

Baker City Herald

November 13, 2021

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In **OUTDOORS**, B1
Fall grass is green gold for deer

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Marge Murphy of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Baker County Seniors to meet Tuesday, Nov. 16

Baker County Seniors Inc. will have its annual meeting Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St. Everyone is invited. More information is available by calling 541-523-6591.

Mary Jo Carpenter, president of Baker County Seniors Inc., said the organization was formed in 1977 and has worked with Community Connection of Baker County to sustain programs for seniors citizens. Baker County Seniors Inc. owns the Senior Center at 2810 Cedar St., which is operated by Community Connection through an agreement.

Pet food collection drive underway

Bisnett Insurance is hosting a pet supply drive to benefit Best Friends of Baker through Dec. 17. Donations of kitten and cat food (wet or dry), dog food, and cat litter can be brought to Bisnett at 2001 Main St. (corner of Main Street and Washington Avenue).

WEATHER

Today

56 / 39
Partly sunny



Sunday

56 / 37
Mostly cloudy



Monday

58 / 30
Mostly cloudy



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



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

COLE HAUTER OF BAKER CITY TO COMPETE IN BAJA 1000 RACE, FULFILLING HIS LIFELONG DREAM

By JAYSON JACOBY

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VIRTUE FLAT — Cole Hauter twists the throttle and his motorcycle suddenly races up a rock-strewn slope that looks like a fine place to fall down.

The rear knobby tire flings a stream of dirt more than 20 feet in his wake, the sort of brown fountain a grenade explosion might spawn.

In a few seconds Hauter has disappeared, the only evidence of his presence the banshee-like rasp of the Yamaha YZ450FX's 450 cc single-cylinder engine echoing through the sagebrush gullies.

His progress through the contorted terrain at this off-highway vehicle riding area east of Baker City is so rapid that it confuses the eye.

See, *Baja* / Page A3

Tribute to veterans



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Duncan Pierce speaks during the Veterans Day ceremony Thursday morning, Nov. 11 outside the Baker County Courthouse in Baker City.

By JAYSON JACOBY

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As a chilly drizzle dripped from the flags and the war memorial outside the Baker County Courthouse, Duncan Pierce talked about another November morning, this one 103 years in the past.

It was the day, Pierce said, when "the guns fell silent and the bells tolled to mark the end of World War I."

That milestone of Nov. 11, 1918, prompted the creation of the commemorative day known first as Armistice Day and now as Veterans Day.

About 60 people gathered in the damp on Thursday morning for a ceremony that started at the traditional hour of 11 a.m.

See, *Veterans* / Page A6

Commissioners discuss Greater Idaho concept

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Baker County Commissioners on Wednesday, Nov. 10 had their second discussion of the year regarding the effort to add most of Eastern Oregon, including Baker County, to Idaho.

Commissioners met with Mike McCarter, president of Move Oregon's Border and leader of the Greater Idaho movement.

McCarter told commissioners that the proposal is not about counties seceding from Oregon but "to start

looking into the process of how it would work with their particular counties if they were to become part of the state of Idaho."

"Our concern has been that most of Oregon's leadership and it seems the legislature is dealing with issues out of Northwest Oregon and the urban side of our state and the lack of input from our state representatives and state senators or the fact that they're just not listening to us," McCarter, 74, said. He said he has lived

in Oregon his entire life except his service during the Vietnam War.

"This movement is a movement to try to maintain our traditional values of faith, family, freedom, independence, and self-sufficiency," McCarter told commissioners. "And not be over governed or lorded over by the government."

He described Move Oregon's Border as a grassroots movement of rural Oregonians, with no corporate support. In the May 2021 elec-

tion, Baker County voters, with about 56.5% in favor, approved a measure that requires commissioners to meet at least three times per year to discuss the Greater Idaho proposal. Commissioners had their first such discussion on July 14.

The measure doesn't require the commissioners to take any action.

McCarter noted that last week Harney County voters passed a similar measure, with 63% support.

See, *Border* / Page A6

Resident: Mayor shouldn't vote on vacancy

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR and JAYSON JACOBY

Baker City Herald

A Baker City resident has asked the City Council to publicly discuss whether Mayor Kerry McQuisten should recuse himself from voting on motions to fill the one vacancy on the City Council because one of the candidates contributed financially to McQuisten's gubernatorial campaign.



McQuisten

Susan Bland addressed councilors during their meeting Tuesday, Nov. 9, noting that twice the Council, with six members since Lynette Perry resigned in August due to health reasons, has deadlocked on 3-3 votes.

There are two candidates for the position — Thomas Hughes, and former councilor Randy Daugherty.

Although Bland didn't mention Hughes by name, he, unlike Daugherty, has contributed to McQuisten's campaign, according to Oregon campaign finance reports.

"There was one piece of information that was not discussed openly," Bland said. "One of these candidates has donated to the mayor's campaign for governor, the candidate she voted for twice, resulting in deadlock twice."

McQuisten voted for Hughes during the Council's Sept. 14 meeting. The vote deadlocked when Hughes and Randy Daugherty each received three votes.

During the Council's Sept. 28 meeting, Councilor Shane Alderson's motion to appoint Daugherty also failed by a 3-3 vote.

McQuisten voted against the motion to appoint Daugherty.

Bland told councilors she was not suggesting that anyone had "done anything illegal." But she contends that having a council candidate who has donated to the mayor's campaign looks like "pay to play."

Bland's husband, Jason Bland, a member of the city's budget committee, last month accused McQuisten of defaming him.

Jason Bland, who has multiple sclerosis and sometimes slurs his words, cited McQuisten telling City Manager Jon Cannon that she had voice mails from Bland, and that she suspected he might have been intoxicated when he left them due to the slurred speech.

See, *Mayor* / Page A5

Blood donors meet the challenge

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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The American Red Cross challenged Baker County residents, and they responded.

A two-day blood drive at the Church of the Nazarene on Monday, Nov. 8 and Tuesday, Nov. 9 brought in about 130 units of blood (a unit is about one pint), said Myrna Evans, the local blood drive coordinator.

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TUESDAY — BAKER MAN TALKS ABOUT 'MIRACLE' RECOVERY FROM COVID