



# Baker City Herald

March 25, 2021

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

**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 Doug Newman of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Quail Ridge Golf Course opening**

Quail Ridge Golf Course in Baker City will open for the season on Friday, March 26. The clubhouse will be open Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The lounge will also be open Friday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

When the weather improves the city-owned 18-hole course will be open every day.

Face masks are required in the clubhouse and wherever social distancing can't be maintained.

Operating details and information about leagues and tournaments are available online at [QuailRidgeBakerCity.com](http://QuailRidgeBakerCity.com) or by calling 541-523-2358.

**Red Cross blood drive March 29**

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive on Monday, March 29, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. More information is available by calling Myrna Evans at 541-523-5368. Donors who have received a COVID-19 vaccine will need to provide the name of the vaccine maker when arriving to donate.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
47 / 28  
Rain or snow showers

**Friday**  
56 / 16  
Mostly sunny

**Full forecast on the back of the B section.**

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

## In-person classes to expand

■ High school, middle school students slated to be in classrooms four days per week starting April 12

**By Chris Collins**  
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Baker School District students in Grades 7-12 will be returning to classes four days a week beginning April 12 if all goes as planned in the next few weeks.

Superintendent Mark Witty announced in a press release Tuesday,

March 23 that planning is underway to return the secondary students to full-time, in-person learning as a result of revisions by the Oregon Department of Education to its Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance plan.

The updated plan allows 3 feet of physical distancing for students in schools under certain conditions,

which include county COVID-19 case rate levels for students in middle school and high school, the press release stated. The new physical distancing rules are based on current research and guidance from the Cen-



Witty

ters for Disease Control and Prevention. The former rules required 6-foot distancing.

The new rules also do not require 35 square feet per person room space as was specified in the former regulations.

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### Gracie Hardy Back In Her Hometown To Work At Heritage Museum



Contributed Photo

Gracie Hardy returned to her hometown of Baker City to work at the Baker Heritage Museum.

## Happy At Home

**By Lisa Britton**  
For the Baker City Herald

Gracie Hardy enjoyed living on the East Coast, and she liked the idea of working in a museum in Virginia.

Then the coronavirus pandemic happened. She is working in a museum — but one back in her hometown of Baker City.

Hardy is museum assistant and public programs coordinator at the Baker Heritage Museum.

She's not a stranger to this museum — she's worked here as a summer intern during college breaks.

"When I interned here, I realized this place is really cool," she said.

Hardy graduated from Baker High School in 2015, and that fall she traveled across the country to study at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She said she had wanted to move to the East Coast ever since she took a trip to Washington, D.C., organized by Bill Mitchell, her social studies teacher at Baker Middle School.

"It was that trip, that opportunity to go to the Smithsonian," she said. "I came home and told my mom I want to live in D.C. I just never let it go."

See **Hardy** / Page 3A

## Council OKs COVID-19 resolution

■ Resolution blames governor's pandemic mandates for creating an 'economic, mental health and criminal activity crisis'

**By Samantha O'Conner**  
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The Baker City Council has approved a resolution blaming Gov. Kate Brown's COVID-19 mandates for creating an "economic, mental health, and criminal activity crisis" in the city.

Councilors approved Resolution 3881 by a 5-2 vote on Tuesday evening, March 23.

Mayor Kerry McQuisten and Councilors Joanna Dixon, Lynette Perry, Johnny Waggoner Sr. and Shane Alderson voted in favor of the resolution, which concludes by stating that "the citizenry of Baker City are free, sovereign individuals within a Constitutional, Representative Republic, not subjects or slaves, and will be recognized as such as we firmly stand to represent them."

Councilors Jason Spriet and Heather Sells voted no.

See **Council** / Page 5A

## Duby to take over as police chief on July 1

**By Chris Collins**  
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The man who has served as second in command under Baker City Police Chief Ray Duman for the past year and a half has been chosen to replace him.

Ty Duby, 51, who like Duman is a retired Oregon State Police officer, will replace Duman when he leaves the post on July 1. City Manager Jon Cannon announced the hiring during the City Council meeting Tuesday, March 23.



Duby

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STATISTICS SHOW MORE RESIDENTS VACCINATED, FOR SOME AGE GROUPS, THAN ARE LIVING IN THE COUNTY

## County's COVID vaccine numbers likely inflated

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
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Baker County is doing well, compared with Oregon's 35 other counties, in vaccinating its residents against COVID-19.

But probably not as well as the state's official records show.

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), as of Wednesday, March 24, a total of 8,408 Baker County residents — 50% of the total population of 16,800 — had been either partially or fully vaccinated.

That's well above the percentage for any other county.

Union County, for instance, has partially or fully vaccinated about 21% of its residents, according to the OHA, while Malheur County is at 17% and Umatilla County at 15.8%.

Baker County's vaccination rate per 10,000 residents is 4,999, by far the highest rate of any county.

Until this week, Baker County had ranked second behind Wheeler County, the least populous county with about 1,440 residents. Wheeler County's vaccination rate, as of Wednesday, was 3,595 per 10,000.

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**TODAY**  
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**SATURDAY — LIBRARY HAS AIR PURIFIERS, EXTENDS BROWSING TIME**