

Baker City Herald

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Jayme Ramos

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports Monday \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Susan Zoon 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.

Catholic Mass on Wednesdays at Saint Alphonsus

Catholic Mass is celebrated Wednesdays at 9 a.m. in the chapel at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City, 3325 Pochontas Road. More information is available by calling Katie Rudi at 541-524-7736.

Maker's Club Wednesday at the library

The next Maker's Club event is set for Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Baker County Library 2400 Resort. The free event, designed for fourth- through eighth-graders, does not require registration. On Jan. 16 participants will make a perler bead project.

Regional Theatre auditions for 'Puss in Boots'

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre will hold auditions for the play "Puss in Boots" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Director Lisa Ensworth is looking for 10 young actors for this youth production. Here's the story line: When young Guy discovers that his inheritance consists only of a cat and a pair of boots, he is highly distressed, until he gets to know the cat. Saucy and one-of-a-kind, Boots the cat vows to help Guy achieve his goal of marrying the beautiful princess from next door. Boots also helps free the town from the clutches of Ugolin, an evil ogre. Guy and Boots trick the king and queen into thinking Guy is the "Marquis of Carabas" and also trick the ogre into turning himself into an insect who meets an abrupt end, courtesy of Boot's boot. Boy gets girl, the town is freed, magical spells are broken, and much fun is had along the way. Show dates are Feb. 21-24.

WEATHER

Today
33 / 20

Areas of fog

Tuesday
38 / 26

Areas of fog

City Uses Loader To Remove Garbage From Eastside Property

Problem Property



Casey Crowley/Baker City Herald

A Baker City Public Works Department employee uses a loader Friday morning to remove accumulated trash from the property at 1975 Birch St.

By Casey Crowley
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A crew of Baker City employees gathered at an eastside home Friday morning to haul away loads of trash that had accumulated on the property and prompted the city to issue the resident multiple citations over the past year.

It was the second time the city has paid to remove garbage from the property at 1975 Birch St., at the corner of Birch and Washington Avenue.

On June 17, 2017 the city paid a contractor \$2,000 to clean up the home where Lucas Gwin lives. His father, Carl Gwin, owned the home, according to county property records.

About six months later, on Dec. 27, 2017, Mark Powell, the city's code enforcement officer, cited Gwin for more property maintenance ordinance violations.

See Clean Up / Page 2A



Casey Crowley/Baker City Herald

Baker City Police Chief Dustin Newman was involved in a clean up of the property at 1975 Birch St. on Friday morning.



Casey Crowley/Baker City Herald

Several neighbors attended the Baker City Council meeting Dec. 11 to complain about trash at 1975 Birch St.

City might ban access to 'chronic nuisance properties'

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker City Manager Fred Warner Jr. plans to ask the City Council on Jan. 22 to consider a revised ordinance that would allow the city to ban all access to properties that the Baker County Justice Court judge

has deemed a chronic nuisance based on guidelines in the ordinance.

The ban on access, which would include the property owner, could be imposed only after the property owner fails to fix the problems that the city has listed in determining that a property is in violation of the

ordinance.

The ban is similar to what was included in a proposed ordinance the City Council looked at in late 2017 but took no action on.

But there are significant differences.

See Ordinance / Page 3A

Fire hits Inland Cafe

■ Sunday night blaze severely damaged the popular eatery

By Jayson Jacoby
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A Sunday night fire severely damaged the Inland Cafe, a 10th Street eatery beloved for its breakfasts and a popular meeting spot for groups of families and friends.

The fire at the Inland Cafe, 2715 10th St., was reported at 8:51 p.m., Baker City Police Chief John Clark. Firefighters from the Baker City Fire Department, Baker Rural Fire District and Haines Fire District responded to the blaze.

The restaurant, which had closed about 8:15 p.m., was empty. None of the firefighters was hurt.

Kristi Hensley, who owns the Inland, wrote in a post on her Facebook page: "There are no words I can say! We are heartbroken! Worst of all is my poor employees have no where to go to work tomorrow! It was almost complete devastation inside. We are just sick about it!"

See Inland / Page 3A

Resident escapes burning home

By Jayson Jacoby
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The lone occupant of a Baker City home fled safely from a fire that destroyed the structure early Sunday, and one person staying in a fifth-wheel trailer next to the house also escaped injury after the fire spread to the trailer.

The fire was ruled as accidental, not arson, although it wasn't possible to determine the precise cause, said Casey Kump, deputy state fire marshal.

Sara Waldrop, whose grandmother, Phyllis Medel, is renting the home, was alone when the fire started, Baker City Fire Chief John Clark said.

The next-door neighbor, Travis Stecher, reported the fire after he smelled smoke at about 1:40 a.m., Clark said.

See House Fire / Page 3A

TODAY

Issue 108, 14 pages

Calendar.....2A
Classified.....4B-7B
Comics.....3B

Community News...3A
Crossword.....5B & 7B
Dear Abby.....8B

Home.....1B & 2B
Horoscope.....5B & 7B
Letters.....4A

Lottery Results.....2A
News of Record.....2A
Obituaries.....2A

Opinion.....4A
Sports.....5A & 6A
Weather.....8B

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

