



GO! Magazine
Your guide to events happening around the region

Baker City Herald

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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Joanne Fletcher of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Greg Walden schedules Baker City town hall on Jan. 22

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., has scheduled a town hall for Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the Baker City Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St. Walden represents Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, which includes Baker County.

Money available for private forests near Baker City watershed

Financial assistance is available to help private woodland owners with work that will help reduce wildfire risk in areas of the Baker and Sumpter valleys near the Baker City watershed.

The financial assistance is available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) via its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Participating landowners will receive payments from NRCS and technical advice and guidance from the Oregon Department of Forestry to create a defensible fire buffer on their property. Conservation activities that can be funded include pre-commercial thinning, slash treatments, firebreaks, fuels breaks, range plantings, and more.

Other qualifying projects can include work that reduces the spread of tree disease and insect infestations, or that improves habitat for wildlife such as deer and elk.

The Baker Watershed Forest Health Partnership includes areas on the eastern slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains near Baker City, as well as most of Sumpter Valley.

The application deadline is March 15. Maps and other information is available at the USDA Baker City Service Center, 3990 Midway Drive. It is open during the partial federal government shutdown.

WEATHER

Today 40 / 32 Rain or snow showers

Thursday 42 / 28 Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Council appoints Bruland

Councilors also elect Loran Joseph as mayor, while previous mayor Mike Downing is elected acting mayor

By Casey Crowley ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

The Baker City Council is whole again for the first time in more than four months. The Council appointed Doni Bruland to fill the one vacancy on the seven-member board Tuesday night at City Hall.

Bruland's appointment followed an

oath of office in which Lynette Perry, Ken Gross and Randy Schiewe were sworn in. Perry and Gross were elected on Nov. 6 to four-year terms. Schiewe, who was appointed as a councilor in June, also was elected Nov. 6. He will serve a two-



Bruland

year term, as will Bruland.

The agenda for Tuesday's meeting called for councilors to elect a mayor and acting mayor from among their ranks before appointing the new council member.

But they decided to change the agenda and appoint the new councilor first, so there would be seven councilors

voting on the election of the mayor and acting mayor rather than six, which would make a tie vote possible.

With all seven councilors seated, they elected Joseph as mayor by a 4-3 vote. Mike Downing, who had served as mayor the previous two years, received the three other votes.

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ODOT Official: Rock Salt 'Incredibly Effective' At Combating Snow, Ice



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Dave Dethloff, manager of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Baker maintenance station, demonstrates the consistency of the rock salt ODOT crews spread on Interstate 84.

The Science of Salt

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Dave Dethloff's job is to keep a 52-mile section of Interstate 84 as safe as possible for travelers despite Baker County's occasionally polar climate.

He's sold on salt. As the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) moves through its second winter using salt to combat snow and ice on Interstate

84 from Boardman to the Idaho border, Dethloff, who manages ODOT's Baker maintenance section near the Milepost 302 interchange in north Baker City, said salt has proved its value.

"It's incredibly effective in just about any condition," Dethloff said.

When temperatures are moderate, salt helps prevent falling snow from sticking to the freeway, he said.

And when the temperature plummets and a layer of ice forms, salt can start to melt the ice and help plows scrape it off the pavement more thoroughly and quickly.

"It's been a huge tool for us," Dethloff said. "We're getting better driveability for the public, and that's the goal."

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Baker School District to start international charter school

By Chris Collins ccollins@bakercityherald.com

During a work session Monday, Baker School Board directors gave their blessing to Superintendent Mark Witty's plan to begin developing an international charter school, the first to be offered by a public school in Oregon.

The program would bring about 40 international students to the Baker community and also would serve local students and others throughout Oregon, Witty said. The Baker International Academy also would establish a program in another English-speaking country and Oregon students, including those from the Baker School District, could attend with the cost covered by the standard state school support fund

paid by the Oregon Department of Education, Witty said.

Foreign students attending the international charter school would pay tuition for the opportunity to earn an Oregon diploma with the hope of attending a prestigious college in the United States, Witty said. The Baker School District would select the staff and oversee the programs in each of the educational settings, he said.

The program would provide an opportunity for Oregon school students to attend the International Academy "probably reasonably cheap," Witty said.

Funding earned through the international endeavor would be poured



Witty

back into the 5J School District's local programming, Witty said, in response to a question from director Katie Lamb about how to generate public support for the international charter school.

"In my mind's eye you could improve your programming," Witty said.

The superintendent added that by expanding educational opportunities for students, the district is working "to hedge against the machinations of the state economy and all the rest."

But, Witty thinks that in addition to bringing more money into the district, students will benefit from living among students from other countries.

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Man arrested after driving bus on runway

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com and Casey Crowley ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

Members of a regional SWAT team arrested a man at the Baker City Airport Tuesday afternoon after he drove a bus onto a runway and then refused to leave, forcing the city-owned airport to close for most of the day.

Scott William Chase, 46, was arrested about 4:50 p.m.

Chase, who is a transient, was evaluated by mental health professionals before being taken to the Baker County Jail, according to the Baker County Sheriff's Office.



Chase

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Education summit in Baker City

By Chris Collins ccollins@bakercityherald.com

More than 100 people involved in educating and providing services for children and families throughout the region gathered at Baker High School to share their experiences in an attempt to influence five Eastern Oregon legislators Tuesday night.

Members of the audience traveled from as far away as Lake County to the southeast to Wasco County in the northwest and many points in between.

The Republican legislators told members of the crowd they were there to listen to their concerns and to consider any solutions they had to offer regarding state funding for education.

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FRIDAY — A SHORT SNOWSHOE HIKE — WITH A VIEW

