

# Baker City Herald

December 19, 2020

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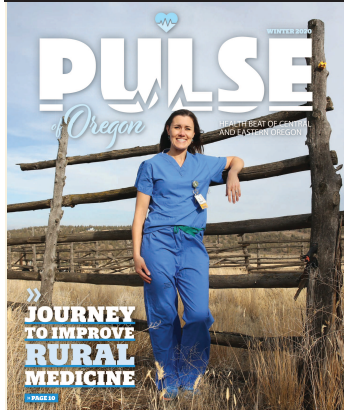


In **OUTDOORS**, 1B  
Tracking animals at the dredge

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Sports • Outdoors • TV

\$1.50



### INSIDE TODAY

New issue of Pulse magazine includes a story about two Baker High School athletes coping with the cancellation of sports due to the pandemic.

### QUICK HITS

### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Francis Mohr of Baker City.

### BRIEFING

### Herald won't publish Dec. 26

In observance of the Christmas holiday, the Baker City Herald will not publish an edition on Saturday, Dec. 26.

"It's a chance to give our employees an opportunity to spend an uninterrupted holiday with their families," said Andrew Cutler, regional editor for the EO Media Group, which owns the Baker City Herald. "But we will beef up our Dec. 24 edition." That expanded issue will include additional comics and puzzle features.

### WEATHER

#### Today

39 / 36



Partly sunny

#### Sunday

42 / 35



Rain showers

#### Monday

44 / 31



Rain showers

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

## Harvest Church Serves Free Meals Every Thursday Evening

# The Dinner Rush



Chris Collins/Baker City Herald

Pastor Matt Diaz, who coordinates children's programs at Harvest Church in Baker City, pours salsa that will be part of the free meal the church served on Thursday, Dec. 17.

By Chris Collins  
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Each Thursday just as the workday is winding down for most Baker City residents, the kitchen at Harvest Church is warming up.

Volunteers and staff gather about 4 p.m., as they've been doing throughout the coronavirus pandemic, to prepare free meals for community members.

In the beginning, from March until about September, the church served 250 meals each Thursday, said Pastor Matt Diaz.

The 39-year-old moved to Baker City with his wife, Mandy, and their four sons (ages 9, 7, 4 and 2) about two

years ago. He coordinates the church's children's programs.

Pastor Brad Phillips, 52, the church's lead pastor for the past eight years, rotates with Diaz to supervise the meal delivery program. Phillips' son, Braden, and his wife, Jenna, also have joined the church staff after moving to Baker City from Alaska about six months ago. Braden is the church's youth pastor.

This week, Diaz and his reliable troop of volunteers prepared tacos for 170 people, most of whom drove by the church for curbside pickup of the meal. Of that total, 50 were delivered to homes throughout the community, including 17 to 20 that go to residents of

Elkhorn Village each week, Diaz said.

Diners were provided a clamshell carryout container filled with two tacos and all the trimmings, and a side serving of chips and salsa.

Three gallons of salsa and multiple bags of chips were needed to fill that portion of the order, Diaz said.

Kenny Bain, 62, a church deacon, is on hand each week to help with the cooking. He was the man behind the staple of Thursday's taco meal — 38 pounds of hamburger cooked to a turn with just the right amount of taco seasoning.

See Meals/Page 3A

# 'A beautiful life': Remembering Virginia Kostol

By Jayson Jacoby  
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When Jessie Ritch became acquainted with Virginia Kostol she knew straight off that theirs would not be an ordinary friendship.

This, Ritch sensed, was a relationship she would always treasure.

"Virginia was one of those people who, when you first form a friendship, you just know how special that person is going to be in your life," Ritch said on Thursday, Dec. 17. "She was just such a joy to be around. We hit it off right away."

Their bond stayed strong until the very end.

Ritch said she played cards with Virginia on Sunday, Dec. 13, and spoke with her on the phone about 4:30 that afternoon.

Virginia, who has lived in Baker City since 1953 and over the decades amassed a long record of community service, died that night in the North Baker City home where she lived for all those years.



Kostol

She was 94.

Ritch, 80, said her sadness at losing her friend was tempered by the knowledge that Virginia's daughter, Cris, had arrived two days earlier for a visit.

"I just feel so thankful that Cris was there," Ritch said.

Virginia moved to Baker City with her husband, Carl Kostol, a physician. The couple had married in 1949. Carl died in March 2018 at age 95.

Ritch, who attended school in Baker City, lived in Richland for

17 years and in Central Oregon for many years before returning to Baker City in 2006. She said she knew of Virginia long before they actually met.

Virginia was involved in a variety of activities in Baker City, including organizing American Red Cross blood drives, and serving on the Baker School Board, the Education Service District board and with the Baker County Historical Society and The Salvation Army auxiliary.

See Virginia/Page 5A

## ELKHORN WILDLIFE AREA

# The elk arrive, with appetites

By Jayson Jacoby  
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Dan Marvin chuckles as he lampoons the way Rocky Mountain elk sometimes act.

Marvin knows how tough these animals are.

During winters when sub-zero temperatures and snowdrifts deep enough to bury cars conspire to kill hundreds of mule deer in

Northeast Oregon, most of the elk make it through, a bit undernourished, maybe, but otherwise hale.

Yet Marvin finds it amusing that when a couple of snowstorms arrive earlier than usual, while jack-o-lanterns still sit on some porches, the elk turn up, looking for a free meal.



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald File Photo

See Elk/Page 5A Rocky Mountain elk munch alfalfa at the Elkhorn Wildlife Area during a past winter.



TODAY  
Issue 95, 12 pages

Classified.....2B-4B  
Comics.....5B  
Community News....3A

Crossword.....2B & 4B  
Dear Abby.....6B  
Horoscope.....3B

Jayson Jacoby.....4A  
News of Record.....2A  
Obituaries.....2A

Opinion.....4A  
Outdoors.....1B  
Senior Menus.....2A

Sports.....6A  
Turning Backs.....2B  
Weather.....6B

TUESDAY — DRIVING GUIDE TO LOCAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS