



In SPORTS, 6A

Ducks fumble at Fiesta

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Andrew James of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Library district to meet Jan. 11

The Baker County Library District board has scheduled a virtual meeting Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. to have a supplemental budget hearing. The district will receive additional revenue due to increased valuation in property and a COVID-19 grant. For information about accessing the meeting, go to www.bakerlib.org

County seeks volunteers

Baker County is seeking volunteers for these boards/committees:

Baker County Economic Development; Natural Resource Advisory Committee; Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; TLT Marketing Committee; Baker Valley Vector Control Board; Baker County Budget Board; Northeast Oregon Economic Development District; Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Local Community Advisory Committee; Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Budget Board; Baker County Compensation Board.

Volunteer forms are available at www.baker-county.org/commissioners. For more information call the Commissioner's Office at 541-523-8200 or email Heidi Martin at hmartin@bakercounty.org

WEATHER

Today 37 / 31

Mostly sunny

Wednesday 37 / 27

Light snow

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

Weekend Storms Significantly Boosted Mountain Snowpack

Piling It On The Peaks



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Retreating clouds revealed the summit of Elkhorn Peak, second-highest point in the Elkhorn Mountains at 8,932 feet, on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 3.

By Jayson Jacoby

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The balmy rainstorms that melted most of the snow in Baker City the past few days had a much different effect in the mountains.

Snow rather than rain fell at elevations above about 5,000 feet.

The storms brought the snowpack to near average in many places, and pushed it above average in some.

Snow in the region's mountains is the largest reservoir of water for irrigation and recreation. This winter's

snowpack is particularly important because a drought in 2020 depleted reservoirs.

As of Monday, Jan. 4, the water content in the snowpack at more than a dozen measuring sites in the Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt and Imnaha river basins was 93% of average.

(Water content, rather than snow depth, is a more accurate predictor of water supply, since 18 inches of heavy, wet snow can hold much more water than 24 inches of dry, powdery snow.)

Most measuring sites have a higher

water content now than they did a year ago, although it's relatively early in the snowpack season.

Typically, the snowpack reaches its yearly maximum in March or, at the highest elevations, in April.

Last winter the snowpack, after a sluggish start, was bolstered by one series of storms in mid-January and another in late March.

The above-average snowpack helped to blunt the drought's effects.

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Harvey under ethics agency probe

County Commission chair being investigated for money paid to his son's business

By Jayson Jacoby

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The Oregon Government Ethics Commission voted 7-0 on Nov. 6 to investigate whether Bill Harvey, Baker County Commission chairman, violated state ethics laws when his son's company was paid \$1,710 for work done for the county in August 2020.

A preliminary review from the Ethics Commission also lists as potential violations the meal and mileage reimbursements Harvey submitted last spring, and his proposal, which was not accepted, to pay his son to help demolish part of a building the county bought.



Harvey

See **Harvey** / Page 3A

Nurse has dealt with COVID-19 in person, and now via the telephone

By Jayson Jacoby

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After working for several months treating people who are recovering from bouts with COVID-19, Lori Brock now uses a telephone to fight the virus.

Brock, a registered nurse, has lived in Baker City for four years.

She was hired at the Baker County Health Department in August and since then has done both case investigations of COVID-19 infections as well as contact tracing — talking to people who were potentially exposed to the virus and advising them about quarantining.

But earlier in the pandemic, Brock was, as she puts it, on the “front lines” of combating COVID-19.

She worked as a traveling nurse in Roseburg, Portland and the Boise area. Her duties included treating people who had been released from a hospital after being treated for the virus and were recovering at home.

Brock said that her experience in home health nursing showed



Lori Brock

her how the effects of the virus can linger.

“Many (patients) were on oxygen and still feeling pretty weak,” she said. “It was really interesting.”

Brock said she was gratified to have a chance to join the Health Department staff.

“It's nice to be home, based in Baker City,” she said. “That's where my heart is.”

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Welcome, Paycen Reece Preston: Baker County's First Baby of 2021



Saint Alphonsus Medical Center/Contributed Photo

Paycen Reece Preston was born at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center on Friday, Jan. 1, at 8:19 p.m., the first baby born in 2021 at the Baker City hospital. The son of Shelby and Joshua Preston, Paycen weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19¼ inches long. To commemorate the hospital's first baby of 2021, Saint Alphonsus presented Shelby, Joshua and Paycen with a reusable laundry basket/tote filled with baby clothes, a blanket, an Alphonzo Bear stuffed animal, and other items parents of newborns need and enjoy.



TODAY

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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE