

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

**50 YEARS AGO**  
from the Democrat-Herald  
December 26, 1970

(Editorial): The Baker Fire Department under Chief John Everson deserves the commendation of Baker citizens for its work in containing and extinguishing the Ellingson Lumber Mill fire.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
from the Baker City Herald  
December 26, 1995

During the first dark hours of Christmas morning, while children dreamed of toys and games and candy canes, Mike Reid was receiving a gift that surely tested even Santa Claus' magic.

Today that gift, a new heart, rests in Reid's chest, confirming with every beat the belief that this time of year special things happen.

"This is such an unbelievable miracle," Reid's wife, Amy, said this morning from Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. "For a year now we have dealt with death. Now we get to start thinking about living again."

**10 YEARS AGO**  
from the Baker City Herald  
December 24, 2010

New Directions Northwest Inc. broke ground Tuesday on a \$1.9 million Recovery Village, a facility for mothers who are undergoing alcohol and drug treatment.

The 10,692-square-foot building on Midway Drive near St. Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City will have 15 bedrooms as well as offices and a day care center.

**ONE YEAR AGO**  
from the Baker City Herald  
December 23, 2019

Karen Skeen knows that her noble task will never be completely finished but she's also comforted, on these cold winter nights, in the knowledge that 19 feral cats are not starving or freezing.

Skeen, one of the founders of New Hope for Eastern Oregon Animals, is celebrating a nearly 3-month campaign to capture the 19 cats from a property near North Powder and find safe places for them to live.

Although Skeen, who has been helping feral cats for more than two decades, said she has seen larger colonies of feral cats in Baker City, the North Powder situation was challenging because the site, about two miles outside the town in southern Union County, is isolated with few places for the cats to shelter.

"They would never have survived" the winter, Skeen said. "This is one of the biggest campaigns I've been involved in." It all started in late September.

Skeen said she got a phone call from a woman whose father and stepmother, Gary and Carol Tate, had died just a day apart at their home near North Powder.

When someone opened the door of a storage building on the property about 20 cats ran out, Skeen said.

The animals were feral, although it's possible they had been fed, she said.

New Hope For Eastern Oregon Animals and another Baker City animal rescue group, Best Friends of Baker, each donated \$1,000 for the effort to trap the cats, have each spayed or neutered, and try to find homes for the felines. While volunteers, including Megan Kendall of Baker City, were working on the latter task, two men from Baker City drove daily to the property near North Powder to put out food for the cats, Skeen said.

## OREGON LOTTERY

**MEGABUCKS, Dec. 21**  
5 — 18 — 32 — 37 — 38 — 40  
Next jackpot: \$6.1 million

**POWERBALL, Dec. 19**  
27 — 32 — 34 — 43 — 52 PB 13  
Next jackpot: \$321 million

**MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 22**  
29 — 53 — 56 — 59 — 67 Mega 21  
Next jackpot: \$351 million

**WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 21**  
2 — 7 — 69 — 73

**PICK 4, Dec. 22**  
• 1 p.m.: 1 — 9 — 5 — 9  
• 4 p.m.: 2 — 5 — 5 — 2  
• 7 p.m.: 7 — 9 — 6 — 1  
• 10 p.m.: 9 — 1 — 2 — 6

**LUCKY LINES, Dec. 22**  
1-8-12-13-19-23-26-31  
Next jackpot: \$62,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, three-bean salad, brownies
- **TUESDAY:** Lasagna, zucchini, garlic bread, green salad, cookies
- **WEDNESDAY:** Ham and beans, mixed vegetables, cornbread, fruit cup, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY:** Barbecued ribs, baby red potatoes, corn, roll, macaroni salad, apple crisp
- **FRIDAY:** New Year's Day; office and transit are closed.

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60. Meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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# Heavy lifting

■ Helicopter called in to replace aging heating and cooling units on the roof of the Baker City Fire Department

By Chris Collins  
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An outdated and inefficient heating and cooling system was hauled off the roof of the Baker City Fire Department Tuesday morning by helicopter and a new and improved system was flown up just in time for Christmas.

