

# Baker City Herald

November 20, 2021

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Jozie Ramos (top), GOL player of the year

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Coke Ramos of Hereford.

BRIEFING

### CASA gingerbread house contest returns this year

CASA of Eastern Oregon is again inviting local youth to decorate a gingerbread house and enter it to win prizes. To participate, decorate a gingerbread house (homemade or store-bought) and submit it to 1780 Main St. (former location of The Little Bagel Shop) on Friday, Dec. 3, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The base needs to be 12 inches by 15 inches or smaller. The house and decorations must be edible. Please include the child's name and age on the base. Winners will be displayed after 4 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Entries can be picked up on Dec. 10 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Any not claimed will be thrown away.

Each entry will receive a prize, and special prizes will be awarded in these age groups: 2-4; 5-7; 8-10; 12-15; and 15-18.

For information, or to get an entry form, call Sue Richard at 541-519-7227.

WEATHER

Today

44 / 20  
Sunny



Sunday

42 / 23  
Mostly sunny



Monday

46 / 26  
Mostly sunny



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

## Shopping Benefits Pets



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Mary Boyer, Carmen Ott, and Jane Barrett — all three volunteers with Best Friends of Baker Inc. — unload donations of pet food at the shop that benefits the animal rescue organization.

### Best Friends of Baker's Rescued Treasures shop in Baker City raises money for animal rescue work

By LISA BRITTON

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It's a flurry of activity this morning at the Best Friends shop in Baker City.

Outside, local youth help unload bag after bag of pet food.

Inside, workers organize and price donated items as customers browse the inventory.

This shop, called Rescued Treasures, supports the mission of Best Friends of Baker Inc., a nonprofit organization focused on the welfare of animals, including medical needs, foster care, and placement.

The store is open Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located at

2950 Church St., just west of 10th Street near the old Sumpster Valley Railroad depot.

The shop occupies the front half of the space with a variety of donated items including books, clothes (including a wedding dress), shoes, stuffed animals, artwork, dishes and seasonal decor (the Christmas decorations are coming out of storage).

They also have musical instruments.

"We'd really like to sell that piano," said Mary

Boyer, who helps run the store.

They accept donations during store hours or donors can call or text 541-519-7387.

"We take stuff in good condition and clean, or new," Boyer said. "We also like decent furniture — we're low on that right now."

They could also use some extra hands.

"It would be wonderful to have volunteers," said Karen Skeen, who also helps run the shop.

Funds raised by sales from the store go first to pay the rent. The rest supports the mission of helping animals.

"Anything not for the rent goes to pet food and the animals," Boyer said.

In addition to store donations, Best Friends also accepts bottles and cans during store hours.

#### The animals

At the rear of the shop is a reminder of why the store exists — to help animals.

Jane Barrett, a volunteer with Best Friends, leans in close to a kennel and talks to a kitten curled against the door.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Thanks to a donation from the Idaho Humane Society, Best Friends of Baker Inc. has a supply of pet food for animal foster families, those feeding feral cats, and pet owners with limited income.

See, **Rescue**/Page A3

## COVID surge continues

By JAYSON JACOBY

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After a comparatively tranquil month in Baker County, COVID-19 cases have risen rapidly this week.

For the four-day period, Monday, Nov. 15 through Thursday, Nov. 18, the county reported 41 new cases.

That's more than in any of the three previous full weeks — 24 from Nov. 7-13; 20 from Oct. 31-Nov. 6; and 24 from Oct. 24-30.

With Friday and Saturday cases yet to tally, this week could have the highest total since Sept. 26-Oct. 2, when there were 69 cases.

"We are seeing an increase in cases, and that means COVID is not out of our community," Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, said on Thursday morning, Nov. 18.

Staten said it's possible that there are more people in the county who have contracted the virus but have not been tested and thus aren't counted as cases.

Staten said the department's case investigators and contact tracers have not connected recent cases in the county to a specific large-scale event.

Rather, she said some of the recent cases have been linked to parties or other small household gatherings, where the risk of one infected person spreading the virus is much higher than, for instance, at a grocery store or other business.

There have also been instances of multiple members of the same household testing positive, Staten said.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported Baker County's 31st COVID-19-related death this week.

A 70-year-old man, who tested positive on Nov. 9, died on Nov. 15 at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise. The presence of underlying medical conditions is being confirmed, according to OHA.



Staten

See, **COVID**/Page A3

## Town's tree takes a trip

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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The shifting of the seasons has been marked by chilly mornings, falling leaves and frost-covered lawns, and now another sign of the holidays is in place.

Baker City's community Christmas tree was felled on Friday morning, Nov. 19, and trucked to its traditional spot in the Court Street Park, in the historic downtown district between Main and Resort streets.

Chuck Carey performed his usual role with a chain saw to bring down the estimated 45-foot-tall spruce that grew on Jeremiah Allies' property at Third and Campbell streets.

Crews from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative were on hand, and Superior Towing, Eastern Oregon Rental, and the city's police and public works department helped with the operation. The tree was loaded onto a truck for its short trip downtown in less than an hour.



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Baker City's community Christmas tree was loaded on a trailer for its short trip to the Court Street Park downtown on Friday morning, Nov. 19.

See, **Tree**/Page A3

### Herald to publish expanded issue Nov. 23; e-edition only on Thanksgiving

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Baker City Herald will not publish a print edition on Thursday, Nov. 25.

Because the Herald is delivered by mail, an issue published on Thanksgiving couldn't be distributed that day.

"It's a chance to give our employees an opportunity to spend an uninterrupted holiday with their families," said Andrew Cutler, regional editor for the EO Media Group, which owns the Herald.

The Herald will publish an expanded edition, including additional comics and puzzle features as well as the weekly GO! magazine, on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

An e-edition only paper will be published on Thanksgiving and will be available to paid subscribers through the Herald's website, www.bakercityherald.com.

To make sure you are subscribed to the e-edition, follow these steps:

- Go to www.bakercityherald.com/users/forgot, enter your email address and click I'm not a robot, then Reset Password.

- An email will be sent to you with a link — click on the link.

- A website will pop up to enter your new password.

- You're all set.

For questions or problems, call our customer service line at 800-781-3214.



TODAY  
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