



In **SPORTS, A6**
Baker runs by Nyssa

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Sel Mastrude of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Public hearing set on request to convert church into home

The Baker City Planning Commission will have a public hearing Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St., to consider an application from Bruce Smith for a conditional use permit to convert the New Beginnings Fellowship Pentecostal Church of God, at 1820 Estes St., into a dwelling. The property, on the north side of Estes between the Powder River and Dewey Avenue, is in the central-commercial zone.

More information about the application is available by calling Madison Brossett at 541-523-8219 or by emailing mbrossett@bakercounty.org.

County Commission meets Wednesday

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will meet Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Agenda items include the county's share of money from the American Rescue Plan, authorizing the sale of county property in the East Pine Creek area near Halfway, and an updated COVID-19 mask policy.

WEATHER

Today
78 / 39
Sunny

Wednesday
59 / 28
Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Kindergartner Wyatt James takes a break from his snack to read from his new book during a StORytime event at the Baker Early Learning Center Thursday, Sept. 30.

Stories in the sunshine

■ **Health care workers read stories to kindergartners**

By LISA BRITTON

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Dr. Nathan Defrees, a stethoscope looped around his neck, chuckles at the antics of Gerald and Piggie.

His audience of kindergartners giggles too, then quiets as he continues the story of "My Friend is Sad" by Mo Willems.

Defrees and other health care workers in the community were invited to be guest readers at the annual StORytime event with local kindergarten classes on Thursday, Sept. 30. It is

sponsored by the Early Learning Hub.

Students from Baker Early Learning Center and Pine Eagle School lounged in the grassy field near the Baker Early Learning Center (in the North Baker School building) to hear several stories — "The Kissing Hand," followed by three Mo Willems books featuring Elephant and Piggie.

Visiting readers included Defrees, Dr. Lily Wittich, Sarah Lindsey, Jasmine McCauley, and Valerie Potter — all from St. Luke's EOMA — and Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department.

"Who are our heroes? Doctors and nurses," said Angela Lattin, BELC principal.

After storytime, the students each received a T-shirt emblazoned with



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Dr. Nathan Defrees, a physician at St. Luke's EOMA, was a guest reader during StORytime at the Baker Early Learning Center on Thursday, Sept. 30.

"Class of 2034," an Elephant and Piggie book of their choice, a toothbrush and an orange.

Wolves kill calf north of Richland

■ **ODFW also confirms wolf attacks on cattle near Ukiah**

By JAYSON JACOBY

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No wolf attacks on cattle have been reported in the Lookout Mountain country of eastern Baker County since state wildlife workers shot and killed three wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack, including the breeding male, on Sept. 17.

But wolves have killed cattle elsewhere in North-eastern Oregon during the past two weeks, including in Baker County.

In the Ukiah area of Umatilla County, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo

OR-10, a female pup from the Walla Walla pack, photographed in 2011.

authorized a rancher, or the rancher's designated agent, to kill up to two wolves on the rancher's property.

The lethal take permit expires Oct. 31, when two wolves have been killed, or when the rancher's cattle are moved from that area, whichever happens first.

ODFW biologists confirmed two separate attacks by wolves on private land in

Ukiah Valley, one on Sept. 25, the other on Sept. 28.

Three calves died and five others were injured, according to ODFW. The calves were all about six months old and weighed between 450 and 550 pounds.

Baker County

ODFW biologists also confirmed that wolves killed a 400-pound calf on a public

land grazing pasture in the southern Willowa Mountains near Eagle Creek on Sept. 28.

According to an ODFW report, a hunter found the calf's carcass on the morning of Sept. 28 near the Amalgamated Mine, along Paddy Creek about 17 miles northwest of Richland.

ODFW biologists examined the carcass and found more than 30 pre-mortem parallel tooth scrapes on the outside and back of the calf's left hind leg above the hock, as well as similarly sized tooth scrapes on the right hind leg.

"The location, size, number and direction of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on calves," according to the report.

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Washington man killed, his father hurt, in crash

Baker City Herald

A Washington man died Friday afternoon, Oct. 1, and his father was hurt, when the motorcycles they were riding went off Highway 7 near Mason Dam and crashed.

David Anderson IV, 35, of Gig Harbor, was riding a Honda VTX 1800 motorcycle, according to Oregon State Police.

Anderson died at the scene.

His father and riding companion, David Anderson III, 65, also of Gig

Harbor, was taken by Life Flight to the hospital.

He was in fair condition Monday morning, Oct. 4 at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise.

The elder Anderson was riding an Indian Roadster motorcycle, according to OSP.

Both men were riding east on Highway 7 near Milepost 34 when they both failed to negotiate a curve and rode off the highway.

Milepost 34 is near Mason Dam, just before the highway descends the grade below the dam.

According to an OSP report, based on witness statements and evidence on the highway, the riders had sped up to pass other vehicles just before a sweeping turn to the right. Both motorcycles overturned, ejecting the riders.

According to witnesses, the motorcycles did not collide with each other during the crash.

COVID cases drop

By JAYSON JACOBY

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The number of new COVID-19 cases in Baker County dropped for the second straight week.

The number of tests has also continued to decline, and the test positivity rate has dipped only slightly.

For the week Sept. 26 through Oct. 2, the county reported 69 new cases.

That compares with 86 cases for the week Sept. 19-25 and 139 cases for Sept. 12-18 — the most for any week during the pandemic.

The totals for the previous two weeks:

- Sept. 5-11 — 128
- Aug. 29-Sept. 4 — 80

Baker County also set a record with six COVID-19-related deaths during September, and for total cases, at 465. The previous record for monthly cases was 300, in August 2021.

The total of 69 new cases for the week ending Oct. 2 was the lowest weekly total since Aug. 22-28, when there were 59 cases.

Although the county's weekly case totals have dipped since the mid-September peak, so has the number of COVID-19 tests conducted in the county.

Weekly testing totals:

- Sept. 26-Oct. 2 — 296

(this number is preliminary; typically some tests aren't added to tally for several days)

- Sept. 19-25 — 382 tests
- Sept. 12-18 — 580 tests
- Sept. 5-11 — 479 tests
- Aug. 29-Sept. 4 — 295 tests

The county's positivity rate peaked at 26.5% for the week Sept. 5-11.

The rate dropped to 23.5% the following week, and to 22.2% from Sept. 19-25.

Numbers aren't final for the most recent week, Sept. 26-Oct. 2, but the preliminary test positivity rate is 21.3%.

Burglary investigation continues

By JAYSON JACOBY

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The Baker County Sheriff's Office continued on Monday, Oct. 4 to investigate a Sept. 30 burglary on Atwood Road east of Interstate 84.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash said on Monday morning that the focus was identifying the suspect who drove a Ford F150 pickup truck to Jim Rex's home at 42140 Atwood Road and then apparently fled on foot when Rex arrived home on the afternoon of Sept. 30.

Ash said on Friday, Oct. 1 that police had identified a potential suspect.

Three people from the sheriff's office are working on the case, Ash said.

Ash said the license plates on the truck aren't for a Ford pickup.

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