

Baker City Herald

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Jayne Ramos

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Leonard Nemeč of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Saint Alphonsus among top 100 critical access hospitals for third straight year

For the third consecutive year Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City has been named one of the top 100 critical access hospitals in the U.S. by iVantage Health Analytics and The Chartis Group Center for Rural Health.

There are more than 1,300 critical access hospitals in the country.

"We are humbled and grateful to receive this recognition — it is a testament to the hard work of our dedicated colleagues, clinicians and providers serving to fulfill the mission of our organization: To serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities," said Priscilla Lynn, interim president and CEO at the Baker City hospital.

"This award highlights the quality of care provided by our hospital to the citizens of Baker County." Congratulations to all the medical staff and Colleagues at Saint Alphonsus-Baker City," said Kent Bailey, chairman of the hospital's board of directors.

WEATHER

Today

34 / 18



Snow likely

Thursday

33 / 9



Mostly cloudy

The space below will be blank on issues delivered or sold from boxes. The space is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

Inland Cafe Severely Damaged By Fire Jan. 13

Starting Over



Submitted photo

The interior of the Inland Cafe, damaged by a fire Jan. 13, has been gutted in preparation for a rebuild.

By Jayson Jacoby

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The Inland Cafe is a blank canvas, and owner Kristi Hensley is eager to start filling the empty space.

But she can't pick up the palette and the brushes just yet.

Although her thoughts lean more to tables, chairs and menus.

The Inland, at 2715 10th St., was severely damaged in a fire Jan. 13.

Initially Hensley wondered whether she and her husband, Chris, who bought the popular restaurant in November 2007, would be able to reopen.

The Inland, which is known for its breakfasts, has been in business since about 1942.

But the Hensleys soon learned that their insurance coverage would allow them to rebuild the Inland. The policy also is paying their employees' wages in the meantime.

The insurance company hired a contractor to clean up the seating area, which sustained smoke and water damage.

Workers stripped that area to the wooden framing.

"It's gutted," Kristi Hensley said. "There's nothing left in there. It's down to the 2 by 4s."

But the rebuild has been postponed for the past couple weeks, she said, because the



Submitted photo

Looking east across 10th Street from inside the Inland Cafe. Owner Kristi Hensley hopes to reopen the remodeled restaurant by June 1.

insurance company, in part due to recent wintry weather, hasn't been able to have a fire investigator tour the Inland.

Baker City Fire Chief John

Clark said the fire was accidental, and started in a swamp cooler on the restaurant's roof.

See **Inland** / Page 2A

Neighbors hold pair at gunpoint until police arrive

■ Idaho couple charged with trespassing at Durkee home

By Jayson Jacoby

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An alert Durkee resident who noticed a car parked in the driveway of a home that was supposed to be empty, and then went to the house armed with a shotgun, led to the arrest of two Idaho residents on trespassing and other charges Monday night.



Loos

Olive Phillips, a commercial truck driver, noticed the car in the driveway when he exited Interstate 84 at Durkee, an unincorporated community about 23 miles southeast of Baker City.



Adair

The house belongs to a relative of Phillips' wife, Lessie.

Cindy Fortin, who is the Phillipses' neighbor, said Lessie called her and asked her to drive her to the home, which is just across the freeway, on Vandecar Road.

Fortin said they jotted down the car's license number and also saw at least one person, a man, inside the home, which was dimly lit.

They returned to their homes, and Phillips called Baker County Dispatch.

See **Arrest** / Page 2A

Tax changes catching some by surprise

■ Although most people paid less in taxes last year, smaller refunds for some are raising questions

By Jayson Jacoby

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Tax day is almost two months away but Julie Huntington is already accustomed to answering questions from bemused taxpayers.

There are multiple sources for confusion — it is the federal tax code, after all, a document infamous for being all but impossible to decipher.

ON PAGE 5A: Changes in the federal tax code are prompting questions from many taxpayers

But a recurring issue unique to this year is the perception that the benefits from the tax reform bill that Congress passed in December 2017, and that President Donald Trump has cited as one of his signature achievements, haven't materialized, said Huntington, a partner at Bingham, Bingham & Watt, a Baker City accounting firm.

"There's a few things that people probably didn't get a good handle on," Huntington said.

Chief among those is how changes in tax withholding charts have affected many Americans' tax refunds.

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FRIDAY — VISITING THE PLACE WHERE THE POWDER RIVER IS BORN