



LOCAL A2
Governor tours
hailstorm damage



LOCAL A3
Taste of Baker has
triumphant return



SPORTS A5
Baker football rolls
past The Dalles

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Bill and Kathy Mitchell of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Downtown trick-or-treating set for Oct. 31

Baker City's downtown trick-or-treat event is happening on Halloween, Monday, Oct. 31. The annual Baker City Kiwanis event is set for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Main Street will be closed to traffic from Church Street to Auburn Avenue so that costumed children may safely gather their treats. Businesses and organizations, both on and off Main Street, are invited to participate.

Ski For The Health Of It registration opens Nov. 1

Registration for Ski for the Health of It opens Nov. 1. Registration links will be sent out on ParentSquare as well as Facebook (Baker School District and Baker FridayPlus pages).

This program is open to 150 students, fourth grade to 12th grade. It runs for eight weeks on Fridays, Jan. 13 through March 10 (except Feb. 24, which is a school day). For \$80, students receive transportation, lift tickets, rentals and lessons.

A "ride only" option is available to 50 students, ninth to 12th grade. To be eligible, participants must have completed two consecutive years of the regular program, and must provide ski or snowboard equipment.

Registration will close Nov. 10, and families are notified on Nov. 17. For information, email heidi.stocks@bakersed.org.

Community Connection fall bazaar set for Nov. 5

The fall bazaar at Community Connection, 2810 Cedar St., is set for Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendor tables are available for \$15 by calling 541-523-6591.

WEATHER

Today
72/30
Sunny

Wednesday
75/33
Sunny

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



The former Sears store on Baker City's Main Street is the new home of a People Helping People thrift store.
Photos by Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Randi Stauffer is the general manager of the People Helping People thrift store that opened Oct. 5, 2022.



“The Baker community has been asking us to move in”

Thrift store opens on Main Street

BY IAN CRAWFORD
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“Our motto? Our motto is to just help people right where they are,” says Randi Stauffer.

Around her is a small crowd of shoppers and hustling employees, kids giggling in the toy corner, the clinks of clothes hangers, and admiring grunts from the tool section.

Stauffer is the general manager of Baker City's new People Helping People thrift store. It opened Oct. 5 at 2017 Main St., the third location in Eastern Oregon owned by Jeremiah Sprague of Cove.

“We had one that started six years ago in La Grande, and then that one progressively grew,” Stauffer said. “So we decided to open one in Pendleton.” Baker City became the next goal. “The Baker community has been asking us to move in, to help support

the community,” Stauffer said, “and so we decided to open this one.”

The location should be familiar to some shoppers, as the former home of Sears.

Stauffer and her staff had been working for several days to prepare for the launch, and she decided to forego an official ceremony, notifying her employees the night before the Oct. 4 opening.

She did post on the store's Facebook page about the opening.

People Helping People stores take donations from across the region, and Stauffer said the new Baker City store has items from a larger area.

“We had people bringing donations from Baker, they'd bring them to La Grande,” she said. “And so what we did is we brought a lot of the donations from La Grande over to the Baker community. We have Enterprise, Wallowa, multitudes of different areas in the community that all just donate to us, and so we share them with the stores.”

See **Store** / A3

State still investigating foothill fire

Blaze was human-caused

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Investigators from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) were working Monday, Oct. 10 to try to pinpoint the cause of a fire that burned about 130 acres on the foothill just southwest of Baker City on Oct. 6.

The fire was listed as human-caused on the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center fire log.

Steve Meyer, wildland fire supervisor at ODF's Baker City office, said on Monday that the two state investigators could finish their on-site work later in the day.

It's not clear, though, when the state will release information about the investigation, Meyer said.

He said the investigators are focusing on where the fire started, near the bottom of Spring Grove Gulch, south of West Campbell Loop.

If investigators can identify the person or people responsible for starting the fire, the state could potentially try to recoup firefighting costs from them, Meyer said.

He didn't have an updated estimate for how much money was spent on the Spring Grove Gulch fire.

See **Fire** / A3

3 councilors file complaint against leader of recall effort

Baker City Herald

Three members of the Baker City Council have filed a civil lawsuit against the former city firefighter who is spearheading a campaign to try to recall six of the seven councilors from office.

The lawsuit, filed Friday, Oct. 7, names as defendants Casey Husk, the former firefighter, and Debbie Henshaw of Baker City.

The plaintiffs are Mayor Kerry McQuisten and fellow city councilors Joanna Dixon and Johnny Waggoner Sr., all of whom are among the six councilors Husk wants to give voters a chance to recall.

The three plaintiffs allege that the recall petitions Husk filed each contains “a false statement of material fact,” a violation of Oregon elections law.

The plaintiffs also contend that Henshaw, in supporting the recall effort, has made false statements about them.

Each of the three plaintiffs is seeking \$2,500 from each of the two defendants — a total of \$5,000 for each plaintiff — along with attorney's fees.

See **Recall** / A3

Court records in McCarty case probe cabin ownership

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Court filings last week in the criminal case against David McCarty for aggravated theft, trespassing and criminal mischief include details about the ownership history of the Pine Creek cabin McCarty is accused of breaking into.

James and Sharen Sanders are the legal owners of the 425-square-foot cabin, which is on the north side of the Pine Creek Road in the Elkhorn Mountains northwest of Baker City.

According to records from the Baker County Assessor's Office, the cabin was built in 1920 and is part of the 5.15-acre parcel the Sanderses bought in 2002.

McCarty, who bought 1,560 acres in the Pine Creek Canyon in 2020, also bought, in October 2021, the parcel adjacent to, and west of, the Sanders property.

See **McCarty** / A3

What fall? Summer refuses to leave

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The stubborn summer continues to defy the calendar.

And it looks as though autumn might be at least a third of the way through its run before summer relinquishes its hold on Baker County.

A persistent high pressure ridge, which brings sunny skies and abnormally warm temperatures, has dominated the weather since the equinox on Sept. 22.

Through the first 10 days of October, the average high temperature at the Baker City Airport

was 77 degrees. That's 15 degrees above average for the month.

The daily high has topped the average on each day of October.

The National Weather Service is forecasting the pattern to continue through at least Monday, Oct. 17, with daily highs remaining in the 70s.

The average high for this time of year is in the low 60s.

Despite the unseasonable warmth, October has yet to break any daily records at the airport. It was close, though, on Oct. 5, when the high was 82, just 2 degrees shy of the record set in 1979.

Temperatures can dip dramatically by late October, as the month has the widest spread between average high temperatures on the first and last day.

The average high on Oct. 1 is 71 degrees, dropping to 53 on Oct. 31.

And although a cold snap in the second half of the month would have a significant effect, so far this October is on pace to be the warmest on record at the airport, where temperature statistics date to 1943.

The warmest October was 1988, when the average high temperature was 72.3 degrees. The runner-up is 1953, with an average high of 70.9.

77°
Average high in Baker City for the first 10 days of October



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