

Baker City Herald

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GO! Magazine
Your weekly guide to arts and entertainment events around Northeast Oregon

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Jamie Hug of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Dielman to speak at Baker Heritage Museum Dec. 14

Local historian Gary Dielman will be the featured speaker at the next monthly lecture series held at the Baker Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St. His talk begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Baker County YMCA plans first Tinsel Trot Dec. 18

The Baker County YMCA is planning the first Tinsel Trot fun run and walk on Saturday, Dec. 18, rain, snow or shine.

The event starts at 11 a.m. at Geiser-Pollman Park. Same-day registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Entry is \$15 for ages 6-17, \$20 for ages 18 and older, \$50 for a family of four or more, and free for ages 5 and younger.

Participants are encouraged to wear a favorite ugly sweater. Mine City Catering Company will be selling pulled pork sandwiches at the finish line, and Coffee Corral will provide hot chocolate and coffee.

Register online at www.bakerymca.org. Those who register before Dec. 13 will receive a T-shirt.

WEATHER

Today

35 / 22
Snow showers



Friday

36 / 23
Snow flurries



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Baker City Public Works/Contributed Photo

This building houses a pump station at Baker City's new wastewater storage lagoon near Highway 203. The pump can send wastewater from the new lagoon to the existing lagoon complex as needed for irrigation.

City's new wastewater project nears completion

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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The Baker City Public Works Department is beginning to see the light at the end of a seven-mile tunnel.

This tunnel is actually a pipeline that will bring wastewater from the city's current treatment and storage lagoons, about a mile north of town, east

across Baker Valley, and beneath both the Powder River and Interstate 84, to the newly constructed lagoon.

Workers recently installed a lining at the new lagoon, said Michelle Owen, the city's public works director.

The pipeline and lagoon are the major parts of one of the city's largest projects in the past couple decades, a \$5.7 million job the city undertook after the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) mandated that the city eventually cease piping treated wastewater into the Powder River.

In 2017, the city entered into a

Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with DEQ that required the city to pursue a modification to the wastewater treatment process.

Owen said the new pipeline is in place from the new lagoon to the freeway.

"And then they're working on it from our existing pond, the old one, to the river," Owen said.

Crews are working on the bore beneath the freeway that will link the pipe.

See, **Piping** / Page A3



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest/Contributed Photo

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest officials hope newly installed, brightly colored signs will deter travelers from driving passenger vehicles on roads that aren't maintained for winter travel.

Signs of trouble

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest installs more signs to alert people to roads blocked by snow

By JAYSON JACOBY

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The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has installed new, brightly colored signs at several road junctions to remind travelers that some routes are passable only to snowmobiles and other specialized vehicles during winter.

Although signs have been posted on these roads in the past, stating that they weren't maintained for winter travel, drivers have continued to get their vehicles mired in deep snow occasionally.

See, **Signs** / Page A3

New Sign Locations

- Junction of Highway 86 and Road 39 (Wallowa Mountain Loop Road), about nine miles east of Halfway
- Road 39 and Salt Creek Summit
- Road 3955 just north of Road 39 junction on the Imnaha River, near the fish weir
- Road 73 (Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway) at Granite
- Road 73 at the junction with Road 43 (Ladd Canyon Road, at the turnout to Grande Ronde Lake, about a mile west of Anthony Lakes Ski Area)

Brown adds to winnings at National Finals Rodeo

By ANNIE FOWLER

East Oregonian

LAS VEGAS — Baker City steer wrestler Jesse Brown finished sixth in the sixth round of the National Finals Rodeo on Tuesday, Dec. 7, taking down his steer in 4.5 seconds.

Brown earned \$4,354 for his effort.

In Tuesday's fifth round, Brown broke the barrier — resulting in a 10-second penalty — and finished with a time of 14.2 seconds.

"I just went a little too fast, I guess," Brown said. "It's a would of, could of, should of."

Brown, a 2011 Baker High School graduate who is competing in the National Finals Rodeo for the second straight year, has placed in three of six rounds, pocketing \$19,159.

Though placing in the top six and earning money has been nice, Brown still is looking for that one big run.

"Hell yeah, I think it's there," he said.

"I've been making really good runs."

Jacob Talley, who came into the NFR ranked No. 1 in the world standings, remains on top with \$179,944 in earnings this season. Dirk Tavenner, who has won three of six rounds, is right on his heels with \$170,925.

"He is making it happen and I'm not," Brown said of Tavenner.

Brown was second in the world standings heading into the NFR. He now sits eighth with \$121,517 with four rounds to go.

Tristan Martin leads the NFR average after six runs with a time of 25.8 seconds. Brown is eighth at 36.7 seconds.

In addition to competing daily, Brown has gotten to spend a little time with his parents, Jim and Vicki, and just enjoy what Las Vegas has to offer.

"I'm having fun," Brown said. "Vegas is a pretty fun town and being here for the finals is great."



Contributed Photo

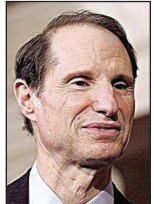
Jesse Brown and his mother, Vicki, at the 2020 National Finals Rodeo in Arlington, Texas. Jesse Brown, a 2011 Baker High School graduate, is competing in the 2021 National Finals, which has returned to its usual venue in Las Vegas. The event continues through Saturday, Dec. 11.

Wyden calls for pharmacy investigation

By JAYSON JACOBY

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U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden continues to press federal officials to investigate the retail pharmacy market as customers in Baker City and elsewhere continue to wait for hours to pick up their medications from understaffed pharmacies.



Wyden

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, Wyden, a Democrat and Oregon's senior U.S. senator, asked the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to look into Walgreens' recent acquisition of Bi-Mart's pharmacy operations.

That deal resulted in the closure, in early November, of the pharmacy in the Baker City Bi-Mart store.

With many customers transferring their prescriptions to the three remaining pharmacies in Baker City — in the Albertsons, Safeway and Rite Aid stores — lines have been long at times.

In a letter to FTC Chair Lina Khan, Wyden wrote that his "deep concern about the trends unfolding in Oregon lead me to request that the FTC investigate Walgreens' acquisition of Bi-Mart pharmacies, including the surrounding circumstances. Although these closures represent a local example, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I am concerned that they represent a larger national trend in which a few powerful companies have gained the market power to drive competitors out of business and monopolize the market."

See, **Pharmacy** / Page A3

Free nasal spray to reverse opioid overdoses available

■ Drive-thru giveaway set for Dec. 14

By JAYSON JACOBY

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A nasal spray that can prevent death from opioid overdose will be distributed for free during a drive-thru event Tuesday, Dec. 14 in Baker City.

The giveaway of Narcan, a nasal formulation of the medication naloxone, will take place at New Directions Northwest, 3425 13th St., from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The first 30 people will also receive a to-go container of hot soup.

The event is sponsored by the Tri-County Substance Abuse Disorder Peer program and the NDC Medication Assisted Treatment program.

See, **Spray** / Page A3



TODAY
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SATURDAY — BAKER GIRLS, BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS IN ACTION