



In SPORTS, A6

Badgers fall just short

Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Alice Surber of Baker City.

BRIEFING

BHS soccer, football players named to all-league teams

Baker football and soccer players were named to all-star teams for the Greater Oregon League.

GIRLS SOCCER

- First team
- Anna Belding
- Second team
- Skye Smith, Brooklyn Jaca

BOYS SOCCER

- First team
- Silas Carter
- Second team
- Diego Quintela, Aldo Duran, Wyatt Hawkins, Zack Morrison

FOOTBALL

- First team offense
- Alex Ritter (lineman)
- Gauge Bloomer (running back), Malaki Myer (return specialist)
- First team defense
- Alex Ritter (lineman), Gauge Bloomer (linebacker), Jaxon Logsdon (defensive back)
- Second team offense
- Jaden Martin (linebacker), Malaki Myer (wide receiver), Hudson Spike (wide receiver and kicker)
- Second team defense
- Malaki Myer (defensive back), Tate Powell (linebacker)

WEATHER

Today

48 / 35

Mostly sunny



Wednesday

53 / 32

Mostly sunny



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



A different sort of inn

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Owner Mackenzie Warner, left, with her brother-in-law, Adam Crowell, who manages the Blue Door Inn bed and breakfast in Baker City.

■ Baker City native Mackenzie Warner and her husband reopen the Blue Door Inn bed and breakfast

By LISA BRITTON

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When Mackenzie Warner's wedding guests had trouble finding a place to stay in Baker City in 2020, it got her thinking about hotels, motels, and other places to stay.

"I think there's a need," she said of local lodging options.

Then, months later, Warner got a text — several texts, in fact — from her mom, Cammy Warner of Baker City, saying that the Blue Door Inn was for sale.

Mackenzie and her husband, Saam Arzang, bought the historic house in July 2021.

"We spent August fixing it up," she said. "Everything was in great shape —

we just did an update."

"To make it feel more modern," said Adam Crowell, Mackenzie's brother-in-law, who lives in Baker City and manages the property.

The house, at 2324 First St., was already set up as a bed and breakfast.

"It's a perfect inn," Mackenzie said.

The Blue Door Inn officially reopened to guests on Sept. 20, 2021.

"We're trying to make it an awesome place for people to stay in Baker," Mackenzie said. "And we just love this house."

It was built in 1920, and expanded in 1930. She has the original blueprints, and plans to have those framed and on display.

Although Mackenzie



Blue Door Inn/Contributed Photo

The Elkhorn Suite is one of three suites at the Blue Door Inn bed and breakfast in Baker City.

and Saam live in San Francisco, they come north often — she estimates they've spent six months of the past year in Baker City.

A different sort of inn

The Blue Door Inn is not a traditional bed and breakfast. Adam, the manager, lives off site and guests are provided with a unique code for the front

door and their room. But, he emphasizes, he's only a call away if guests have a question.

Also, instead of gathering with others in the dining room for a morning meal, coffee is provided in each suite and breakfast baskets are delivered to their door in the morning.

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Bear attack injures man in Sumpter

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Noah Beckner barely had time to recognize the animal as a black bear before it was swatting a claw-tipped paw at his head.

He ducked just in time.

The paw, as Beckner puts it, "nicked" his face.

Beckner, 19, who lives in Sumpter, said the encounter with the bear in his front yard, late on Thanksgiving, left him with scratches on his cheek and above one eye, among other injuries.

During a phone interview on Monday morning, Nov. 29, Beckner said the knuckle of the middle finger on his right hand, the one he used to punch the bear in the eye, was still sore.

So was his shoulder, where the bear briefly bit him.

Beckner said he was wearing multiple layers of clothing, and the bear's teeth didn't penetrate his skin.

See, **Bear** / Page A3

COVID cases drop slightly

Baker City Herald

COVID-19 cases in Baker County declined last week after reaching a one-month high the previous week.

For the period Nov. 21-27, the county reported 37 new cases, said Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department.

There were 46 new cases for the previous week, Nov. 14-20. That was the highest weekly total in the county since Oct. 17-23, when there were 51.

Totals for the intervening weeks were 24 (Oct. 24-30), 20 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6) and 24 (Nov. 7-13).

The county has reported 2,179 cases during the pandemic — almost 13% of the county's population of 16,800.

With just two days left in November, the month was on pace to have fewer cases than any month since July.

Through Nov. 28, the monthly total was 126.

There were 168 cases during October. September set a record with 465 cases, breaking the record of 300 during August.

During July there were 91 cases, as the surge driven by the much more contagious delta variant didn't start to boost cases in Baker County until the final week of that month.

The percentage of tests that are positive in the county has risen over the past few weeks, from 4.6% the week of Oct. 31-Nov. 6 to 12.9% the week of Nov. 21-27.

The statewide average for the latter week was 6%.

Breakthrough cases

For Nov. 14-20, the most recent week for which statistics are available from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), 10 of Baker County's 46 cases were breakthrough — infections in fully vaccinated people.

The breakthrough case rate of 21.7% was up from 16.7% the previous week (four of 24 cases) and 10% the week Oct. 31-Nov. 6 (two of 20 cases).

Surplus of Christmas spirit

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Baker County will have an eventful Christmas season, with a variety of holiday-themed events planned across the county over the next few weeks.

Saturday, Dec. 4 will be one of the busier days, culminating in the annual Baker County Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade in downtown Baker City, followed by the lighting of the community Christmas tree in Court Plaza between Main and Resort streets.

The parade, with the theme "Miracle on Main Street," will start at 5 p.m.

Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, encourages people to sign up for entries in the parade.

Cutler said entrants often wait to sign up, but she encourages people to do so as early as possible so she can be certain there will be enough floats to have the parade.

Last year's parade was



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

The 2017 Christmas parade included Meagan Paoletti portraying Cindy Lou Who in a Grinch-themed float by the city of Baker City.

canceled due to the pandemic.

Entry forms and other information are available on the Chamber's website at www.visitbaker.com.

"I'm super excited for what's going on this year," Cutler said. "I think all of our clubs and organizations and business partners, they're all pulling out the stops to make it a great Christmas."

Other events set for Dec. 4 include:

- Kiwanis Club's Photos with Santa from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baker County Event Center, 2600 East St.
- Baker City Downtown's Cookie Crawl, 2-4 p.m.; pick up a box for \$7 at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
- Make-and-take Christmas Crafts for Kids, 2-4 p.m., Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
- CASA of Eastern Oregon's Gingerbread House Tour, downtown.

"It should be a lot of fun for folks to be able to get out and do some shopping and take their kiddos out and wrap it up with the parade and hopefully dinner and make it just a fun day," Cutler said.

The Baker County 4-H Christmas Bazaar will also happen on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Cockram Arena at the Baker County Fairgrounds on East Street north of Campbell Street. The bazaar is also set for Friday, Dec. 3 from noon to 5:30 p.m.

Other events happening in December include:

- Richland Christmas Flea Market and Auction, Dec. 4 at the Eagle Valley Grange. The flea market starts at 9 a.m., with the auction at 2 p.m. There will also be food available, including chicken noodle soup, chili, pies and cinnamon rolls.
- Richland Tree Lighting, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

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