

Baker City Herald

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



Caden Long

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Cindy Carpenter of Baker City.

Local, 2A

Seventeen children ranging from kindergartners to sixth-graders participated in the Shop with a Hero event Friday.

BRIEFING

Baker Community Choir concerts set for Dec. 13, 14, 15

The Baker Community Choir's Christmas concerts are scheduled for Dec. 13, 14 and 15 at the Baker Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St. Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Dec. 13 and 14, and 3 p.m. on Dec. 15. The Baker Valley Children's Choir will perform on Dec. 13 and 14. Donations will be accepted at the door, and proceeds support the Children's Choir.

Volunteers sought for bird count

Baker County's annual Christmas bird count is set for Dec. 21 (Salisbury count south of Baker City) and Jan. 4 (Baker Valley), and volunteers are needed to either do a feeder watch or to drive a prescribed section of road. Anyone interested in participating can call Bruce Raffety at 541-523-2551.

WEATHER

Today

40 / 33



Chance of rain showers

Thursday

44 / 29



Cloudy with rain showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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.

Farmers React To Tentative New Trade Deal With Mexico & Canada

Trade & Tariffs



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Crystal Bork and others sort through spuds before they reach the storage cellar at Ward Ranches north of Baker City.

By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker Valley farmer Mark Ward is excited about the potential benefits for the local and state agriculture industry from America's proposed new trade deal with Mexico and Canada.

"Foreign trade is crucial to us," said Ward, whose family grows potatoes, wheat, peppermint, alfalfa and silage corn. "Without foreign markets we probably wouldn't be growing potatoes."

Ward is a member of the Oregon Potato Commission.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Tuesday that Democrats had reached a tentative deal on a revision of the U.S. trade agreement with its two neighbors.

The pact would replace the 1994 North American Free

More Inside...

Please turn to Page 1B for a story about reaction in Washington, D.C., to the modified trade agreement among the U.S., Canada and Mexico

Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In a statement Tuesday, Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, urged the House and Senate to try to pass the new trade deal, called the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), by Christmas.

The deal has been a top priority for President Donald Trump.

"USMCA is a big win for American workers and the economy, especially for our farmers and ranchers," Perdue

said in a press release.

Ward said in an interview Tuesday morning that he believes the trade deal could benefit growers of several crops by increasing exports to both Canada and Mexico.

Canada is already the biggest export market for U.S. agriculture products, and Mexico ranks second, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2018 American farmers and ranchers exported \$39.7 billion in products to those two countries.

Ward said that although Mexico is already an important export market for Oregon potatoes, ranking behind only Canada and Japan, provisions of the USMCA could "easily move Mexico up to number 2."

See Trade/Page 3A

A. Lakes to take over golf course

The nonprofit corporation that owns Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort will take over operation of the city-owned Quail Ridge Golf Course.

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. told city councilors during their meeting Tuesday evening that the Baker County Development Corporation, which owns Anthony Lakes, has agreed to take over the lease that Mike Brooks has had to manage the 18-hole course since 2017.

The City Council agreed to transfer the lease, which expires in one year, from Brooks to the Baker County Development Corporation.

See Golf/Page 2A

Councilor leaving

Baker City Councilor Ken Gross announced Tuesday night that he will be resigning Dec. 31. Gross said his job requires him to move away from the city.



Gross

Gross was elected in November 2018 to a four-year term.

The remaining six city councilors will choose someone to replace Gross. The city will solicit interest from volunteers and meet with applicants on Jan. 8. Councilors' tentative plan is to choose Gross' replacement during their regulation meeting on Jan. 14.

House fire accidental

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A fire that destroyed a south Baker City home Sunday night has been deemed accidental, Fire Chief John Clark said Tuesday.

The cause will remain undetermined, he said.

See Fire/Page 2A

Dispatcher honored

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association has recognized Baker County dispatcher Amanda Bunch for distinguished service in helping save the life of a toddler who nearly drowned in a bathtub last spring.

Bunch received the Distinguished Service Award during the dinner and awards banquet at the Riverhouse Convention Center in Bend on Dec. 4.

Sheriff Travis Ash detailed in a press release how Bunch responded in her role as a dispatcher to help save a little girl's life after receiving a 9-1-1 call in May.



Bunch

See Honored/Page 2A



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TODAY

Issue 102, 22 pages

Business.....1B & 2B
Calendar.....2A
Classified.....3B-6B

Comics.....7B
Community News.....3A
Crossword.....5B & 6B

Dear Abby.....8B
Horoscope.....5B & 6B
Letters.....4A

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

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

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