Baker City Heral Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com November 23, 2021

In SPORTS, A7 Badgers on to the state final

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Jerry Dowdy of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Free Thanksgiving dinner planned

Everyone is invited to have a freeThanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 25 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Calvary Baptist Church, Third and Broadway streets.

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.

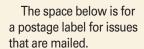
WEATHER

Today

43 / 20 Rain or snow



41 / 25 Mostly cloudy





At Sunn Juice + Decor, owner Kristen Anderson has stocked products — linens, towels, soaps and more - that are eco-friendly, fair trade, and created by small businesses.

■ Kristen Anderson's new business combines a juice bar with home decor and more

By LISA BRITTON lbritton@bakercityherald.com

Kristen Anderson is combining some of her most favorite things at her new Baker City shop, Sunn Juice + Decor.

(Sunn is a Norwegian word meaning "healthy, wholesome and sound." It is pronounced "soon.") She began work on her

store in June 2021, and opened Oct. 20. The business is at 1917 Main St. in downtown Baker City.

Anderson brings a culinary background to her newest endeavor. She attended culinary school, has catered for 15 years,

and taught culinary arts at Baker Technical Institute for the past four years.

Opening a place like Sunn, she said, has been an idea for a while.

"It's always been a dream of mine," she said. Her interest in opening

a juice bar comes from the year she lived in Miami. "There were juice bars on

every corner," Anderson said. Her store is divided into two distinct sections.

On the south side is a long counter and menu for various juices, smoothies, bowls and shots (as in, wheatgrass shots and ginger/turmeric shots).

She said her offerings are chosen for traits such as high antioxidants, super foods, and anti-inflammatory properties.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Kristen Anderson opened Sunn Juice + Decor in October. Her shop is a combination of offerings - one half is where she prepares food items such as smoothies and juice shots, and the other side features products for "bath, body, bed and home." See, Sunn/Page A3 Sunn is located at 1917 Main St. in Baker City.

Police struggle to fill openings

Duby

By ALEX WITTWER

EO Media Group

Add law enforcement officers to the growing list of professions feeling the brunt of a labor shortage and facing hiring woes.

Police departments in Baker City, Pendleton and La Grande have had little luck finding applicants for their open positions recently, and the police chiefs are flummoxed about the reasons why.

"We've had zero applicants," said Ty Duby, Baker City Police chief.

Duby, who worked for 25 years for Oregon State Police before joining the

Baker City Police in 2019, recalls a time when positions brought in hundreds of applications for a single opening, giving police departments a wide variety of potential applicants to choose from. Those numbers have dwindled over the past year — and Duby personally has had

to actively pursue an ap-

plicant and ask the person La Grande Police Chief to apply for the job.

The Baker City Police Department is not alone in the struggle to find qualified

> applicants. "I've been with the City of La Grande for 28 years, and 20 to

25 years ago we would see 150 applications for one opening for a police officer position — and that has been trending in what I feel is a negative direction for a long time," said

Gary Bell.

Bell's department is having only slightly better luck hiring, with nearly 15 qualified applicants vying for two positions open at the La Grande Police Department, but those application numbers are still a far cry from their previous numbers. To make matters more difficult, the number of law enforcement officers retiring or resigning has increased, Bell said.

See, Police/Page A3

County gives 245 vaccine doses

By JAYSON JACOBY ijacoby@bakercityherald.com

The Baker County Health Department administered 245 doses of COVID-19 vaccine during a drive-thru clinic Friday, Nov. 19, the highest one-day total in the county in more than seven months.

The clinic ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on East Street near the Baker County Event Center.

The most recent day when more COVID-19 vaccine doses were given in the county was April 9, the last of several large-scale clinics at Baker High School. On that day, 631 doses were given overall in Baker County, most of those at the BHS clinic.

See, Vaccine/Page A3

Driver cited for going 142 mph on freeway

Baker City Herald

A Boise man was arrested and charged with reckless driving on Interstate 84 near Baker City Thursday evening, Nov. 18, after an Oregon State Police trooper's radar clocked the man's car at 142 mph.

Justin Martin Brunner, 24, was cited and released, according to an OSP report.

Trooper Justus Gray wrote that he was driving westbound about 6:41 p.m. on the freeway near Milepost 312, about eight miles southeast of Baker City, when he "observed headlights rapidly approaching in my mirrors.

"My rear radar checked the vehicle's speed at 142 mph in the posted 70 mph zone," Gray wrote. "The vehicle then made an unsignaled lane change and passed me on the right without slowing down."

Gray stopped the vehicle, a 2013 Toyota (Scion) FR-S coupe. Gray cited Brunner for speeding and failing to carry proof of insurance as well as reckless driving.

School superintendent search begins

By JAYSON JACOBY

ijacoby@bakercityherald.com The Baker School Board

hopes to hire a new superintendent in March 2022.

The board discussed a timeline for its superintendent search during its meeting Thursday evening, Nov. 18.

Mark Witty, who has been superintendent since July 1, 2015, retired through the Oregon Public Employees Retirement system on July 1 of this year but agreed to continue working.

This arrangement — continuing to work for a public

agency after retiring — is possible for members of the Oregon Public Employees

> Retirement System (PERS). They can begin to receive their pension benefits while still receiving a salary from a public employer.

In announcing his decision in June 2021, Witty said he was willing to work up to two more years

as superintendent. Under the schedule the board approved Thursday, the school district will solicit comments from the public, through an online survey running through Nov. 30, about what residents consider the most important

qualifications for the new superintendent.

The survey is available at https://www.surveymonkey. com/r/BakerSD2021.

The district plans to start advertising the job Dec. 14, with a closing date of Jan. 28,

The schedule also includes: • Feb. 9-10, 2022 — interviews with candidates.

The interview teams would include school board and budget committee members, representatives from the district's administrative, certified (teaching) and classified (nonteaching) staff, as well as student leadership.

See, Chief / 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.

An e-edition only paper will be published on Thanksgiving and will be available to paid subscrib-

ers 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

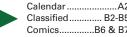
the link. A website will pop up to enter your new

password. You're all set. For questions or prob-

lems, call our customer service line at 800-781-3214.







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Opinion......