



In SPORTS, 5A  
Baker  
edges  
La Grande

# Baker City Herald

January 13, 2020

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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 Shannon Black of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**County's wolf compensation committee to meet**

Baker County's Wolf Depredation and Compensation Committee will meet Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 3 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St., to review applications for compensation from ranchers.

**Barbecue, potluck, worship and music event Saturday**

The Ruda Ranch near Baker City will host a barbecue and potluck, with music, worship, encouragement and sharing Saturday starting at 5 p.m. at 18070 W. Campbell Loop. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert. More information is available by calling 541-519-6261.

**Farmers Market membership meeting Feb. 5**

The Baker City Farmers Market will have its annual membership meeting on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. Anyone who wants to help the market be successful in 2020 is welcome to join.

WEATHER

Today

35 / 24



Snow showers

Tuesday

32 / 17



Snow showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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## Man dies in avalanche

Richard Delbert Stephens, 33, was killed while riding his snowmobile in upper Rock Creek in the Elkhorns

A local man died Saturday afternoon when his snowmobile was hit by an avalanche high in the Elkhorn Mountains.

Richard Delbert Stephens, 33, of the North Powder area, was trapped in the snow slide, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash said.

Ash said Stephens and three others were riding snowmobiles in the upper

parts of the Rock Creek drainage when the avalanche happened, trapping Stephens.

None of the other three riders, who were friends or relatives of Stephens, was caught in the slide, Ash said.

Ash didn't have a specific location for the avalanche, but that the group was riding above Eilertson Meadow.

Baker County Dispatch received a

call about the accident at 6:05 p.m.

Ash, who was attending the Baker County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet, said he immediately mobilized a Search and Rescue team.

Ash said Stephens' companions brought his body down from the mountains.

See *Avalanche* / Page 2A

### 90th Annual Baker County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet

## The Best of Baker

#### Woman of the Year

Mary Ellen Anderson



#### Legacy Man

Denzil Robbins



#### Man of the Year

Steve Sharp



Photos by Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald

#### Legacy Woman

Barbara Prowell



#### Entrepreneurs of the Year

Ryan and Kaylin Chaves



#### Organization of the Year

Baker Kiwanis Club



Stacy DeLong, second from left, presented the award to David Cowan, far left, Debbie Poe, Shelly Cutler, Marylynne Evans and Darlene Teskey.

#### Business of the Year

Grocery Outlet



From left: Ryan Kihn, Ron McLeod, Melissa Lefever and Grocery Outlet store owner Cody Miller.



#### Excellence in Agriculture

Martin Arritola

#### More Inside....

Please turn to Page 2A for a story about the awards

## Verizon appeal reset for Jan. 21

The Baker City Council has rescheduled its meeting to consider an appeal from Verizon Wireless for Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First.

The company appealed the city Planning Commission's 5-2 vote on Dec. 4 to deny an application to build a 70-foot cell tower near Leo Adler Field in North Baker City.

The original appeal was scheduled for Jan. 7, but it was postponed after an attorney representing Verizon was unable to attend due to an issue with an airline flight.

## Rape suspect returned to Baker

By Chris Collins  
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A Baker City man charged with multiple allegations of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl is in custody in the Baker County Jail.

Bill David Gonyer, 73, was returned to Baker City on Wednesday and was arraigned Thursday in Baker County Circuit Court, said District Attorney Greg Baxter.

Gonyer was arrested Dec. 28 at the Boise Veterans Administration Hospital and was held in jail in Idaho before being returned to Baker County last week.

The crimes allegedly took place in Baker County between May 1, 2019, and Dec. 20, 2019. The child victim is known to Gonyer.

He is accused of 20 separate charges, including rape, sexual abuse, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration and using a child in display of sexually explicit conduct.



Gonyer

See *Suspect* / Page 3A



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WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE