

Baker City Herald

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

January 16, 2021

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

In OUTDOORS, 1B
Road trip
eases
winter
doldrums

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Kim Anderson of Baker City.

State & Nation, 3A

Five years ago this month, Ammon Bundy led a 41-day armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge after protesting the return to federal prison of two Oregon ranchers convicted of setting fire to public land.

Bundy was acquitted of all charges after his arrest on allegations of conspiracy and impeding federal employees through intimidation, threat or force.

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, the extraordinary images of a violent mob of right-wing Trump supporters storming the nation's Capitol, incited by a president who refused to accept the 2020 election results, were no surprise to groups that have tracked extremists in the West.

BRIEFING

Haines Fire Protection District Budget Committee meets Jan. 26

HAINES — The Haines Fire Protection District Budget Committee will have a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. at the main fire station, 816 Cole St. COVID-19 safety procedures will be followed.

WEATHER

Today

40 / 28

Partly sunny



Sunday

41 / 29

A few showers



Monday

42 / 23

Partly sunny



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

Boot And Shoe Repair Craftsman Gary Johansen Retiring Jan. 28

Shelving His Tools For A Final Time



Chris Collins/Baker City Herald

Gary Johansen has been repairing shoes and boots, as well as saddles, for more than 30 years.

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

Gary Johansen is looking forward to Jan. 28.

That's the day the 69-year-old Baker City resident will officially retire from the boot and shoe repair work he was trained for more than 30 years ago.

On that day he'll officially lock the door to the Elkhorn

Boot and Shoe Repair shop for the last time.

And he and his wife, Cindy, will be setting their sights on some new adventures.

"I'm in here till the 28th and then it's history," he's been busy telling his customers.

Cindy, 66, who has served as the shop's bookkeeper, retired last summer after a 31-year

career with the Baker School District, most recently as secretary at South Baker Intermediate School.

"He couldn't make up his mind if he wanted to retire or not, but after watching me enjoying my retirement he decided to join me," Cindy said.

See **Retire**/Page 3A



Chris Collins/Baker City Herald

Gary Johansen is looking forward to traveling after he retires on Jan. 28.

Restaurant owner fears widespread effects from restrictions

By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Dave McGuire figures Oregonians should be able to decide for themselves whether to sit down in a restaurant and have a meal.

And he intends to continue offering his customers that option even though, as of Friday, Jan. 15, Gov. Kate Brown's COVID-19 regulations prohibit indoor dining in Baker County.

That's because Baker County has returned to the extreme-risk category for virus spread under the state's four-level system, and will stay there at least through Jan. 28.

The county had been in the high-risk category from Jan. 1-14, which allows indoor dining up to 25% of capacity or 50 people total, including employees and diners, whichever is fewer.

McGuire, who owns the Oregon Trail Restaurant in Baker City, said on Friday that he plans to continue allowing limited indoor dining even as Baker County is in the extreme-risk group.

See **Restrictions**/Page 5A

Halfway to get new fire station

By Samantha O'Conner

soconner@bakercityherald.com

The city of Halfway is using a \$1.5 million federal block grant to build a new station for the Pine Valley Rural Fire Protection District.

Halfway received the Community Development Block Grant in 2019 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In an email to the Herald, Lisa Dawson, executive director of the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NOEDD) wrote that the city has contracted with the District to prepare the environmental review for the construction project.

See **Station**/Page 5A

Local resident charged with animal neglect

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

The Baker County Sheriff's Office has seized two donkeys, eight cats, four dogs and 23 chickens and cited the owner of the Baker Valley property where the animals were kept after investigating allegations of second-degree animal neglect.

Deputy Craig Rilee cited Virginia Lee Gould, 68, of Baker City, on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 14, on a Baker County Circuit Court warrant.

Gould is scheduled to appear in court at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 26. District Attorney Greg Baxter filed a petition Wednesday seeking a pre-trial order requiring Gould to forfeit the animals.

The Baker County Sheriff's Office seized and impounded the animals on Jan. 7 after executing a search warrant on Gould's property at 15742 Hunt Mountain Lane where the animals were being kept, according to the Sheriff's Department and court documents.

See **Neglect**/Page 5A



TODAY
Issue 106, 12 pages

Calendar2A
Classified2B-4B
Comics5B

Community News3A
Crossword2B & 4B
Dear Abby6B

Horoscope3B & 4B
Jayson Jacoby4A
News of Record2A

Obituaries2A
Opinion4A
Outdoors1B & 2B

Sports6A
Turning Backs2A
Weather6B

TUESDAY — A DAY AT PRACTICE WITH THE BHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM