

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 3 p.m. work session at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Commissioners will receive an update from Mark Browning, president of Blue Mountain Community College. A Zoom link is available at www.bakercounty.org/online/meetings.html.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald November 29, 1971

The Huntington Locomotives captured their fourth straight Class A title 42-32 over Detroit in a see-sawing mud bath Saturday as the Locos moved into a second place tie for the longest winning string in the history of American prep football.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 29, 1996

Two groups from Baker County's sister community, the Zeya District in Southeastern Russia, will arrive in Baker City in the next eight days.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 28, 2011

After a rare season-opener on Thanksgiving weekend, Anthony Lakes Ski Area will be open Saturdays and Sundays only through Dec. 17.

Starting Dec. 17, the resort will be open daily (except Christmas Day) through New Year's Day. Then, beginning Jan. 5, the ski area will begin its regular schedule, open Thursday through Sunday.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald November 28, 2020

For Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, this Thanksgiving held a striking resemblance to another turkey day he and his family experienced in the past.

On both of those days — 20 years apart — Ash responded to a call for help from stranded holiday travelers. And in both cases, the stories had happy endings, despite a later than planned Thanksgiving celebration.

Granted, many things have changed over the years. Ash was elected in November to his second four-year term as sheriff, with another 20 years of law enforcement experience under his belt.

And his wife, Katie, and their young daughter, Josie, who will graduate from college this year, were traveling with him the first time around.

Ash said Friday that he didn't put the two incidents together when he got the call about 3:30 a.m. this Thanksgiving. But his wife shared the story with dispatchers and the report of the first rescue was posted on Facebook along with a new one.

This year, Ash was roused to respond to the Hells Canyon area on a report that 18-year-old Carson Jurries might have been stranded on the snow-covered Hells Canyon Road while traveling from Boise to the Lewiston, Idaho, area.

Ash said in an email to the Herald that Jurries' family believed that he might have been rerouted by his cellphone or map to Forest Service Road 39, which travels through the mountains between Halfway and Joseph.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Nov. 27

4 - 6 - 7 - 16 - 24 - 41
Next jackpot: \$6.3 million

POWERBALL, Nov. 27

8 - 32 - 55 - 64 - 66 PB 10
Next jackpot: \$253 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 26

7 - 27 - 37 - 42 - 59 Mega 2
Next jackpot: \$102 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 27

5 - 17 - 21 - 42
PICK 4, Nov. 28

• 1 p.m.: 5 - 4 - 9 - 9

• 4 p.m.: 5 - 9 - 4 - 6

• 7 p.m.: 0 - 1 - 5 - 5

• 10 p.m.: 5 - 0 - 2 - 4
LUCKY LINES, Nov. 28

2-5-9-14-20-21-25-31

Next jackpot: \$31,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Orange-glazed chicken, rice, Oriental vegetables, rolls, pasta salad, cheesecake
- **THURSDAY:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, mixed vegetables, carrot-raisin salad, cookies
- **FRIDAY:** Chicken a la king, rice, rolls, broccoli, green salad, brownies
- **MONDAY (Dec. 6):** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, corn, green salad, pudding
- **TUESDAY (Dec. 7):** Chicken and broccoli fettuccine, zucchini and tomatoes, rolls, 3-bean salad, cookies

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

CONTACT THE HERALD

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Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Owner Mackenzie Warner, left, looks over original house blueprints with her brother-in-law, Adam Crowell, who manages the Blue Door Inn in Baker City.

INN

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"Now things come to you," Adam said. "It's not that traditional bed and breakfast, but it has that vibe."

All three guest rooms are on the second floor, and each has a unique name: Grand Suite (the largest), Elkhorn Suite (with two beds — a king and a queen), and the Rose Suite.

The Blue Door Inn is a

lodging partner with Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort and Go Wild.

For more information, visit the website bluedoorinnbakercity.com. The Inn is also listed on Airbnb.

Mackenzie, who grew up in Baker City and graduated from Baker High School in 2010, sees the Blue Door Inn as a way to share her hometown with others.

"We just want more people to come to Baker and love it," she said.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The Grand Suite is the largest of the three suites in the Blue Door Inn in Baker City.

Vaccine mandate? Some employers granted exemptions to every worker who asked

By AIMEE GREEN

The Oregonian

Thousands of Oregon health care employees, K-12 educators and state workers who were told they must get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 18 or risk losing their jobs found an easy way out: They applied for religious or medical exceptions.

While some employers rigorously scrutinized these requests and accepted only a smaller number they determined to be sincere, many other employers — especially in rural, vaccine-reluctant parts of the state — gave the nod to every employee who asked for one.

