



The Baker County Press

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Albertsons reopens

• LOCAL GROCERY STORE DRAMA COMES FULL-CIRCLE

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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On Wednesday morning, Albertsons Store Director Amber Krantz cut the ribbon in front of the company's extensively revamped former home, at 1120 Campbell Street in Baker City, as a crowd of community members gathered for its grand opening—or

grand reopening, rather—which will allow the area to once again be served by Albertsons, along with its sister store across the street, Safeway.

The Baker High School band and cheerleader squad provided entertainment prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony, as attendees were treated to grocery bags of goodies, while they waited for the doors to officially open to showcase the products and services of a company, which made its debut on Resort Street, in 1967.

Loyal fans of Albertsons

include customers Anita Buzzard Lyman and her daughter, Barbara Nicole Brown, the duo being among the first of those waiting anxiously in line to enter the store.

Lyman said, "I'm so glad this is open; I am. I don't have to park in the Rite-Aid parking lot to go to Safeway ... I can't wait to get in to look." Brown said, "This is just my store; I'm so glad that they're coming back ... Albertsons is my store."

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Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Amber Krantz (in blue) cuts the ribbon Wednesday morning, opening an Albertsons store once again in Baker City once again.

The angels among us



Submitted Photos.

In her spare time, Overman paints angels with specific themes such as peace and healing.

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Angels. They come straight from the pages of the Bible, exist in some form or another in most major religions, and are the subjects of countless books and movies.

Stacie Overman, an ordained minister, says these celestial beings are very real, present among us, guiding and helping—and she is able to help get their messages across to those in need.

Overman said, "It is hard to imagine how much love the divine have for each of us. Some people never hear anyone say to them, 'You are loved.' It is such a wonderful thing to be on the telephone or messenger to be able to let them know that they truly are loved."

If Overman seems familiar to readers, it's because

she appeared for two seasons, along with husband Larry, on the hit SyFy television show "Ghost Mine," which was filmed locally just outside Sumpter.

Overman has worked in and around the entertainment industry for decades, appearing in commercials, casting, and even co-hosting a radio show. After "Ghost Mine," Larry Overman went on to appear in another show, "Dirty Rotten Survival," which airs on the National Geographic Channel.

Prior to that, in 2006, Overman squared off against breast cancer, which is a key experience that changed her life, sending her down what she calls a more spiritual path. After "Ghost Mine" wrapped up, she met a lady who mentored her.

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Submitted Photo.

Larry and Stacie Overman.

Lead found in school water

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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On September 9, the Baker County Health Department issued a press release stating it had been notified by the Baker 5J School District that water test levels containing lead have been reported at schools across the area.

5J Superintendant Mark Witty issued a letter with the following information:

Haines Elementary

Total samples tested: 26 with no samples exceeding 20 ppb (parts per billion).

North Baker Education Center

26 samples tested with samples exceeding 20 ppb from three sinks or other sources, resulting in all three sinks being shut off. Drinking fountains were not found to have elevated levels.

SEE LEAD IN WATER PAGE 5

Veterans Administration reforms continue

Days after meeting with local veterans in Medford, U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) announced Wednesday that the House of Representatives has passed bipartisan legislation to bring accountability and reform to the Veterans Administration (VA). Walden took to the House floor in support of the bill, the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act (H.R. 5620).

Walden said, "On Saturday morning in Medford, Oregon, I met with about 40 veterans who are furious about the delays in getting access to care, and the fact that they can't maintain providers at the local facility.

"And everything in this bill, interestingly enough, came up in our discussion. 'How come you're paying bonuses to people that aren't doing their job?'—this bill fixes that. 'Why is it when we raise complaints internally, there's retribution?'—this bill protects whistleblowers. 'Why isn't there more transparency about what happens inside the VA?'—this bill gets at that. Accountability and transparency will lead us to a better VA.

"We need to reform the VA. We need to take care of our men and women in uniform. We need to claw back bonuses. We need to get this ship righted. This is a fundamentally broken system that needs repair—I think we all agree on that, that's not a partisan issue."

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Friday Sunny and mild, highs near 80. Friday Night: Mostly clear and cool, lows near 40.

Saturday Sunny and mild, highs in the mid 80s. Saturday Night: Mostly clear and not as cool, lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday Partly sunny with a chance for showers in the afternoon. Highs near 80. Sunday Night: Chance for showers early then partial clearing.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC CO-OP

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