Baker County Heating and Cooling was awarded the contract of about \$84,000 for the job, City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said.

The work started about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday when Second Street between Auburn Avenue and Place Street was closed to accommodate the project. The street was reopened after about two hours.

A Baker Aircraft helicopter

"They've been patching them together for the last several years."

— Sean Lee, Baker City fire chief

removed the old units and delivered the new ones to the rooftop.

Warner said it was more cost-effective to use the helicopter for the work rather than to bring in a crane from out of town to hoist the units to the top of the building and to bring the old ones down.

Fire Chief Sean Lee said one unit of the 40-year-old system, which was installed when the current fire station was built, already had failed late this summer or early fall. Parts to make repairs were getting harder to come by be-



Contributed Photo

A helicopter from Baker Aircraft lifted heating and cooling units from in front of the Baker City Fire Department to the roof of the building Tuesday morning.

cause of the age of the systems.

"They've been patching them together for the last several years," Lee said. "Forty years is a pretty good run for those things."

The city paid for the work with money from the coronavirus relief bill, funds that had to be spent before the

end of the year.

In addition to replacing the antiquated heating and cooling equipment, the new units will feature "air scrubbers" designed to purify the air, Lee said.

"They will provide much better circulation and much better air quality," he said.



Contributed Photo

Dr. Nathan Defrees

## VACCINE

Continued from Page 1A

The vaccine can also be stored for five days at regular refrigerator temperatures, according to Pfizer-BioNTech.

Lynn said state officials have ensured hospital staff that doses of the vaccine will be available for the employees' second shot, which is recommended about three weeks after the first.

Employees who have already received the first inoculation have also been given an appointment to receive the second, Lynn said.

In addition to the hospital staff, Lynn said Saint Alphonsus has vaccine doses that will be administered soon at the Baker City hospital to health care workers from other clinics and offices in Baker County.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett, the county's incident commander during the pandemic and a certified emergency medical responder, said he is slated to receive his first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on Dec. 30.

The second federally approved vaccine, made by Moderna, doesn't have to be stored at such low temperatures, and it can be sent directly to the hospital in Baker City, Lynn said.

She expects to receive doses of the Moderna vaccine within a couple weeks.

The Moderna vaccine can also be stored at the Baker County Health Department, said Nancy Staten, the department's director.

"I have made the choice to receive the COVID-19 vaccine with the goal of remaining healthy so I can continue to care for the Baker City community."

— Dr. Kaare Tinglesdadt

"It is very exciting that we now have a vaccine for COVID-19 available in Baker County. Over the next several months hopefully we will be able to vaccinate enough people to get life back to normal and help protect those in this community from this terrible virus."

— Dr. Nathan Defrees

The Moderna vaccine also requires two separate shots, the second about 28 days after the first.

Saint Alphonsus supplied quotes from some physicians who have received their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:

• Dr. Kaare Tinglestadt: "I have made the choice to receive the COVID-19 vaccine with the goal of remaining healthy so I can continue to care for the Baker City community."

• Dr. Nathan Defrees: "It is very exciting that we now have a vaccine for COVID-19 available in Baker County. It has been a long haul but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Over the next several



Contributed Photo

Dr. Lily Wittich



Contributed Photo

Dr. Kaare Tinglestadt

months hopefully we will be able to vaccinate enough people to get life back to normal and help protect those in this community from this terrible virus."

• Dr. Neil Carroll: "I am getting vaccinated to do my part to not only reduce my chances of contracting COVID-19 but also to reduce the chance that I bring COVID-19 home to my family or to my patients and co-workers. I strongly believe

that widespread vaccination is our only way to get back to our 2019 lifestyles in any reasonable timeframe. Current estimates suggest that without widespread vaccination we are unlikely to achieve herd immunity until 70% to 80% of the population is immune."

• Dr. David Richards: "I am getting vaccinated because I want to ensure that I am not a source of transmission to my patients and family."

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