

Baker City Herald

January 8, 2020

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Anna Carter goes to the basket

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 Geri Bogart of Baker City.

Oregon, 6A

ELGIN — Jeff Smith, an Elgin computer programmer running for Congress, believes his campaign is moving in the right direction.

BRIEFING

Groundhog Day Festival set Feb. 1 at St. Stephen's

The first local Groundhog Day Festival is set for Saturday, Feb. 1 — the day before Groundhog Day — from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2177 First St. Homemade biscuits and sausage gravy, hashbrown casserole and applesauce will be served. Donations will be accepted, and proceeds will go toward keeping the St. Stephen's food pantry for the hungry and homeless stocked. The Episcopossums will be playing music.

Garden Club meeting Jan. 15

The Baker County Garden Club will gather for a luncheon and meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. at Settler's Park, 2895 17th St.

WEATHER

Today

39 / 27



Chance of snow showers

Thursday

38 / 23



Chance of rain or snow 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.

Baker City Couple Opens Six Stores Selling CBD Products

Growing Business



Sabrina Thompson/The (La Grande) Observer

A customer at La Grande's Nugget CBD store, which opened in late December, talks with owner Jenny Long, left, of Baker City, and store manager Angela Lees.

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

Jenny and Justin Long opened the Nugget marijuana dispensary in Sumpter in January 2017.

Three years later that name — Nugget — along with the image of a gold-panning miner adorns six other businesses the Baker City couple operate or have licensed in Oregon and Idaho.

All six of those stores, including the newest one in La Grande, which opened in late December, sell products containing CBD — cannabidiol — but not marijuana.

These CBD products, which include lotions, edibles and vaping liquids, are derived from industrial hemp, which is related to marijuana but has less than 0.3% THC, the substance that produces the high associated with marijuana.

CBD products can be sold in places — including Baker City and La Grande — where marijuana businesses are banned.

Other Nugget CBD shops are open

in Ontario and in four Idaho cities — Meridian, Boise, Nampa and Idaho Falls.

Products in the Idaho stores must contain 0% THC.

In Oregon the threshold is 0.3% THC.

"If that percent is exceeded, it is considered marijuana which is regulated by OLCC in Oregon," Jenny Long said. "In Idaho, any trace of THC is considered marijuana and is treated as a controlled substance."

CBD products are legal nationwide.

"CBD is treated more as a vitamin supplement," Long said.

Nugget CBD enforces an age limit: Customers must be 21 or older to purchase smokeable products, and 18 or older to purchase other products.

"We've chosen to limit who we sell to for liability," Long said.

Expansion history

The Longs' first expansion came about when Ontario legalized marijuana dispensaries. But the couple's plan to open a dispensary in that city

— it would have been their second, joining their original dispensary in Sumpter — didn't work out.

Ontario offered licenses for dispensaries on a first-come, first-served basis.

"People camped out in front of the planning department," Long said.

Ontario also requires at least 1,000 feet between dispensaries. The location the Longs considered wouldn't have met that standard.

"That's when we looked at selling CBD products," Long said.

Initially, in January 2019, the couple started selling CBD items in their Sumpter cafe, which is in a separate part of the building that houses their marijuana dispensary.

The Longs' Ontario CBD store opened in March 2019.

"It's been crazy," Jenny Long said of opening multiple stores in less than a year.

Their first spot in Boise was a kiosk at the mall.

See **Expand**/Page 2A

Cell tower hearing delayed

The Baker City Council postponed its Tuesday meeting to consider Verizon Wireless' appeal of the denial of its request to build a cell tower; after the attorney representing the company was unable to attend.

There was an issue with a flight for attorney E. Michael Connors, who filed the appeal on behalf of Verizon, said Holly Kerns, Baker City/County planning director.

The Baker City Planning Commission voted 5-2 on Dec. 4 to deny Verizon's request to build a 70-foot tower near Leo Adler Field.

See **Appeal**/Page 2A

Findley will step in for Bentz

By Jayson Jacoby

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Commissioners from Baker County and eight other counties voted today to appoint Lynn Findley, a Republican from Vale, to replace Cliff Bentz as a state senator representing Senate District 30.



Findley

Commissioners chose Findley, who is a state representative for House District 60, over two other candidates picked Saturday by Republican Party precinct committee members from the counties in District 30 — Rod Runyon of Wasco County and Eric Wattenburg of Sisters.

See **Findley**/Page 3A

Baker City Council To Fill Vacancy On January 14

4 vie for Council seat

The six Baker City Council members will have four applicants to choose from when they meet next week to fill the vacancy created when Ken Gross announced that he was moving away for work and would have to resign.

Four people applied for the position — Jason Spriet, James C. Thomas, Richard Haynes Jr. and Larry Morrison.

The six councilors will meet with the applicants during a work session tonight at 5:30 at City Hall, 1655 First St. The Council is slated to pick Gross' replacement during

its regular meeting, set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14, also at City Hall.

The new councilor will serve through the first meeting in 2021. The seat on the Council will be open for election in November, with the winning candidate then serving a two-year term starting in January 2021.

(Although Gross was elected in November 2018 to a four-year term starting Jan. 1, 2019, the city charter requires that when a vacancy on the council is filled more than 90 days before the next general election — which

is the case here — the appointed councilor serves only until the first Council meeting in the year following the election. In this case that means the first meeting in January 2021.)

Following are excerpts from each candidate's application:

Richard Haynes Jr.

Haynes, who is retired, wrote that he wants "to help Baker City continue to offer a high quality of life and grow in a responsible way that benefits all citizens of our community."

See **Council**/Page 2A

Harper: First Baby of 2020



Saint Alphonus Medical Center-Baker City photo

Harper Scott, the second daughter of Ashley Hughes and Logan Scott, was the first baby born in 2020 at Saint Alphonus Medical Center-Baker City. Harper was born at 3:04 a.m. on Jan. 5. She weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 19 1/4 inches. She has a big sister, Peyton. Saint Alphonus presented Ashley and Harper with baby clothes, a blanket, an Alphonzo Bear stuffed animal, toys and other useful items for parents of newborns.



TODAY
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FRIDAY — BAKER WRESTLERS IN KEY GOL DUAL AGAINST LA GRANDE