That includes school districts in Prineville, Roseburg, Medford, Grants Pass, Klamath County and Ontario, where 21% to 26% of staff applied for exceptions to the vaccine mandate and 100% of them were approved.

In the Baker City District, 79% of employees are vaccinated, and the district granted exemptions to all 55 workers who applied for one.

Two weeks after Gov. Kate Brown's vaccination mandate took hold, a crisp picture of its successes and failures has emerged. The governor's office says her directive pushed thousands more employees to get vaccinated and heralded

the mandate announced in August as a victory.

Gov. Kate Brown's office says her directive pushed thousands more employees to get vaccinated and heralded the mandate announced in August as a victory.

Ways around a tough mandate

At least 22 states have enacted COVID-19 vaccination requirements for workers, with Brown's mandate one of the toughest because it encompassed a broader cross-section of professions than most states. But it also had a weak point, carving out exceptions for religious and medical reasons while establishing only vague criteria that unvaccinated employees must meet.

Under state rules, employees seeking a religious exception have only to attest to "sincerely held religious beliefs" against vaccination or provide a doctor's note with a medical reason for forgoing inoculation. The overwhelming majority of exception applicants have cited religious reasons for their objections to the vaccines, even though no major religions have taken a position against it.

Brown left it up to individual employers to decide which applications to accept or reject. Some health care providers have been especially strict,

approving fewer than 10% of requested exceptions. But the system has opened a door for employers in especially conservative parts of the state to rubber stamp every request.

That has confounded some of the mandate's most avid supporters, who ask what the point of requiring vaccinations is if exceptions are so easy to come by.

"It really seems kind of like a joke," said Carolyn Moon, a mother of two who lives in Klamath Falls and believes many employers skirted the spirit of the law. "Exceptions should be much harder to get. It doesn't seem like they really looked if they were legit or not. It's like, 'OK, we're going to exploit this loophole and approve everyone.'"

The largest district in her county, the 6,800-student Klamath County School District, granted exceptions to 26% of its employees, the highest rate of more than a dozen districts surveyed by The Oregonian. Her children's district, Klamath Falls City Schools, was more selective, approving all 19% of employees who asked for exceptions.

Moon is skeptical that all employees with approved exceptions had authentic reasons for avoiding vaccination.

"It seems really unbelievable," she said.

'The only pathway out of this pandemic'

The governor's office isn't focusing on the number of workers who got vaccine exceptions but instead is highlighting the mandate's triumphs — a wave of new inoculations.

The day the mandate went into effect, Brown posted a video message thanking workers who fell under the requirements for getting vaccinated — and helping save lives, keep schools and businesses open and hospitals from being overwhelmed.

"Moving forward, vaccination is the only pathway out of this pandemic," Brown said.

Statewide, about 85% of 40,000 executive branch employees who were subject to the mandate are fully vaccinated. That's far more than where the figure stood — at about 68% — when the governor announced the new vaccination requirements more than two months ago.

The 17-percentage-point increase significantly outpaced the 6-percentage-point gain among the general population of adult Oregonians during the same time period. Today, about 72% of adults in the state are fully vaccinated.

See Vaccine / Page A3

OBITUARY

Tammy Lansdell

Formerly of Baker City, 1971-2021

Tammy Marie Lansdell, 50, formerly of Baker City, died peacefully in her sleep on Nov. 23, 2021.

Funeral plans are being made.

Tammy was born on July 7, 1971, in Vincenzo, Italy, and then moved to Baker City.

She was a loving mother to her chil-

dren and was always out to have a good time.

At her death, she lived in Florence, Alabama, with her loving husband, Pelmer Lansdell. She was an Alabama football fan, a pool shark, and best friend to many. She will be missed dearly by those she has left behind.



Tammy Lansdell

She is survived by her husband, Pelmer Lansdell, along with her four children, Kayla Kirby, Audrey Gutridge, Cody Kirby and Jackie Kirby.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lana Kaye Kirby; her biological father, John Long; and her adoptive father, Jack Garrett.

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations

STRANGULATION (domestic violence): Nathaniel Leeland Brown, 39, Baker City, 12:28 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28 in the 3300 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY, VIOLATION OF RESTRAINING ORDER, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Austin Lakota Reese, 26, Baker City, 4:09 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 in the 2900 block of Elm Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Frank Nathan McNair, 41, Baker City, 11:58 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26 on Elk Creek Road; cited and released.

THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Ruth Ann Sangston, 63, Richland, 9:31 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26 in Richland; cited and released.

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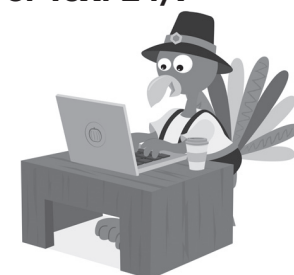
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