

January 26, 2021

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



In **SPORTS**, 5A
Blazers
return to
the court

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dave Richards of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Brooklyn School replaces taco feed with Taco Tuesdays at local restaurants

Every year, the Brooklyn PTO's annual Taco Feed fundraiser occurs in February. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, the PTO will not be able to hold the traditional fundraiser. Instead, they will keep the taco theme and support local businesses.

The PTO is promoting Taco Tuesdays during February. Each week will feature a different Mexican restaurant, which will donate 20% of the day's proceeds to Brooklyn PTO.

Here is the schedule:

- Feb. 2: Delicioso
- Feb. 9: El Erradero
- Feb. 16: D&J Taco Shop
- Feb. 23: MCTaco Bus

Brooklyn PTO uses fundraisers to help provide enriching opportunities to students such as field trips, assemblies, and artists in residence, as well as to support teachers throughout the year.

Free pet food

Best Friends of Baker Inc. is giving away pet food to owners who have been affected financially by the pandemic. Food is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 2950 Church St., near the railroad tracks.

WEATHER

Today 34 / 31



Partly sunny

Wednesday

40 / 33



Snow showers

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

Nonprofit Hoping To Add More Seating In Geiser-Pollman Park

Bringing In Benches



Baker City Events/Contributed Photo

Baker City Events, a local nonprofit, paid for this concrete bench installed in Geiser-Pollman Park in September 2020. The organization is hoping other people and groups will donate money to buy additional benches.

By Samantha O'Conner
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The Baker City Parks Board and the Baker City Tree Board have approved a plan from Baker City Events, a local nonprofit volunteer group, to move forward with a campaign to add benches to Geiser-Pollman Park, the city's largest park.

Baker City Events started the effort in September 2020 by donating a 400-pound concrete bench for the park.

The bench is emblazoned with information about how others can donate money for additional benches

that would bear donors' names. A similar fundraising campaign, selling commemorative bricks, helped build the Powder River Pavilion in the park.

Lynette Perry, the events coordinator and treasurer for Baker City Events, hopes people will be interested in donating to help purchase more benches.

"We'll be moving forward with taking orders for those and hopefully have some more in the park by the time the summer music season starts," said Perry, who is also a Baker City Council member.

The benches are built by Bricks

Us in Florida, the company that also made the bricks that replaced damaged ones in the Powder River Pavilion.

Donors can give \$1,500 for their own bench, or families and other groups can work together to raise money for a bench.

"The beauty of it is there's enough lines for engraving on there that ten families could go together and buy one bench and each one of them could have a line engraving a memorial to their family," Perry said.

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BTI to start truck driving courses

By Corey Kirk
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Baker Technical Institute is starting a Truck Driving and Logistics School that will help students prepare to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL).

The first four-week course starts March 8 at BTI's main campus in Baker City.

"Having your CDL is key when you're working

in the construction trade, running heavy equipment, but you have to haul the heavy equipment there," said Sandy Mitchell, BTI's marketing and program coordinator. "It could do a number of different jobs, it is not tailored only for long haul trucking. There can be so many things done in our agriculture communities that you would need a CDL for."

The impetus for starting

the truck driving school was interest expressed by officials from the trucking industry seeking trained and competent drivers, BTI president Doug Dalton said in a press release.

Over the past two years, BTI worked with an advisory board of industry leaders from Oregon, and the Professional Truck Driving Institute, to understand the need.

"They are the experts,

and we wanted to listen to industry and build a school that reflects what they need," Dalton said. "One of the biggest things that came from these listening sessions was their focus on producing higher quality drivers than they have traditionally seen from schools, and we'll do this by giving them a more diverse experience."

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Neighbors Of Baker Starts Website To Share Personal Stories

Group promotes sense of community

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Gretchen Stadler hopes, by way of sharing stories, that more people will make more connections in Baker County.

Stadler moved to Baker City four years ago. In June 2020, she attended a memorial for George Floyd in the city's Central Park beside the Powder River.

At that gathering she talked to people she'd never met who were also new to town. Together they formed the Baker Community Justice Project.

"Our vision was to help make Baker a more inclusive community," she said. "There's all kinds of diversity here."

Their activities were low-key in 2020 — justice walks, encouraging people to register to vote, and promoting the U.S. Census.

But the group wanted to find a larger way to connect with residents of Baker County.

Stadler follows a Facebook page



Stadler

called Humans of New York, which offers snapshots of people and their stories.

"I love how I can relate to these people who are telling their story," she said.

Especially stories that tell of personal struggles.

"That's how people relate — not on Facebook where you just see fun trips," she said. "The struggles everyone can relate to."

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Risk level might stay

County could remain at extreme risk despite slowest rate of new cases since October

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker County might have met one of the two requirements to move down from extreme to high on the state's COVID-19 risk level starting Friday, Jan. 29.

But though the county's rate of new virus cases has slowed substantially over the past nine days, its test positivity rate might keep the county in the extreme-risk category for two more weeks.

Baker County, with 16,800 residents, is in the "medium" group, those with a population between 15,000 and 30,000.

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BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETS TONIGHT

Council could award big bid

Baker City firm submits low bid of \$5.57 million for wastewater pipe, lagoon project

By Samantha O'Conner
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The Baker City Council will decide this evening whether to award a bid for one of the city's more expensive public works projects in the past couple of decades.

Councilors could approve a \$5.57 million contract to Gyllenberg Construction of Baker City for building a new pipeline to move treated wastewater to a new storage lagoon northeast of town.

Gyllenberg Construction was the low bidder among 10 qualified bids the city received for the project, according to a staff report to councilors from Michelle Owen, the city's public works director.

Councilors meet at 7 o'clock at City Hall, 1655 First St.

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TODAY
Issue 110, 14 pages

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