

Baker City Herald

December 14, 2021

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Macey Moore

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Earlinda Cridler of Baker City.

Sports, A5

NYSSA — With defending state champion Gauge Bloomer leading the way with a first-place finish at 195 pounds, the Baker wrestling team placed seventh out of 21 teams at the Calhoun Classic Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11.

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.

Longest Night service Dec. 21 at First Presbyterian

The First Presbyterian Church, 1995 Fourth St., will have an online Service of the Longest Night on Tuesday, Dec. 21, viewable at 6:30 p.m. The First Presbyterian Church's version of the service seeks to help people embrace even the most difficult emotions and be grounded in the love of God. The service will be available at <https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbaker> or on YouTube at YouTube channel <http://firstpresbaker.blogspot.com/p/recorded-services.html>.

WEATHER

Today

34 / 10
Snow showers



Wednesday

27 / 22
Snow showers



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

The Elk Arrive

■ Snow or no, the animals instinctively know when state-run feeding sites are closed to the public

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Elk don't need calendars. Dan Marvin is convinced of that.

He can't vouch for the animals' ability to recognize, say, Christmas

or Independence Day or any other holiday observed by humans.

But elk certainly know when December arrives. Some elk, anyway.

See, **Elk**/Page A3



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

Rocky Mountain elk munch on alfalfa hay during a previous winter at the Elkhorn Wildlife Area feeding site along Anthony Creek west of North Powder.

Storm raises hopes for ski season start

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Winter remains more of a rumor than reality in Baker City, but a weekend storm fulfilled its forecast in the mountains.

And although city dwellers will have to wait to construct the season's first snowman, skiers and snowboarders are getting close to making their first runs at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

The potent storm was a perfect illustration of the rain shadow phenomenon, although in this case the precipitation was generally

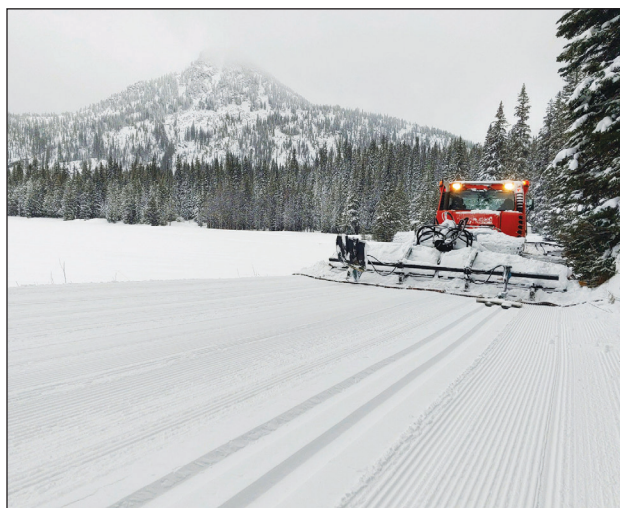
frozen rather than liquid.

With winds in the upper atmosphere coming from the southwest, the mountains, notably the Elkhorns, intercepted most of the moisture, according to the National Weather Service.

Snow showers fell periodically in Baker City on Saturday, Dec. 11, but almost none accumulated.

Yet just 10 miles or so to the southwest, on the other, windward side of a shoulder of the Elkhorns, the storm dropped a few inches of snow.

See, **Ski**/Page A3



Ian Warner/Contributed Photo

A Nordic groomer works on a trail beside Anthony Lake on Sunday, Dec. 12. The ski area could open for the season on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Commissioners to review proposed 'constitutional county' resolution

Baker City Herald

A Baker County organization is urging county commissioners to pass a resolution stating that "all actions by the federal government and its agents will conform strictly and implicitly with the principles expressed within the United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights."

The proposed resolution, which also prohibits the use "of vaccine passports by any Baker County office, board or agent," was submitted by Baker County United.

Early this fall, Baker County United distributed fliers urging county residents to oppose Gov. Kate Brown's COVID-19 vaccine mandate

for health care workers by refusing to pay their property taxes and instead setting the money aside.

The agenda for county commissioners' meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St., includes, at around 10 a.m., a proposed resolution from Baker County United, represented by Carrie Matthews and Jake Brown.

The agenda item also lists Bert Ramos, manager for Lander County, Nevada, and Art Clark, a commissioner from that county.

Ramos also is slated to speak during a meeting this evening, Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Sunridge Inn conference room in Baker City.

The reference to "vaccine passports" is the new digital vaccine card that the Oregon Health Authority is developing. The purpose is to give residents a way to store their vaccination status on their phone.

In a recent letter to commissioners, Curtis Martin, a North Powder area rancher and member of Baker County United, wrote that the Tuesday meeting with Ramos involves the idea of declaring Baker County a "constitutional county."

The resolution that commissioners will consider states that "the following abuses will not be allowed or tolerated within Baker County," including:

- "Orders restricting citi-

zens from the free exercise of their religion or the right to freely assemble as guaranteed in the 1st Amendment."

• "Orders depriving its citizens of life, liberty or property, without the "due process of law" as guaranteed in the 5th Amendment."

• "Registration of personal firearms under any circumstances as guaranteed under the 2nd Amendment nor the confiscation of firearms without probable cause, due process, and constitutionally compliant warrants issued by a local or state jurisdiction."

The resolution also lists several other issues addressed in the Bill of Rights.

See, **Resolution**/Page A3

Two killed in separate crashes

Baker City Herald

Two people died in separate single-vehicle crashes on snowy highways in Baker County over the weekend, Oregon State Police reported.

The first incident happened Friday morning, Dec. 10 on Highway 203, the Medical Springs Highway, northeast of Baker City.

A passing driver saw an overturned 1991 Dodge Neon near Milepost 31, about eight miles east of Interstate 84 near Salt Creek.

The driver and lone occupant, Gwyn Monroe Adams, died in the crash, according to OSP. He lived at Pondosa, about eight miles north of the crash site.

The investigation is continuing.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, at about 11:30 a.m., Maureen Welsh, 69, of Harper, in northern Malheur County, died in a crash on Highway 26 near Milepost 202, near the Blue Mountain summit about 10 miles northwest of Unity.

Welsh was driving east when she failed to negotiate a corner, and her Ford Excursion left the roadway and crashed into a tree, according to OSP. Welsh died at the scene.

Highway 26 was closed for about seven hours.

Deputies from the Grant County Sheriff's Office, John Day Ambulance and Oregon Department of Transportation assisted state police at the scene.

BELLA to donate to local groups

By LISA BRITTON

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Every "kerplunk" that echoes in a BELLA store this month means one more dollar for a local charity.

In December, the shops — one in Baker City and one in La Grande — are raising money for three organizations chosen by the staff.

"They're three organizations we've supported for a long time," said owner Beverly Calder.

The organizations are:

- La Grande Angel Fund, which is a food bank for homeless youth
- Baker Relief Nursery, which serves families with children younger than 6. It is the 39th certified relief nursery in Oregon.
- Baker City Quiet Zone, which seeks to reduce train whistles and improve railroad crossings.

BELLA is donating 10% of December sales to these causes, and the amounts are determined by customers.

"We're going to let the people decide," Calder said.

The theme for the month, she said, is "give more."

See, **BELLA**/Page A3



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