

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robert Moon of Baker City.

Local, 3A

UNION COUNTY — While some faith organizations in Union County have foregone in-person services and gatherings around the Christmas holiday to avoid spreading COVID-19, others have forged ahead despite the risk.

In Island City, the Lighthouse Pentecostal Church plans to hold a three-day youth conference over the New Year holiday, raising concerns about COVID-19 transmission.

Nation, 5A

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump has signed a \$900 billion pandemic relief package, ending days of drama over his refusal to accept the bipartisan deal that will deliver long-sought cash to businesses and individuals and avert a federal government shutdown.

The deal also provides \$1.4 trillion to fund government agencies through September and contains other end-of-session priorities such as an increase in food stamp benefits.

The signing Sunday, at his private club in Florida, came as he faced escalating criticism over his eleventh-hour demands for larger, \$2,000 relief checks and scaled-back spending even though the bill had already passed the House and Senate by wide margins.

WEATHER

Today

35 / 20

Sunny

Wednesday

35 / 26

Snow late

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

Baker County Sheriff, Lieutenant Find Pair Of Hunters In Wallowas

Cold, But Safe



Travis Ash/Contributed Photo

Lt. Ryan Downing of the Baker County Parole and Probation Department joined Sheriff Travis Ash in searching for, and eventually rescuing on Sunday morning, Dec. 27, two hunters who spent the previous night in the Wallowa Mountains northeast of Baker City.

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
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The cruel cold of a winter night in the Wallowa Mountains was sapping Cody McCue's energy, but he wasn't leaving. Not until the two missing hunters were found.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash and Lt. Ryan Downing of the county's parole and probation department were committed to the search as well.

A rescue effort that involved that trio, along with the search and rescue teams from the sheriff's offices in both Baker and Union counties, resulted in the rescue Sunday morning, Dec. 27, of two bobcat hunters. They were overtaken by nightfall and spent the night in a snowbound canyon with only a small fire

to ward off temperatures that turned Ash's fleece gloves into ice sculptures in just a few minutes.

Both hunters were tired, cold and hungry, but neither was hurt, Ash said on Monday morning.

Joseph Curtis, 31, and Michael A. Frazier, 16, both of Baker City, were accompanied by a hound dog. She was also uninjured, Ash said.

The incident started Saturday afternoon, Dec. 26, when McCue and James Coles of Baker City finished a day-long snowmobile ride along Forest Service Road 77. That's a popular snowmobile route that starts at Catherine Creek Summit along Highway 203, about 14 miles southeast of Union and 25

miles northeast of Baker City. Road 77 leads east into the Wallowas toward Eagle Creek.

McCue said that when he and Coles returned to Catherine Creek Summit around 3:30 p.m., Bill Frazier, who's Michael Frazier's father, asked if they had seen any other snowmobilers.

McCue said Bill Frazier told him about the two hunters, who also had a snowmobile but hadn't returned to the highway.

McCue said he told the elder Frazier that, with night falling soon, he was willing to come back if the pair failed to show up.

"I just had a gut feeling," McCue said.

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Leo Adler Foundation has new leader

■ Carrie Folkman of Baker City is the new chair of the committee, replacing Norm Kolb, who served 25 years

By Lisa Britton  
For the Baker City Herald

This year brought changes to the Leo Adler Foundation, but it is, and always will be, locally controlled.

"We are so hands-on. We hold everything pretty tight," said Carrie Folkman, incoming chair of the committee.

Folkman has served on the Foundation since December 2014. She is taking over as chair from Norm Kolb, who has stepped down after 25 years as Foundation chair.

"It is both an honor and great privilege to accept this responsibility and build upon the strong foundation," Folkman said. "Norm Kolb has provided faithful leadership and a steadfast vision of Leo's final wishes. I am grateful to follow in his footsteps."

According to a press release, Kolb led community investment of more than \$36.2 million in scholarships and grants, including the funding of more than 9,200 scholarships and 1,400 nonprofit community projects. He will remain active on the committee and help mentor Folkman.



Adler

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Huntington appeals DEQ penalties

By Jayson Jacoby  
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The city of Huntington is appealing a \$9,193 civil penalty issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for several violations of the city's wastewater discharge permit.

The city, pending the appeal, has not had to pay the fines, said Jennifer Young, Huntington city recorder.

Young said she expects to have an "information discussion" with DEQ officials in early January.

In a Nov. 12 letter to the city, Kieran O'Donnell, manager of the DEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement, wrote that "by failing to comply with permit requirements, the city of Huntington increased the risk that its wastewater disposal harmed public resources."

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Some merchants saw holiday sales boost

By Corey Kirk and Samantha O'Conner  
Baker City Herald

Some Baker City merchants saw a boost in sales leading up to Christmas, but the pandemic also continues to affect businesses.

Johna Almond, who owns The Kids Closet, said her sales picked up the third week of December, after being slow the first half of the month.

Prior to the holiday season, Almond said, her sales were about 40% of what they were during 2019.

Almond said she has adjusted to COVID-19 by placing arrows and six-foot spacers in her business to direct customers, who are required to wear face masks.

"I sanitize all the surfaces and I sanitize the floors as well every night," Almond said. "I don't do any fitting rooms at the moment."

She believes Baker City businesses benefited from offering gifts that aren't readily available elsewhere.

"A lot of the shops have unique gifts and unique items that you

probably won't find online," Almond said.

At the Squeaky Stirrup, owner Dylan Glock said holiday sales were "all right."

"As good as a guy can do when nobody has any money or is scared to spend any," Glock said. "My business is doing OK."

But not as good as he expected, two and half years after opening in a Broadway Street building that he said had been empty for 13 years.

Glock said the upward trajectory

in his sales has stopped during the pandemic.

"I was climbing to where I thought it might kind of peak out, but I'm way less than that because everybody's scared to spend their money," he said. "But that's pretty common with the whole pandemic and everything."

Glock said he's disappointed to see how restrictions on businesses are harming the local economy.

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