

Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV **\$1.50**



QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Charles Carey of Baker City.

State, 5A

SALEM — Oregon legislators balked Thursday at loaning \$50 million in federal money to rural hospitals, including Saint Alphonsus in Baker City, reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

BRIEFING

Sheriff's Office has appointments for handgun license, boat renewals

The Baker County Sheriff's Office will open the front lobby for those needing concealed handgun license renewals (expired less than 45 days) and boat registrations. These will be done by appointment only, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, contact April Bowers at 541-523-6415 or abowers@bakersheriff.org.

The front door to the Sheriff's Office, 3410 K St., will continue to remain locked, and individuals will be let in by staff. In an effort to encourage social distancing, spacing requirements have been implemented.

WEATHER

Today

67 / 35



Chance of showers

Sunday

71 / 42



Partly sunny

Monday

68 / 34



A few showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

Longtime Drive-Thru Restaurants Doing Well During Coronavirus Pandemic

Easier Adjustment



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Sharon Brady takes an order from a customer at Burger Bob's on Thursday while Birdie the dog says hello.

By Samantha O'Conner
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Sharon Brady makes her way down the line of trucks and cars at Burger Bob's Drive-In, taking orders from the growing line of customers Thursday afternoon.

Burger Bob himself — that's owner Bob Brady, Sharon's husband — said sales have actually increased during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our customers have been very good to us," Bob said. "I have had no decline in business."

Burger Bob's is among the local restaurants that have had to make relatively minor adjustments during the pandemic because their operations were already geared to takeout

"Our customers have been very good to us. I have had no decline in business."

— Bob Brady, owner, Burger Bob's

meals.

Owners of dine-in restaurants, meanwhile, have had to close their dining rooms to comply with Gov. Kate Brown's March 17 executive order, and scramble to revamp their business models for takeout and, in some cases, deliveries.

As a mainly drive-thru business with no indoor seating, although there is a small lobby where people can place orders, keeping social distancing hasn't been difficult at Burger Bob's.

"People who are willing to go in, they can distance themselves. I've always been takeout, I'm not a sit-in," said Bob, who has owned the restaurant on 10th Street for 22 years.

"My regulars have been very good to me," Bob said. "We thank the community and our regular customers for supporting us during this difficult time."

York's Covered Wagon on Campbell Street has had a similar experience, with their volume of food customers generally unaffected during the pandemic. The business, which has long had a drive-thru window, also sells sporting goods and other items.

See **Drive-In** / Page 2A

Sisters' posters brighten days for their 'Grammy'

By Jayson Jacoby
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It all started because McKynzie and Olivia Price were missing their Grammy.

Actually that's not the whole story.

Grammy was missing her girls too.

Grammy is Laura Watson.

She lives in Baker City, and McKynzie and Olivia are her great-granddaughters.

The girls live near Baker City with their parents, Ashleigh and Taylor Price, and their little brother, Lincoln, who's 18 months old.

McKynzie and Olivia are used to visiting their Grammy pretty often.

"At least 4 or 5 times a week," Watson said.

That, needless to say, was the family's schedule prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ashleigh Price, who is Watson's granddaughter,



Submitted photo

McKynzie Price, 8, made the top poster and her sister, Olivia, 3 — with help from their little brother, Lincoln, 18 months — crafted the bottom poster. They decorated the posters for their great-grandmother, Laura Watson of Baker City.

said the family had strong incentive to comply with social distancing recommendations because Watson has a compromised immune

system and could be particularly vulnerable to the virus' effects.

See **Posters** / Page 2A



Submitted photo

McKynzie, right, and Olivia Price.

Laura Watson



County sends reopen plan to state

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County has made its pitch to Gov. Kate Brown for a gradual reopening of businesses that have been closed, or limited in their operation, since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The county, which as of Friday had not had any confirmed cases of the virus, sent its 12-page reopening plan to the governor's office Friday.

The plan, a joint effort involving multiple county employees and reviewed by the three county commissioners, doesn't set a date for when the first of three phases would take effect.

Commissioner Mark Bennett said Brown will ultimately decide whether to approve the county's plan, and to what extent.

See **Reopen** / Page 3A

5J Board discusses Early Learning Center

By Chris Collins
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The former North Baker Elementary School, constructed in 1909 with additions built in the 1950s and again in the 1970s, will be transformed into the Baker Early Learning Center this summer.

With plans for the first day of preschool classes to begin Oct. 5 in the building at 2725 Seventh St., there is lots of work to do, said Cassie Hibbert, project manager and architect with the Wenaha Group, which has an office in Pendleton. Hibbert is overseeing the renovation along with Superintendent Mark Witt.

She participated in a Zoom video conference meeting of the Baker School Board Thursday night.

The Wenaha firm has worked with the Baker School District on long-range building plans, including a \$48 million funding proposal that voters rejected in November 2018 that would have included construction of a new elementary school and transforming Brooklyn Primary School into an early learning center.

See **Learning** / Page 3A



TODAY
Issue 159, 14 pages

Calendar2A
Classified4B-6B
Comics7B

Community News3A
Crossword5B & 6B
Dear Abby8B

Horoscope5B & 6B
Jayson Jacoby4A
News of Record2A

Obituaries2A
Opinion4A
Outdoors1B

Senior Menus2A
Sports6A
Weather8B

INSIDE — SERIES ON 1864 SURVEY OF BAKER CITY CONTINUES: PG. 5A