



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

Baker City Herald

March 18, 2021

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

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

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Norman Morris of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — The fuzzy future of Oregon politics east of the Cascades went public last week — no diagrams, charts, data — really nothing tangible at all to show how new legislative and congressional districts will be drawn.

BRIEFING

North Powder Rural Fire District plans open house at its new station

NORTH POWDER — The North Powder Rural Fire District will have an open house at its new fire station, 710 East St. North, on Saturday, March 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Burgers and hotdogs will be served.

County scheduling COVID-19 vaccine appointments

Baker County residents 18 and older are encouraged to add their name to the county's COVID-19 vaccine list. Although currently people 65 and older are eligible, the county will offer doses to younger residents if needed to avoid wasting vaccine. To get on the list, call 541-523-0015 or go to the website bakercountycovid19.com.

WEATHER

Today 58 / 39 Partly sunny

Friday 55 / 31 A few showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Merkley has virtual town hall

By Samantha O'Conner soconner@bakercityherald.com

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., had an online town hall for Baker County residents on Tuesday, March 16, and federal COVID-19 aid was a major topic.

Merkley, who was elected in 2008 and reelected to a six-year term in 2014, started the town hall by recognizing Crossroads Carnegie Art Center for committing \$11,000 to help Baker County artists and for working with Baker

City to help distribute money from the 2020 CARES Act to local artists.

"They have been successful in securing grants an increase of 30% from the previous years, so well done," Merkley said.

Ginger Savage, Crossroads executive director, asked Merkley about the status of a federal tax program that makes some donations to arts organizations tax-deductible.



See Merkley / Page 2A Merkley

Federal COVID-19 Aid Bill Will Send More Than \$5 Million To Baker County



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Baker County will get \$3.13 million and Baker City \$2 million from the COVID-19 aid package that Congress passed earlier this month.

COVID Aid Coming

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker County will receive \$3.13 million, and Baker City \$2 million, from the federal COVID-19 aid bill that President Joe Biden signed last week.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., who voted for the legislation, touted the financial aid for local governments during a Zoom interview with the Baker City Herald on Tuesday afternoon, March 16, prior to a virtual town hall with Baker County residents (see related story, above).

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act includes \$350 billion for state, local and tribal governments.

Six other incorporated cities in Baker County will also receive money, ranging from \$10,000 to \$90,000.

Both Baker City and Baker County are getting more money from this bill than they did from the CARES Act,

"We don't want to leave any holes. Our business community has suffered so many losses."

— Mark Bennett, Baker County Commissioner



the first federal COVID-19 aid package that President Donald Trump signed almost a year ago, in late March 2020.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said the county received close to \$2 million from the CARES Act, including about \$1 million to offset county expenses and \$641,000 to support local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Baker City's share include \$292,000 that the city distributed among local nonprofit groups.

Bennett said he also met with Merkley on Tuesday, and the senator

told him that the county and cities will receive two separate payments, one this year and one next.

Bennett said he doesn't have a timeline for the payments.

He also is awaiting guidelines on how counties and cities can use the money.

However, Bennett said his goal will be the same as with CARES Act money — to distribute money to businesses and other local entities that have struggled due to closures and other restrictions.

"Our goal would be to get the money out, and to make it the most efficient that we can," Bennett said. "We don't want to leave any holes. Our business community has suffered so many losses."

See Aid / Page 2A

Recalling a close call on freeway

■ Terry Benge barely avoided a collision with a wrong-way driver

By Jayson Jacoby jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

When Terry Benge saw the silver car speeding straight at him, he scarcely had time to react.

Benge, who was driving a tow truck, swerved to the shoulder of Interstate 84.

Maybe a second later, the car whizzed past.

Benge estimates the distance between the car and his truck was a couple feet.

"It was close enough I could tell he was clean-shaven," Benge said.

A few miles farther along the freeway, the driver of the silver car, Logan Raye Deuel-Clinkenbeard, 28, collided with an Oregon State Police SUV driven by Sr. Trooper Andrew McClay.

Neither was seriously hurt in the crash, which happened about 2:10 p.m. on Friday, March 12 near Milepost 327, near Durkee about 23 miles east of Baker City.

Deuel-Clinkenbeard, whose address was listed as Missoula, Montana, by the Baker County Jail but who also has a Camas, Washington, address, according to court records, was arrested and charged with second-degree attempted assault, reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

See Close Call / Page 2A

Music maker

■ Lindianne Sarno, who recently moved to Baker City, is eager to share her love of music, as well as gardening and cooking

By Lisa Britton For the Baker City Herald

Lindianne Sarno is ready to share her love of music and gardening with Baker City.

Sarno, 68, recently moved to town and is establishing what she calls her Music Garden.

"I've been teaching music since I was 16," she said. "I love music and I love teaching people of all ages."

She moved to Oregon from the East Coast in the 1980s. Since then, she spent 15 years in Tucson, Arizona, followed by 11 years in Alaska.



Richard Bremicker/Contributed Photo

See Music / Page 3A Lindianne Sarno, second from left, playing fiddle, performs at Homer, Alaska.



TODAY Issue 132, 22 pages

Business 1B-3B Classified 4B-6B Comics 7B

Community News 3A Crossword 4B & 6B Dear Abby 8B

Horoscope 4B & 6B Letters 4A Lottery Results 2A

News of Record 2A Opinion 4A Senior Menus 2A

Sports 6A Turning Backs 2A Weather 8B

SATURDAY — HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECEIVE RENOVATION GRANTS