



Baker City Herald

November 27, 2021

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In **OUTDOORS, B1**
The hunt begins

IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Russ Canham of Baker City.

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

48 / 33
Partly sunny



Sunday

51 / 30
Partly sunny



Monday

47 / 29
Rain showers



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

At Keating, KIDS ARE THE COOKS



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Students at Keating Elementary School helped prepare a Thanksgiving meal on Monday, Nov. 22.

Students at the K-6 school prepared their Thanksgiving feast

By LISA BRITTON

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KEATING — Making fresh butter takes some work. Just ask Clara Jonas. “We had to shake it really long,” she says.

Clara barely finishes her sentence before Ava Mason chimes in. “A long, long, long time,” she says.

Clara takes up the story again. “I kept switching hands — I got so tired.”

Clara and Ava are first graders at Keating Elementary School, in the Keating Valley about 15 miles northeast of Baker City.

On Monday, Nov. 22, they and their schoolmates made a Thanksgiving feast from scratch.

Keating School, with students from preschool to grade 6, has an enrollment of 25 this year.

Not too long ago, this week of Thanksgiving would see the school full of children and adults for the annual holiday meal prepared by the PTO for the students and local residents.

But COVID restrictions affected the community event in 2020, and this year as well.

See, **Keating** / Page A3



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Paisley Churchfield, left, waits patiently as Asher Blair adds gravy to her plate. All students at Keating Elementary helped make the meal, and the sixth graders served it to their schoolmates.

Insurance issue cancels gun show

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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The annual Gun and Knife Show in Baker City, a Thanksgiving weekend staple for many years, has been canceled this year — and it wasn't due to the pandemic.

Ray Illingsworth, who puts on the event, said the culprit this year is a liability insurance issue.

The 2020 show was canceled due to COVID-19.

“My insurance company that I've used in the past informed me Monday afternoon last week that they were going to require all vendors to have personal liability insurance,” Illingsworth said.

He said there are no gun shows that require that, and he doesn't know of anybody in the industry that does.

“We scrambled trying to find somebody else to issue insurance and just could not get it done in the time that we needed to have it done by,” Illingsworth said.

After searching for two days for other insurance, he said he had to pull the plug for this year's show, with sadness.

“The community was looking forward to it. Not just the local Baker City, but I've been getting calls out of the Pendleton, Wallowa, John Day, all of those areas,” he said. “It was going to be basically well supported by Northeast Oregon because they haven't had that opportunity here in two years. It's a sad day for our area.”

Illingsworth said he plans to look into the insurance issue.

“We're going to fight back and see if we can't get back next year,” he said.

Burglary suspect faces more charges

By JAYSON JACOBY

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A Baker City man arrested earlier in November and accused of stealing items from outside Baker City homes and from unlocked vehicles has been indicted on two new charges, including felony identify theft.

A Baker County grand jury indicted Brendon Michael Smith, 27, for identity theft and second-degree theft, a Class A misdemeanor, on Nov. 18.

See, **Charges** / Page A3

Turkey Trot draws a crowd

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Seasonably chilly temperatures just above freezing didn't dissuade more than 300 people from gathering in downtown Baker City on Thanksgiving morning to raise money and food to help local residents.

And run or walk 3.1 miles before they sat down to their own holiday feasts.

The 14th-annual Turkey Trot raised more than \$5,000 and 1,600 pounds of food for the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center.

“There were at least 300 people that registered,” said Brian Vegter, who with his

wife, Corrine, organizes the annual fundraiser. “It was fun to have it back in person again.”

Last year, due to the pandemic, competitors completed the course on their own schedule.

On the women's side, winners were Kirsten Holden, Hailey Keller and Isabelle Gee.

Due to a clock problem, the runners' times weren't available.

In the men's category, Justin Ash crossed the finish line first in a time of 17:25. He was followed by Quentin Jensen and Thaddeus Pepera.



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Walkers and runners gathered on Main Street in downtown Baker City on Thursday morning, Nov. 25 for the annual Turkey Trot fundraiser for the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center.

Contractor charged with felony theft

By JAYSON JACOBY

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A Baker County grand jury has indicted a Hermiston building contractor on felony theft charges for failing to do work for a Baker City couple after they paid him \$150,000 this spring as the first installment on the construction of their home.

James A. Cavan, 41, is charged with aggravated first-degree theft, a Class B felony.

The grand jury issued the indictment on Nov. 18.

Jeff and Angie Skillicorn hired Cavan to build a home and shop on their property in Baker Valley, Baker County District Attorney Greg Baxter said.

See, **Theft** / Page A3



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TUESDAY — BAKER'S CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FEATURES LONG LIST OF EVENTS