

# Baker City Herald

December 21, 2018

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Fog-draped Baker Valley

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 Kathy Reedy of Baker City.

**Local, 3A**

Two Baker County students were named district winners in the Veterans of Foreign Wars annual Patriot's Pen essay contest and Voice of Democracy speech contest Dec. 9.

**Sports, 8A**

PORTLAND — The Trail Blazers' bench is proving to be difficult to stop when all five players come together.

Portland's reserves were key in the team's 99-92 victory over the Grizzlies on Wednesday night, outscoring the Memphis bench 44-14.

BRIEFING

**Christmas bird counts planned Dec. 29, Jan. 5**

The Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird counts are scheduled for the Baker City area on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5. Volunteers interested in participating can call Bruce Raffety at 541-523-2551 or by email at bbraf820@yahoo.com. Volunteers will be doing bird feeder watches and driving on selected routes in the area.

**Drug- and alcohol-free New Year's Eve party**

The Teens for Change Drug- and Alcohol-Free New Year's Eve party is set for 9 p.m. on Dec. 31 at Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St. All middle and high school students are welcome to attend the free event, which will run until 12:30 a.m. on New Year's Day. The event was paid for by the Local Community Advisory Council, New Directions Northwest and the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition.

**Baker City Farmers Market meeting Jan. 22**

The annual membership meeting for the Baker City Farmers Market is set for Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. Board positions are open.

WEATHER

**Today**  
36 / 18  
Partly sunny

**Saturday**  
35 / 28  
Partly sunny

**Sunday**  
38 / 27  
Snow showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Local Groups Help Homeless Veteran Find A Home

## Happiest Holiday

■ Army veteran Warren Bonds had been homeless for 14 years



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

A Christmas tree will brighten a corner of Warren Bonds' small apartment for the holidays. His companion for about three years is a pet rooster named Harvey.

By Casey Crowley  
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Warren Bonds smiles more than anyone you have ever met, so much so some people even call him smiley. He has ample reason to grin these days.

For the first Christmas in 14 years, Bonds isn't homeless.

At one time all he owned was a Bible, a Popsicle-stick cross and a truck and camper.

Also Harvey. Harvey is a rooster.

Bonds found the cross around the time his mother died. That was more than 15 years ago.

His father died less than three months later.

The cross, like Bonds himself, has been through a lot.

A fire. Two explosions.

His two heart attacks and his 14 years of homelessness.

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S. John Collins / Baker City Herald  
Harvey the rooster resides in Bonds' heated truck camper.



POWDER RIVER PAVILION IN GEISER-POLLMAN PARK

## Pavilion plaques available

By Lisa Britton  
For the Baker City Herald

Although the Powder River Pavilion has been finished for several years, an opportunity has opened up to buy a personalized plaque to adorn the bandstand.

The pavilion, in Geiser-Pollman Park, was completed in 2015. Lynette Perry, event coordinator and treasurer for Baker City Events, has fielded questions from community members still interested in buying a plaque.

See Plaques / Page 2A

## Woman arrested in restroom at Baker Library

A Baker City woman was arrested Thursday afternoon in a restroom at the Baker County Library on a 27-count warrant charging her with fraud for stealing, forging and cashing nine separate checks.

Cassandra Lee Ann Lopez, 36, of 41302 Old Highway 30, was arrested at 4:41 p.m. Thursday at the library, 2400 Resort St., said Baker City Police Chief Dustin Newman.

See Arrest / Page 2A

## Gas firm admits pricing error

By Casey Crowley  
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A local gas distribution company acknowledged that it had charged customers higher prices than were listed on signs.

Tonya Dias of Baker City filed a complaint with state officials after she reviewed her credit card statement and noticed that she had been charged 7 cents per gallon more than the posted price at the Byrnes Oil cardlock station in Baker City.

"I wouldn't have thought to look at my receipt to see whether or not the amount they were advertising was what I was being charged, you just presume that they are being honest," Dias said.

Byrnes Oil, which is based in Pendleton and has cardlock stations in Baker City, Haines and North Powder, has agreed to change its price signs to include all taxes and fees.

In late November Dias sent a letter detailing the situation to a representative from the Oregon Weights and Measures Program. She also filed a formal complaint with the Oregon Consumer Fraud Division which is a part of the Department of Justice.

See Pricing / Page 3A

## Baker runner helped OIT win national title

By Jayson Jacoby  
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Annika Andersen started to run faster and suddenly, inexplicably, she felt as though she couldn't slow down.

She began to pass other competitors, a few, a handful and then a dozen. "I was just flying by people," Andersen, a 20-year-old senior cross country

runner at Oregon Tech, said Thursday from the living room of her family's home in Baker City.

"It was like I had wheels that were not my own. I've never experienced anything like it. God just gave me strength like



Andersen

I'd never had before."

That strength — or more precisely, that speed — helped Andersen and her teammates from the university in Klamath Falls claim its first women's cross country NIAA national championship.

Andersen, who ran cross country for four years at Oregon Tech and will

also compete in several track events this spring, finished 59th in the individual standings at the Nov. 18 meet at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

But it was her blistering performance over the final 150 yards of the 3.1-mile course that was crucial.

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**TODAY**  
Issue 98, 16 pages

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**MONDAY — BAKER WRESTLERS AT BEST OF THE WEST**

