Continued from A1

The notice, placed on a barricade, states that "personal property must be removed from this location prior to 11-22-2021. The City of Baker City may remove all personal property remaining within 1,500 feet of this Notice between 11-22-2021 and 11-23-2021."

The notice also lists the police department's phone number, stating that people can call the department, within 30 days, to retrieve any items removed.

On Wednesday afternoon, some of the items had been moved from where they were the previous day, although remaining on either the sidewalk or the street. The shopping carts had been moved 100 feet or so the north, and were parked on the street beside the curb near the intersection of Fifth and Madison streets. The sidewalk was mainly clear. A mattress was propped against the security fence that Holman installed between the sidewalk and his property.

Duby said that if he talks with Moudy-Koos again, he will offer her a tent and sleeping bag.

"We're being accommodating if she chooses to be homeless," Duby

But he said he doesn't believe that the shopping carts crammed with items "have anything to do with Chapanar said. staying dry and warm."

Another city's response

Duby said he doesn't know specifically when he'll propose an ordinance to the City Council.

But he said it will likely be modeled after an ordinance that the Coos ing those hours.

"The way I look at it, you have the right to sleep (on public property), but that doesn't mean you can collect all this stuff and have it strewn about on public property and sidewalks. It's not fair to the neighbors, and it's not fair to the city."

Bay City Council, on the southern

Oregon Coast, adopted in August.

The Baker City Council has

city's potential options, Mayor Kerry

"Failed legislation from Salem

has put several laws on the books

regarding homelessness and drug

use that are actually creating this

problem for our city and every city

across the state," McQuisten wrote

camping on some public property,

but only between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The ordinance bans camping in city

parks and on public property in

small-lot residential areas.

high-density, medium-density and

reported in August that Coos Bay

Police Chief Chris Chapanar told

city councilors that the ordinance

was a balance between the court

ruling that allows the homeless to

the time, manner and place that

"One of the biggest facts to

consider is without an ordinance,

municipalities will have no way to

lawfully regulate such activities,"

took effect in September, allows

people to use tents, tarps, sleeping

bags and other temporary shelters

from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. The ordinance

parked on most public property dur-

also allows people to sleep in cars

The Coos Bay ordinance, which

camping is allowed.

camp and the city's right to manage

The Coos Bay World newspaper

The Coos Bay ordinance allows

in a message to the Herald.

discussed the situation and the

McQuisten said.

Ty Duby, Baker City Police chief

But the ordinance prohibits people from storing camping equipment, including tents, tarps and sleeping bags, on public property

from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Coos Bay World reported that Coos Bay City Manager Rodger Craddock, responding to residents upset that the city was allowing homeless to camp on public property, said: "It's not that we're allowing it. It's already allowed under state law. We don't have a choice. This gives us a tool to regulate it."

A growing problem

Duby said the city's homeless population seems to have increased over the past few years, based on his own observations and from what he's heard from other police officers and from the public.

This summer the police department received multiple complaints from residents about people camping beneath the bridges along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway, Duby said.

City workers installed barriers to prevent people from setting up camps beneath some bridges, he said.

Duby said a couple tents have also been pitched near the Powder River south of Wade Williams Park.

Holman, who is renovating the former Baker House, said that when he talked with Moudy-Koos, telling her that her possessions were on private property, she was "very emotional."

"It's a traumatic thing for her, and it's unfortunate," Holman said. "I hope she can find shelter."

However, he said he was "pretty perturbed" earlier this month when he saw that someone had put items in the dumpster he pays for on his property.

Not long after, when the items were moved to the sidewalk, including tarps placed over the top of the security fencing he installed next to the sidewalk, Holman said he decided to send an email to city councilors, City Manager Jon Cannon, Baker County commissioners and Duby.

Holman wrote in his email that he has removed more than 150,000 pounds of cement board, wood, tile and other materials from the building.

"My question to all of you is what can the County/City/State social service agencies do to get this woman as well as the other homeless I am seeing off the streets of Baker City to preserve their lives and also send the appropriate response that we are not going to allow Baker County to become a mini-Portland," Holman wrote. "I moved from Portland just a year ago and the crime and lawless camping all over the city has caused livability in the city to plummet."

In a phone interview Tuesday morning, Nov. 16, Holman said he was talked with Duby about the situation and has responses from other local officials.

"I was encouraged by all of that," Holman said.

He said he's more concerned about dealing with the homeless situation citywide than about the conditions near his building on Fifth Street.

"There really needs to be a lot of thought and attention to this issue so it doesn't get out of control," Holman said.

– Local Briefing -

Baker City has openings on several boards, commissions

Baker City is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on the following boards and commissions:

- Public Arts
- Public Works Advisory
- Tree Board

Planning Commission

To apply, go to www.bakercity.com/ FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/ Volunteer-Form-33, complete the form and click on "submit."

The city is also eligible for a free website redesign, and it has set up an online survey to get comments from residents about the website. To complete the survey, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/6KQ7PBB.

Baker City Council seeks volunteers for council vacancy

The Baker City Council is looking for volunteers to fill one vacancy on the sevenmember Council.

The Council has been down to six members since Lynette Perry resigned in August due to health issues. The person appointed to replace Perry will serve the remainder of her term, which ends Dec. 31, 2022. The person would also be eligible to run for election in November 2022.

To qualify to serve as a councilor, you must be at least 18 years old, have lived within the city limits for at least one year, and be a registered voter.

Volunteers should submit a letter of interest, fill out the form at https://www. bakercity.com/documentcenter/view/1948, and include a list of references. The documents should be emailed to cityrecorder@ bakercity.gov, mailed to Baker City, P.O. Box 650, Baker City, OR 97814, or dropped off at the city manager's office, Room 207 in City Hall, 1655 First St.

More information is available by calling the city recorder at 541-524-2033.

PHARMACIES

Continued from A1

The agency's other program more directly addresses the staffing shortages that have plagued pharmacies, as the state will pay temporary pharmacists to bolster workforces.

However, Owens said the temporary staffing program is available only to independent pharmacies. Corporate-owned pharmacies, including the three in Baker City — at the Safeway, Albertsons and Rite Aid stores — are not eligible for the program, Owens said.

The larger chain pharmacies are eligible for the vaccine payments, however.

Owens said OHA doesn't have data yet on how many pharmacies have applied for the supplemental payments.

He said the pharmacy staffing shortages have been exacerbated by the closure of more than 35 Bi-Mart pharmacies, including the one in Baker City, earlier this month.

(The Bi-Mart stores themselves remain open.)

The bigger culprit in the pharmacy crisis is the limited reimbursements that pharmacies receive from what are known as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), said Brian Mayo, executive director of the Oregon State Pharmacy Association.

If those reimbursements were "fair," pharmacies would be able to hire more employees and lines would be shorter, Mayo said.

Baker City customers have recently had to wait two or three hours, in some cases, to pick up their prescriptions.

Those delays are not acceptable, Mayo said.

"Many community pharmacies across Oregon are 5 to 14 days behind filling prescriptions because they can't keep up with the demand," he said. "When somebody needs a medication they can't wait two weeks. Patient safety is a huge issue at this point."

Mayo said the Oregon

State Pharmacy Association has been warning for years that low reimbursements to pharmacies by PBMs are a problem.

"The harms we have warned of have now come true," he said.

The Pharmacy Association is urging elected officials to take immediate action on reforming the PBM system.

The organization also is asking Oregon to exempt prescription drugs from the state's Corporate Activities Tax, which the Legislature approved in 2019 and which took effect Jan. 1, 2020.

The Pharmacy Association has some high-level backing in its effort to reform the PBM system.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., recently sent a letter to Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a federal agency, citing both PBM reimbursements and the fees charged by PBMs and by Medicare Part D prescription plans as contributing to pharmacy closures.

"I am deeply concerned that the rise of these fees has contributed to the permanent closure of 2,200 pharmacies nationwide between December 2017 and December 2020," Wyden wrote in his letter to Brooks-LaSure.

Wyden is calling on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to review pharmacy closures in the U.S. over the past five years, including the nature and effect of PBM payment practices, and to use the agency's au-

thority to regulate their fees. Mayo said the current situation, with lines of customers snaking through some stores, is frustrating for pharmacy employees.

"The pharmacists, technicians and interns are working as fast as they can," Mayo said. "In many cases, they are being forced to continue working without required breaks and voluntarily working longer unrecorded hours so they can provide care to their customers. They want to help the patients. That's why they chose this profession, but it feels like things are getting out of control.

"We must improve working conditions in pharmacies for the sake of patient safety and pharmacy staff member well-

being," Mayo said. He said Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's mandate that health care workers, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, be vaccinated or receive a medical or religious exception, has had a "minimal" effect on the current staffing shortages.

He said most pharmacy employees are vaccinated.

According to the OHA, as of Nov. 1,88% of Oregon pharmacists were vaccinated, and 83% of pharmacy technicians.

The OHA report does not break down the vaccination rate by county, nor does it list how many pharmacy employees have received exceptions.

The vaccination rate for all licensed health care workers in Baker County - including doctors, dentists, nurses and others — was 72% as of Nov. 1. That's the 11th-lowest rate among Oregon's 36 counties. Statewide, 83% of health care

HARRELL

Continued from A1

Harrell said he was "very surprised" to learn of the honor.

"It's very humbling," he

Harrell said he considers the honor a recognition of all the work that his parents and other family members, along with their employees, have done over the decades.

"It's more of a ranch award, the way I look at it, rather than an individual award," Harrell said. "There was a lot of people who worked awful hard over the years.

"We congratulate these four men for the impact they have made on the Hereford breed," Jack Ward, AHA chief executive officer, said in a press release. "Their dedication to the breed is inspiring, and I am honored to induct them into the Hereford Hall of Fame."

Harrell's ancestors traveled the Oregon Trail in a covered wagon in 1870.

His parents, Edna and Bob Harrell, started the Harrell Hereford Ranch along Salmon Creek, northwest of Baker City, in 1970. The family's 80-acre home ranch has expanded to include several ranches and a herd of 400 registered Hereford cows, 400 black baldy commercial cows, a 1,000-head feedlot and 25 quarter horse broodmares.



American Hereford Association/Contributed Photo

Bob Harrell of Baker City, center, was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame on Oct. 23 at the 2021 AHA annual meeting and conference in Kansas City, Missouri. At left is AHA Director Whitey Hunt, and at right Mark St. Pierre, 2021 AHA president.

The Harrells' cattle run on 8,000 acres of native range.

Edna Harrell continues to help at the ranch along with Bob, his wife, Becky, and their daughter, Lexie.

Bob Harrell Jr. graduated from Baker High School in 1979, attended Oregon State University for two years then transferred to Kansas State University where he competed on the livestock judging team and earned a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Harrell served on the board of directors for the American Hereford Association from 2006 to 2010. He also served as chairman of the organization's marketing committee.

In 2009 the Harrell Hereford Ranch was honored as the Beef Improvement Federation's Seedstock Producer of the Year.

The Harrells' annual production sale, the first Monday in March, brings ranchers from across the country to bid on registered Hereford bulls, heifers and two-year-old quarter horses.

Rachel Pregnancy Center

2192 Court Avenue, Baker City • 541-523-5357

Services Provided:

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Prenatal, Infant Care & Parenting Classes Maternity & Baby Clothing

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