



GO! INSERT
EOU prepares for homecoming



LOCAL A2
Prescribed burning on hold until it rains



SPORTS A6
Lillard, Simon to lead Blazers' backcourt

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022 • \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Betty Horan of Keating.

BRIEFING

Two forums set for local candidates

Two public forums for local candidates in the Nov. 8 election have been scheduled later this month.

The American Association of University Women's Baker branch is sponsoring the first forum, set for Thursday, Oct. 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the commons at Baker High School, 2500 E St. The forum is for all elected positions in Baker City and Baker County. Candidates have been provided with two questions about local issues, and attendees can ask questions during the forum.

The second forum, coordinated by Juliet and Forrest Hughes of Baker City, is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Baker High School. The forum, for Baker County Commissioner and Baker City Council candidates, will include a 3-minute introduction for each candidate and a period for the audience to ask questions.

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.

WEATHER

Today
 77/32
 Sunny

Friday
 75/35
 Mostly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Behind the scenes at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center's renovations



Moving a Museum



Photos by Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Above: Exhibits that stayed in place were protected with boxes and special wrapping during construction at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Work is on schedule to be complete by 2023. **Top:** This Fremont map dates to 1846 and details local topography.



Bobby Reis, curator of collections and exhibitions at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, uses gloves to inspect a sewing machine from the 1880s. Artifacts such as this were documented and moved into storage during a major renovation at the center. New shelving, which can be seen in the background, increased storage space by 60%.

BY LISA BRITTON
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How do you pack up an entire 30,000-square-foot museum?

A careful system of cataloguing helps, as well as extensive shelving that lends easy access to each artifact.

When the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center faced a multi-year closure for renovations in early 2022, the staff got to work protecting the museum's exhibits.

First, they had to document the condition and location of each artifact.

"We have a road map of putting everything back," said Bobby Reis, curator of collections and exhibitions. "Everything has a number — every movement is documented in the database."

NHOTIC is 5 miles east of Baker City, on top of Flagstaff Hill, and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The center opened in 1992 and has welcomed about 2.4 million visitors during the past 30 years.

Now, it is undergoing a \$6.5 million remodel that includes new siding, insulation, roofing, windows and doors. The heating and cooling systems will be upgraded as well.

The work, partially funded by the Great American Outdoors Act, is expected to reduce the building's energy consumption by 73%.

Construction is on track to be complete by 2023, and then it will take four to six months to rebuild the exhibits, said Sarah Sherman, project manager.

See **Renovations** / A3

BAKER COUNTY

2 residents infected with West Nile virus

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Two Baker County residents have tested positive for West Nile virus, an illness spread by infected mosquitoes.

Those are the first human cases of the disease in the county reported this year.

One other human case has been confirmed this year in Oregon, in Malheur County, Baker County's neighbor to the south.

Meghan Chancey, director of the Baker County Health Department, said the two people infected in Baker County both live in the Richland area.

She declined to divulge any details, including their ages or genders.

Chancey said the two people had symptoms, which prompted them to seek medical care and to be tested, but they are recovering.

See **Infected** / A3

Council acts to prevent lapses in ambulance memberships

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Baker City will transfer \$48,500 to Metro West, the new local ambulance provider, to ensure that more than 2,000 city residents who have memberships covering the cost of ground ambulance transports won't have any lapse in coverage.

The Baker City Council on Tuesday, Oct. 11 approved a resolution transferring the membership balances for those customers who had memberships with FireMed.

The money will apply to new memberships with LifeGuard, the ground ambulance program that Metro West is affiliated with.

Metro West will honor the previous FireMed memberships and citizens can choose to reapply under LifeGuard when their memberships are to be renewed. The LifeGuard membership is \$59 per year.

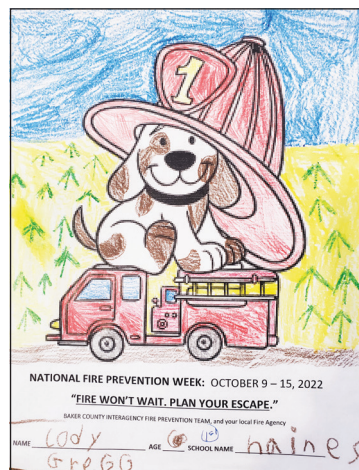
A website has more information — <https://ambulancemembership.com/baker-county/>.

Jennifer Spencer, the city's administrative services manager, told councilors the \$48,500 is from the city's 70% share of FireMed memberships.

"This is just a service to the community to make sure," Spencer said. "There's a lot of people that were concerned they weren't going to have that coverage and it's important to a lot of people."

See **Ambulance** / A3

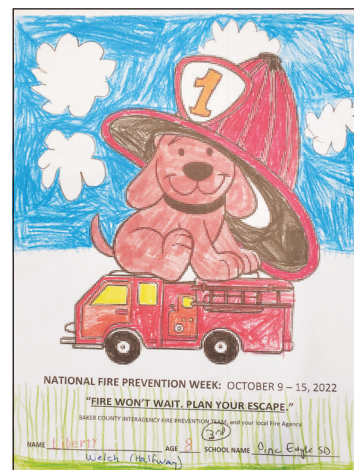
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK COLORING CONTEST



Cody Gregg, a first grader at Haines Elementary, was a winner in the coloring contest to celebrate National Fire Prevention Week.



Becca Hansen, a second grader at Brooklyn Primary School, was a winner in the coloring contest to celebrate National Fire Prevention Week.



Liberty Welch, a third grader at Pine Eagle Elementary School, was a winner in the coloring contest to celebrate National Fire Prevention Week.

Three students are named winners

Baker City Herald

Almost 100 students in grades first, second and third from across Baker County entered a coloring contest as part of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15.

Baker County commissioners approved a resolution on Oct. 5 designating Fire Prevention Week in the county.

This year's theme, on the 100th anniversary of the event, is "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape."

Gary Timm, fire division manager for Baker

County Emergency Management, said the county received entries from students at Brooklyn Primary School, Haines Elementary, Pine Eagle Elementary and Burnt River School.

The grade level winners:

- First grade: Cody Gregg, age 6, Haines Elementary.

- Second grade: Becca Hansen, age 7, Brooklyn Primary.

- Third grade: Liberty Welch, age 8, Pine Eagle Elementary.

Group is building a community that's 'dementia friendly'

Goal is to help people with dementia live independently as long as possible

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Beth Mastel-Smith's goal is to ensure Baker County residents who have dementia can live independently for as long as feasible and with the highest quality of life possible.

This is, she concedes, a daunting challenge.

Mastel-Smith, an associate professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Texas at Tyler, moved from Houston to Baker City in February 2022.

While living in Texas she learned about, and became involved in promoting, the concept of the "dementia friendly community."

After moving to Baker City she started swimming regularly at Sam-O Swim Center.

See **Dementia** / A3



TODAY
 Issue 66
 32 pages

Business.....B1	Community News.....A2	Horoscope.....B2 & B4	Opinion.....A4	Sudoku.....B5
Classified.....B2-B4	Crossword.....B2 & B4	Lottery Results.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Turning Backs.....A2
Comics.....B5	Dear Abby.....B6	News of Record.....A2	Sports.....A6	Weather.....B6