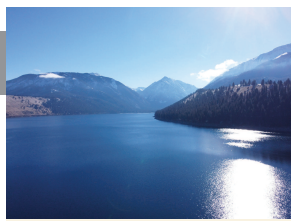


Baker City Herald

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January 30, 2021



In OUTDOORS, 1B
Wallowa
Lake's
wonders

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Leslie Elms of Baker City.

Oregon, 5A

JOHN DAY — A sheriff's deputy who was fired before entering a plea on criminal charges is suing Grant County and several employees.

BRIEFING

Sen. Ron Wyden schedules online town hall Feb. 5

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will host an online town hall on Feb. 5 for residents in Baker, Harney and Malheur counties. The event will start at noon. A link to the town hall is at <https://m.facebook.com/events/896647221081599/>

WEATHER

Today

40 / 35



Partly sunny

Sunday

41 / 37



Snow showers early

Monday

42 / 36



Cloudy

Correction: The story on Back Achers building supply on Page 1B of the Thursday, Jan. 28, issue contained errors. Owner Ben Deal's son Jack Deal's in-laws own Little Bear Drive-in in Wallowa. Ben Deal had three sons and two daughters and all but one son helped in the store. Deal started his first business in Berkeley, California. The storefront downtown is 10,000 square feet, and Jack Deal is putting in a flea market in the semitrailers at the main store.

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

County Hopes To Start Vaccinating People 80 And Older In Early February

Adding Inoculations



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Kelle Osborn, right, administers the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Thomas Joseph, principal at Eagle Cap Innovative High School, on Friday, Jan. 29, at the Baker County Health Department.

By Jayson Jacoby

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The director of Baker County's Health Department is optimistic that the county will be ready to start COVID-19 vaccinations for county residents 80 and older the second week of February.

That's consistent with the schedule from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Nancy Staten, the department's director, said on Thursday, Jan. 28, that the department and its two partners that are also administering vaccines,

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City and the Pine Eagle Clinic in Halfway, are focusing this week on teachers and other school employees, child care providers and early learning workers.

She estimates those groups comprise a few hundred county residents, although she didn't have a precise number.

Staten said a vaccination clinic was scheduled for Friday, Jan. 29, at the health department with about 60 people from those groups set to get the first of their two doses, while the

hospital planned to inoculate about 100 people that day.

Staten said the county received permission from state officials on Sunday, Jan. 24, to start offering vaccinations to teachers and others in that group.

The previous day the county sent a letter to OHA affirming that county residents in what the state calls phase 1A — health care workers, first responders and residents of assisted living facilities and other long-term group care centers — had been offered a COVID-19 vaccine.

See **Vaccine** / Page 2A

Lyle Laeger Reminisces About His Real Estate Career In Baker County

Half a century of booms, busts

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

Lyle Laeger is the legacy of Baker City Realty, his career in local real estate spanning nearly half a century.

Laeger, 92, entered the real estate scene in 1961 with Blue Mountain Realty. Three years later he struck out on his own and established Baker City Realty.

At the time, the town was still named Baker.

The city's original name was Baker City, but voters decided in 1911 to remove the "City."

In 1989 voters chose to return to the original two-word name.

Laeger's business, thanks to its name, didn't have to make any changes.

See **Laeger** / Page 5A



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Lyle Laeger started his real estate career in Baker County in 1961 and founded Baker City Realty, which continues to operate to this day, in 1964.

Audit finds issues in 5J budget

School district business manager plans to address the problems

By Chris Collins

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Michelle Glover hopes to strengthen the Baker School District's financial controls before leaving her job as the district's business manager in June.

The Baker School Board accepted Glover's resignation during its Jan. 21 meeting. She has taken a similar job with the La Grande School District.

Glover said she and her husband, Alan Glover, will continue to live in Baker City. Alan will keep his job with the school district's maintenance staff and Michelle will commute to La Grande.

See **Audit** / Page 3A

Police close home after neighbors' complaints

By Chris Collins

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Baker City Police worked with the owners of an eastside property on Wednesday, Jan. 27, to shut down a house that Chief Ray Duman described as "a continually ongoing concern of criminal activity" over the past year.

As part of Wednesday's operation, police removed seven people from the house at 1226 Washington Ave., at the request of the property owners, Lt. Ty Duby stated in a press release.

Three men, who Duby described as transients, were cited and released on various unrelated charges.

See **Police** / Page 3A

Residents discuss street improvement plan

By Samantha O'Conner

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Baker City's effort to make it easier for walkers and bicyclists to travel sections of some of the city's heavily traveled northside streets, while also addressing issues for vehicle traffic, spurred a variety of questions and ideas during a virtual meeting Wednesday evening, Jan. 27.

The Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan focuses

on these street sections:

- 10th Street from Hughes Lane to Broadway Street
- Cedar Street from Hughes Lane to Campbell Street
- Hughes Lane from 10th Street to Cedar Street
- Pocahontas Road from 10th Street to 17th Street/Chico Street

Among those attending the online meeting were Michelle Owen, the city's public works director; Holly

Kerns, director of the Baker City/County Planning Department; Cheryl Jarvis-Smith, project manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation; and three employees from the HDR Inc. consultant firm: project manager Andrew Johnson, technical lead Beth Wemple and strategic communications and webinar producer Liz Stoppelman.

According to a project overview from the city, "This area has seen

an increase in people walking and biking, and the plan will seek to improve facilities, safety and connections for these users. The plan will also address traffic safety and flow and freight mobility."

Specific changes are still in the planning stages for the project, which is scheduled to be finished by the fall of 2021.

See **Streets** / Page 3A



TODAY
Issue 112, 12 pages



Classified 2B-4B
Comics 5B
Community News 3A

Crossword 2B & 4B
Dear Abby 6B
Horoscope 3B & 4B

Jayson Jacoby 4A
News of Record 2A
Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A
Outdoors 1B & 2B
Senior Menus 2A

Sports 6A
Turning Backs 2A
Weather 6B

NEXT WEEK — BAKER CITY MANAGER TALKS ABOUT HIS FIRST MONTH