



In SPORTS, A5

Baker runners take 2nd

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber John Woodard of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Northern Baker Transportation Plan virtual meet set for Wednesday

Baker City's project to address transportation needs on 10th Street, Hughes Lane and Cedar Street in north Baker City to improve safety and encourage economic growth continues with a live, virtual public meeting Wednesday, Oct. 13 starting at 5:45 p.m.

To access the meeting, use the link at the project website: www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP. Residents can also submit comments on the website through Oct. 22.

OTEC warns about scam phone calls

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is warning its members about an increase in the number of phone calls purporting to be from OTEC demanding immediate payment to avoid having power cut off. These are scam calls. OTEC does not demand immediate payment, although it does sometimes call members.

OTEC encourages members to call 541-523-3616 if they're not sure about a call they've received. Members should never give credit card numbers or other personal information over the phone, by internet or by mail.

WEATHER

Today

52 / 26
Sunny



Wednesday

48 / 28
Rain showers



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

TRADITIONAL TRICK OR TREAT RETURNS



Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald, File

All decked out with scary laughing witches, skeletons and ghoulish sounds, Cadell Mills, 11, and sister Cadence, 8, venture into a haunted room to receive their treats during the 2019 Halloween trick-or-treat event in downtown Baker City.

Event set downtown on Saturday, Oct. 30

By LISA BRITTON

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Baker City's downtown trick-or-treat event is returning this year to Main Street on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

It is again organized by the Baker City Kiwanis Club.

All businesses, groups and agencies are invited to participate.

"We welcome all businesses, agencies and groups that do not reside on Main Street to participate as this is a community event," said David Cowan, a member of Kiwanis.

In 2020, the Kiwanis partnered with the Sunridge Inn and Baker County Chamber of Commerce to put on a three-hour trick-or-

treat event in the parking lot between the Chamber and the Sunridge restaurant. The crowd followed a one-way path to visit tables spaced about nine feet apart.

This year, the city approved returning the traditional event to Main Street, said Debbie Poe of the Kiwanis.

"So we can bring it back downtown," she said.

For this year's downtown event, Main Street

will be closed to traffic between Valley Avenue and Church Street to make it easier and safer for costumed kids and parents to make their rounds.

All vendors must wear a mask and gloves, which will be available at the Kiwanis table in front of Bisnett Insurance at the corner of Main Street and Washington Avenue.

See, **Treat** / Page A3

Baker rider ready for Vegas

By JAYSON JACOBY

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A year ago, Jesse Brown was nervous.

His future depended on what showed up on the screen of his cellphone.

Today he's just excited.

Brown, a professional steer wrestler and Baker City native, didn't have to endure any hours of anxiety to find out if he qualified for the National Finals Rodeo, the Super Bowl for professional cowboys.

Brown, 29, had his best professional season, ranking second in earnings with \$92,358.49.

Only Jacob Talley of Keatchie, Louisiana, has won more, with \$117,256.41.

Since the top 15 steer wrestlers qualify for the National Finals, set for Dec. 2-11 at the Thomas & Mach Center in Las Vegas, Brown, who was second in earnings for much of the season that started in the

spring, was confident that he would advance to the National Finals for the second straight year.

"I was able to be consistent this year," Brown said on Monday, Oct. 11. "I'm happy with how it went."

How it went was quite different from the 2020 season, which was, like so much else, interrupted at times by the pandemic.

In late September of 2020, after competing in his final rodeo of the sea-

son at Stephenville, Texas, Brown did not yet know whether he had fulfilled his goal of qualifying for the National Finals.

He had been in 16th place — \$500 short of clinching the final spot in the National Finals.

Brown, a 2011 Baker High School graduate, had to wait for hours, checking on results from other rodeos.

See, **Rodeo** / Page A3

Between hospital and home

By LISA BRITTON

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Dennis Axness didn't know what ailed him, but he knew it didn't feel good.

"I thought I had a backache," he said.

It turned out that Axness, 78, had an infected kidney this spring.

He was admitted to the hospital, given fluids, and taken by ambulance to Boise where four specialists reviewed his condition.

"They figured out what I needed," he said.

What he needed, it turned out, was infusions six times a day.

"Every four hours throughout the day and night," he said.

He went into the hospital on May 14, and was discharged June 30.

"A day short of seven weeks," Axness said.

And the majority of that time was spent at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

After his condition stabilized — he said he was "delirious" the first few days — Axness was moved into the swing bed program, which is a rehabilitation transition between hospital and home.

Axness, who taught science at Baker High School and served as principal at several local schools, became somewhat of a fixture at the hospital.

"I got to know all these people," he said.

He would ask if a nurse's child had won his baseball game, or inquire how a race turned out for one who is an avid runner.

Although he still required six infusions each day, Axness was able to leave the hospital for short rides, or to visit the home he shares in Baker Valley with his wife, Terri.

"It's nice," he said of the swing bed program. "You're home — you don't have to go to Boise for rehab."

In swing bed, patients have some comforts of home, such as their own

clothes. But it also provides access to physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy and meals.

His care at the hospital prompted Axness to write a letter praising the program and the hospital employees.

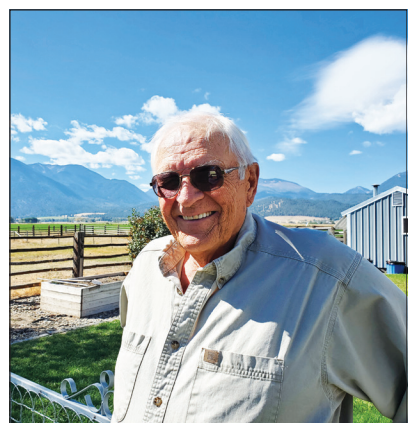
"They work hard. There needs to be some recognition," he said. "The beauty of the swing bed program is you stay close to home, you get lots of care, and the doctors are a block away. It's a good thing, a really good thing."

About swing bed

The swing bed program, also known as transitional care, is for patients recovering from an acute illness or surgery who no longer need acute hospital care but aren't ready to go home.

Patient care can include respiratory needs, wound care, I.V. antibiotics, and specialized therapy.

Each patient has a personalized plan, bedside rounds, and hospital level nursing staff.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Dennis Axness at his Baker Valley home. Axness, who spent nearly seven weeks in the hospital this spring with a kidney infection, said the "swing bed" program, which is a rehabilitation program for patients as they transition between the hospital and home, was a great option.

The program promotes a "home like environment" along with space for rehab and respiratory therapy.

For more information about transitional care, call Saint Alphonsus at 541-523-6461.



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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE