

# Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV \$1.50

QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Rochelle Stoaks of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Christmas bazaar this weekend**

The fifth-annual "Local is the New Black" Christmas bazaar is set for Saturday and Sunday at the Fairgrounds, 2600 East St. More than 80 vendors will be set up. The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

**Pet supply drive through Dec. 14**

PayneWest Insurance is coordinating a pet supply drive for Best Friends of Baker through Dec. 14. Donations can be dropped off at 2001 Main St. (corner of Main Street and Washington Avenue). Items needed include:

- Adult dog and cat food (wet or dry)
- Dry kitten food
- Puppy food
- Kitten milk replacement powder
- Kitty litter

**Winter coat, boot drive Saturday**

The Baker City Rotary Club is sponsoring a winter clothing drive Saturday. People who bring clean and gently used coats or boots to Sorbenots Coffee, 1270 Campbell St., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will receive a free drink.

**Public forum on city/county planning Nov. 19**

The Baker County Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a public forum for Monday, Nov. 19 to allow residents to share questions and thoughts about the Baker City/County Planning Department.

The forum will start at 6 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St.

WEATHER

**Today**  
51 / 23  
Partly sunny

**Saturday**  
46 / 14  
Mostly sunny

**Sunday**  
45 / 15  
Mostly sunny

**Correction:** A story on Page 5A of Wednesday's issue about tryouts for a girls basketball team contained an error. Sunday's tryout is at Baker High School, not Baker Middle School. Please see Page 6A of today's issue for a corrected version.

**Baker City Recycling Center Will Cease Accepting Mixed Paper On Dec. 1**

## Problem With Paper



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Baker City residents are being instructed to dispose of mixed paper in their home garbage container.

**By Casey Crowley**

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Starting Dec. 1 Baker City residents will no longer be able to drop off mixed paper at Baker Sanitary Service's recycling center at 12th and Campbell streets.

The company will remove the mixed paper bin due to stringent standards for recyclables imposed by China, the main importer of materials from the U.S. The issue is affecting recycling operations across Oregon and the nation.

The effects actually started last September, when Baker Sanitary stopped accepting some plastic containers, also because China's limitations on imports.

Mixed paper covers a wide range of products including office paper, shoe boxes, paper towels and more. Baker Sanitary takes in about 4 tons of mixed paper per month.

The company will send fliers to all



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Glenn Joseph of Baker City places a few items of mixed paper into a bin Monday, while he still can. Mixed paper will not be accepted beginning Dec. 1, at the Baker Sanitary Services Recycling Center.

customers notifying and explaining the circumstances.

"We regret that we have to do this, it really is out of Baker Sanitary's

hands," said Brent Freese, the company's general manager.

See **Recycling** / Page 3A

## Baker 5J's next task: Listen

**By Chris Collins**  
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Baker School District administrators and the Baker School Board will be doing a lot of listening in the coming months.

"I would argue that we need to listen, listen and listen," Superintendent told directors when they met Thursday night.

Those listening efforts will focus on what went wrong in the orchestrated campaign to pass a \$48 million construction bond in the Nov. 6 election. The money would have been used to build a new elementary school and to make improvements throughout the District.

Voters rejected the measure by a vote of 4,725 to 2,185.

"We need to analyze the data in front of us and see what we can glean from that," Witty told the Board.

A day-long Board work session scheduled Nov. 28 at the District Office will include discussion of how to better understand what the community would be willing to spend to make needed improvements.

Witty suggested "strategic listening" efforts that would ask patrons a handful of specific questions such as "what did you support and what didn't you support" in the measure.

See **Schools** / Page 3A

**Noble Fir From Oregon Stops In Baker City En Route To U.S. Capitol In Washington, D.C.**

## Most famous fir to ever visit Baker City?

**By Jayson Jacoby**

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A frosty pink dawn is breaking in Baker City on Thursday and the famous passenger, all 70 feet and 8,300 pitchy pounds of it, is ready to roll out of town.

The semi truck parked on the west side of the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative compound idles with the distinctive diesel clatter.

Several law enforcement officers, some from the Baker City Police Department, some from the U.S. Forest Service, stroll across the asphalt.

Nikki Swanson is excited.

It's her day to ride in the cab of the truck that's hauling America's most famous noble fir tree across the country.

The tree, part of which is visible through the clear plastic that makes up the rear portion of the 80-foot trailer, will complete its journey Nov. 26 at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

On Dec. 5 the nation's official Christmas tree will be illuminated.



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Nikki Swanson is ranger for the Sweet Home district, where the Capitol Christmas tree was cut.

See **Christmas** / Page 2A

**TODAY**

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**MONDAY — MEET BAKER CITY'S NEW FIRE CHIEF, JOHN CLARK**

