



GO! Magazine Your guide to arts, entertainment and other events happening around Northeast Oregon

Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

Spring forward

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday:



QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Craig Ward of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Saint Alphonsus Auxiliary offering \$1,500 scholarship

Saint Alphonsus Auxiliary-Baker City is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to graduates of a high school in Baker County, or current county resident who will be at least a sophomore in college in the fall of 2021 and is pursuing a career in health care.

Applications are available at the front desk at the hospital, 3325 Pochontas Road, or by calling Peggy Payton at 541-519-8118 or Marilyn Delfatti at 541-523-4598. Applications are due by April 15, and the winner will be notified by May 15. More information about the Auxiliary is available by calling Payton.

WEATHER

Today 46 / 23 Sunny

Friday 52 / 25 Sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Vintage Snowmobiles To Compete This Weekend At Sumpter

Ready To Race



Jim Smith/Contributed Photo

A vintage snowmobile race in mid-February at the Fairgrounds in Sumpter. A two-day series of vintage races is set for this Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14, in Sumpter.

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Snowmobiles are about as common in Sumpter as ponderosa pine trees, but the speedy machines that gather in the old mining town this weekend won't be there to take scenic tours on the nearby mountain trails.

These sleds are coming to race. A regional championship event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Sumpter Fairgrounds at the southeast corner of the town.

Sumpter, population around 210, is about 28 miles west of Baker City.

Bill Sproul, a member of the Grant County Snowballers snowmobile club who is serving as race director, expects 80 to 90 racing snowmobiles to compete in several classes on the quarter-mile oval race course.

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Jim Smith/Contributed Photo

Vintage snowmobile racers will gather at the Sumpter Fairgrounds this weekend to race on a quarter-mile oval. Most of the competing sleds were built before 1985.

Man gets 15 years for child porn

By Chris Collins ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A former guard at the Powder River Correctional Facility who has spent nearly a year behind bars at the Baker County Jail will spend the next 15 years in prison after pleading guilty

to child pornography charges Tuesday, March 9, in Baker County Circuit Court.

Judge Matt Shirtcliff sided with District Attorney Greg



Cernazanu

Baxter in taking the harsher end of a plea agreement that ranged from five years to 15 years in prison in sentencing David Leon Cernazanu.

As part of the agreement, Cernazanu, 49, pleaded guilty to three counts of second-degree encouraging

child sexual abuse, a Class C felony.

Cernazanu will be given credit for time served and the ability to earn good time toward earlier release while in prison.

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March Is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Identifying the 'silent disease'

■ Baker City surgeon encourages people to consider having a screening

By Lisa Britton For the Baker City Herald

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer for men and women in the United States, yet it is highly preventable.

A colonoscopy, said Dr. Christopher Liby, is a way to detect and remove pre-cancerous polyps.

Liby is a surgeon at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancers include cancer in the colon, rectum, or both.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), some types of polyps can change into cancer over time. If cancer forms in a polyp, it can grow into



Liby

the wall of the colon or rectum. If left undetected, the cancer can spread to lymph nodes or distant organs.

Liby describes colorectal cancer as "a silent disease."

"You don't have any symptoms until it's very advanced," he said.

The ACS recommends a colonoscopy screening for those age 45 and older.

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Risk level rises

■ Change from lowest risk to moderate has minor effects on businesses

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker County's COVID-19 risk level rises by one, from lowest to moderate, on Friday, March 12, but the effects on restaurants and bars, and other businesses and activities, are relatively minor.

The county has been at the lowest of the state's four risk levels since Feb. 12.

But an increase in new virus cases, and a higher percentage of positive tests, during the most recent two-week measuring period moves the county to moderate risk.

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Woman dies after testing positive

A 64-year-old Baker County woman died March 7 after testing positive for COVID-19 on Feb. 18, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) announced on Tuesday, March 9.

The woman's death is the 10th in Baker County related to the pandemic.

She had underlying conditions, according to the OHA.

As with the previous nine deaths, neither state nor county officials named the person, citing health privacy laws.

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Council lobbies state on COVID

By Samantha O'Conner soconner@bakercityherald.com

Baker City councilors voted unanimously Tuesday night to send a letter to Gov. Kate Brown asking the governor to consult with local residents and to consider local effects when setting COVID-19 restrictions. Councilor Jason Spriet drafted the letter after the City Council discussed the issue Feb. 23.

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