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's mandate

that health care employees be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Members of the group also hope to express their concerns to the Baker City Council, which meets at 7 p.m. inside City Hall.

Casey Johnson, president of the Baker City Firefighters Association union, has asked to have the issue added to the Council's agenda.

The vaccination mandate, which the governor announced last week, includes city firefighters because they also work as paramedics, responding to emergency medical cases with ambulances.

Firefighters actually handle far more ambulance calls than they do fires.

Johnson contends the governor has bypassed Or-

egon's law passed in 1989 that says it is unlawful for employers to mandate vaccines.

"She changed that through her executive power in her emergency declaration to say that all health care workers and associated fields will be mandatorily vaccinated," Johnson said.

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Wolves kill calf north of Durkee

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack in eastern Baker County killed a three-month-old calf on a private grazing pasture last week, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) responded by extending for three weeks the permit allowing the killing of two more wolves from the pack.

ODFW confirmed the wolf attack on a calf after

an investigation on Thursday, Aug. 19.

Lookout Mountain wolves have killed three head of cattle and injured two others over the past month northeast of Durkee, according to ODFW reports.

Attacks during the second half of July, in which wolves killed two animals and injured two others, prompted Mark Bennett, Baker County commissioner and chair of the county's wolf committee, to send a

letter to ODFW Director Curt Melcher seeking a permit allowing the rancher who owns or manages the cattle herds that have been attacked to kill some of the wolves.

Oregon's wolf management plan allows ranchers to kill wolves that are in the act of attacking livestock or working dogs, but a lethal take permit gives ranchers, or their designated agents or ODFW employees, authority to kill wolves that

are in a certain area, even if they're not directly threatening livestock.

Melcher approved the lethal take permit on July 29, the first issued in Oregon since 2018.

The permit allowed ranchers Deward and Kathy Thompson, their agents or ODFW employees, to kill up to four subadult wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack.

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Fair sale shatters record

Steer sales alone break former record

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Baker County's annual 4-H livestock auction didn't just break the sales record this year.

Shattered is the more appropriate verb.

The culminating event of the Baker County Fair set multiple records on Aug. 6, most notably in total sales.

The figure of \$517,026 trounced the previous record, which held the title for only one year.

The 2020 sale brought in \$327,069.

"It was, financially, our best auction to date," Jake Collier, a member of the sales committee, said of this year's auction. "It was a heck of a sale."

For steers, specifically.

This year's auction featured a record number of steers, with 62.

And those animals fetched \$362,350, which would alone have broken the 2020 record for the entire auction, including lambs, goats, swine and rabbits.

Collier said fair officials worried that with the pandemic continuing, the record slate of steers might not all find buyers.

They needn't have been concerned.

"But everybody showed up and really stepped up and participated with that," Collier said.

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City Council to consider hiring forestry consultant

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker City's public works director recommends the City Council hire a forestry consultant to design a timber sale on city-owned property near Goodrich Creek in the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles northwest of town.

In a report to councilors for their meeting this evening, Aug. 24, Michelle Owen proposes a five-year contract with Lane Parry Forestry Consulting of Baker City.

The city would pay the company based on the scope of specific projects yet to be determined.

Councilors will meet at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

In her report, Owen wrote that the city has previously contracted with Lane Parry Forestry Consulting (LPFC), but that contract has expired.

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