



In SPORTS, A5

Baker rally falls just short

# Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber John Anderson of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Ladies Golf and Bridge Christmas lunch set Dec. 15**

The Quail Ridge Ladies Golf and Bridge Association is hosting a Christmas lunch, free for all past, present and future players. The lunch will be Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the clubhouse, 2801 Indiana Ave. Please call Dianne at 541-519-4703 to confirm a seat.

**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. Register online at www.bakerymca.org.

WEATHER

Today

38 / 31  
Snow likely



Sunday

41 / 28  
Rain showers



Monday

42 / 26  
Rain showers



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



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Residents from the Hope House, a Marsing, Idaho, facility that provides a home to children from failed adoptions, sang Christmas carols during the Baker Rotary Club meeting Monday morning, Dec. 6, at the Baker Tower.

# House of Hope

*Baker Rotary Club welcomes residents, staff from the Hope House, an Idaho facility that provides a home to children from failed adoptions*

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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The Baker City Rotary Club welcomed guests from Idaho's Hope House Home for Children at the club's meeting Monday afternoon, Dec. 6 at the Baker Tower.

The Hope House choir sang Christmas carols as well as the facility's theme song, "Every Child (Deserves a Home)."

Hope House founder Donnalee Velvick told Rotary Club members that the home, in Marsing, is designed to give children a place where they feel safe, are healthy, and know they are valued.

"For me, 49 years ago, I was one of the kids," Velvick said.

She said she grew up in an orphanage for a while and then lived with many different foster families.

"They were all very kind to me and

so there was an in-born desire for kids to have an actual address," Velvick said. "So when I was 31, I was finally able to get that started."

According to the Hope House's mission statement, it provides "a home for children who are emotionally impaired, developmentally disabled, and/or come from disrupted adoptions or dysfunctional families."

There is no charge for children to live at the Hope House, which is licensed by the Idaho Department of Education.

Hope House is a nonprofit, faith-based organization that accepts no local, state or federal money, except what is paid as benefits to its resident children.

Velvick said the facility is Christian-based, but emphasizes what it offers to children.

"We've always felt that sharing our faith in the simplest way, by our lives, was going to be the best way to let people know about us," she said.

Jay Multanen, a member of the Boise Sunrise Rotary Club, said the Hope House is his favorite charity.

"It is a group home in Marsing, Idaho, and it's a home for children to come to," said Multanen, who attended the Baker Rotary Club's meeting. "So these are children who have fallen through the cracks of the federal foster care program. Many of them have come from multiple failed adoptions and they end up at the Hope House."

Hope House is home to about 80 residents, including 25 of high school age, as well as some adults who are not able to live on their own.

See, **Hope** / Page A3

## 'All I wanted to do was help him'

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Amber Gabiola said she begged her younger brother, Michael, to seek help for his drug addiction and mental health problems.

"I was in tears," Amber said. "He would say he didn't need help."

Now it is too late.

Michael Steven Myers-Gabiola, 30, of Baker City, was hit and killed by a freight train in Baker City the evening of Nov. 14.

Baker City Police said the train crew reported that Myers-Gabiola was

kneeling on the tracks near a trestle across the Powder River southeast of Wade Williams Park.

Amber, who is four years older than her brother and grew up with him in Baker City, doesn't believe her brother was suicidal.

But she said that Michael, through the combination of drug use and his mental issues, sometimes felt he was "invincible."

"I've seen him in one of those moods," Amber said.

She thinks he might have knelt on the tracks

that evening because he was confused or intoxicated, or both.

But she finds it "hard to believe" that her brother intended to end his life.

This, of course, is a question Amber will never be able to answer definitely.

But about one thing she is sure.

Her brother needed help, but that help, due to his own stubbornness and to limitations in the criminal justice system, was elusive.

"It takes a lot of work to succeed, and I don't think that's something that my brother wanted to do," Amber said. "My brother got

away with so much stuff, many years of probation. The justice system swept him under the rug."

Amber has personal experience with addiction.

She was cited in 2015 for possession of methamphetamine. Amber pleaded guilty to the charge in July 2016 and was sentenced to five days in jail and 18 months probation.

In 2016 she entered a detox center in Pendleton to overcome her addiction.

Amber said she was motivated by the possibility that she would lose custody of her son, who is now 8.

See, **Michael** / Page A3

## Driver shortage could slow snow removal

By DICK MASON

The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — A shortage of road maintenance employees could create delays in snow removal this winter in Eastern Oregon.

"Fewer people will be running plows. Anytime you have fewer operators it means that work will take longer," said Oregon Department of Transportation spokesperson Tom Strandberg.

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