



Baker City Herald

November 28, 2018

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

GO! Magazine
Your guide to events happening around the region

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Mark Ferns of Baker City.

Local, 3A

PENDLETON — Twin sisters Raelin and Robie Davis, both 2016 Baker High School graduates, have been chosen as princesses for the 109th Pendleton Round-Up set for Sept. 7-14, 2019.

BRIEFING

Christmas parade, tree-lighting ceremony set for Saturday

The annual Christmas Twilight parade starts Saturday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Baker City, followed by the lighting of the community Christmas tree at the Court Avenue Plaza.

Main Street will be closed to traffic from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Madison Street and Auburn Avenue.

Food Bank focus group meeting set for Thursday

Local residents who have used food stamps or a food bank, or who have worried about running out of food, are encouraged to attend an event set for Thursday, Nov. 29, in Baker City.

The food bank focus group will meet from 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St.

Food and drink will be provided. Those who RSVP and attend will receive a \$10 Safeway gift card.

To RSVP call 541-523-7532 or email to carolina@ccno.org

Photos with Santa Saturday at Events Center

The Baker City Kiwanis Club will have its annual photos with Santa event, in partnership with the Festival of Trees Family Day on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baker County Events Center, 2600 East St.

Cost is \$10 per sitting and includes two 5-by-7 or three 4-by-6 prints. Proceeds benefit community service projects.

Christmas food drive underway

PayneWest Insurance is collecting food donations through Dec. 14 at its office, 2001 Main St.

WEATHER

Today
41 / 27

Rain or snow showers

Thursday
43 / 27

Mostly cloudy

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The Bass Family's Beloved Christmas Display Moves Across Town

Tradition Lives On



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

During a cold and blustery afternoon, Bill Lee explains that most of the huge Christmas display is around back of the house at 3645 Birch St. He and his wife, Shandra, acquired all the Sam and Nora Bass collection of characters the couple displayed around their home in west Baker City for the past 33 years.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Bill Lee stands in his backyard and surveys the handiwork of a man whose goal for 33 years was to make Baker City children smile.

Lee himself grins often, despite the face-freezing wind blowing on this overcast late November afternoon, as he looks at the dozens of colorful Christmas decorations that Sam Bass created and that have delighted thousands of kids, and no small number of adults.

But Lee admits that there is also palpable pressure in following a legend.

Lee emphasizes that he's not replacing Bass, who died Aug. 28, 2017, at age 75.

Lee said he hopes only to honor and to sustain the beloved holiday tradition that Bass and his wife, Nora, started at their home on 19th Street more than three decades ago.

This was no minor task.

It required, among much else, that Lee make five trips with his pickup truck and utility trailer loaded with the wooden decorations that Sam and Nora made over the years.

And hiring an electrician to wire in two new 20-amp circuits to handle the kilowatt appetites of thousands of lightbulbs.

And turning the Lee property, which measures 90 feet by 180 feet, into a Christmas wonderland through which hundreds of people will stroll over the next month or so.

"It's kind of hard to replace 33 years of decorating experience," Lee, 51, said with a chuckle. "I've made some rookie mistakes."

As an example he stoops to lift a plastic Christmas tree that wasn't anchored sturdily enough and toppled to the grass.

Although Lee acknowledges that location likely played a role in this particular mishap. The wind blows with rather more force at the Lees' home at 3645 Birch St., on the east side of town near Interstate 84, than in the more sheltered westside neighborhood where the Besses welcomed visitors starting in the 1980s.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

No matter where you go, cartoon characters await.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

See Tradition / Page 6A Lion King cubs are part of a captivating display.

State Police will have new office

By Casey Crowley
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The Oregon State Police staff in Baker City will move into a new office in the spring of 2019.

Construction started earlier this month on the 3,800-square-foot office just east of Interstate 84 near the Campbell Street interchange.

The site, which the Boostma family owns, is near the new Grocery Outlet store.

The permit for construction was approved in early October. The office should be finished next spring, most likely in April or May, Lenae Bootsma said.

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COMPARING PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

Harvey's biggest gains: E. Baker, Sumpter Valley

By Jayson Jacoby
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Bill Harvey's margin of victory over Bruce Nichols was much wider in the Nov. 6 general election than in the primary six months earlier, and Harvey made his biggest gains in one of Baker City's five voting precincts and in the Sumpter and Haines precincts.

Voters elected Harvey to a second four-year term as chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, the only full-time position among the three-member board.

Nichols, who was elected to a part-time commissioner position in 2016, has two years, 2019 and 2020, remaining in his term.

In the May primary, Harvey received 95 more votes than Nichols, as both advanced to the general election.

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TODAY

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Calendar.....2A
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Comics.....3B
Community News...3A
Crossword.....6B & 7B

Dear Abby.....10B
Horoscope.....6B & 7B
Letters.....4A

News of Record.....2A
Obituaries.....2A
Opinion.....4A

Senior Menus.....2A
Sports.....5A
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FRIDAY — ANTHONY LAKES STILL LOOKING FOR MORE SNOW

