



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

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Elizabeth Lawson of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Library launches winter reading challenge

The Baker County Library launches a winter reading challenge for all ages on Friday, Dec. 17, and it continues through Jan. 31, 2022.

Registration is open now at the library, 2400 Resort St. The challenge will kick off with a puzzle and book exchange on Friday, Dec. 17, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the library.

WEATHER

Today

31 / 18 Snow showers



Friday

32 / 20 Snow flurries

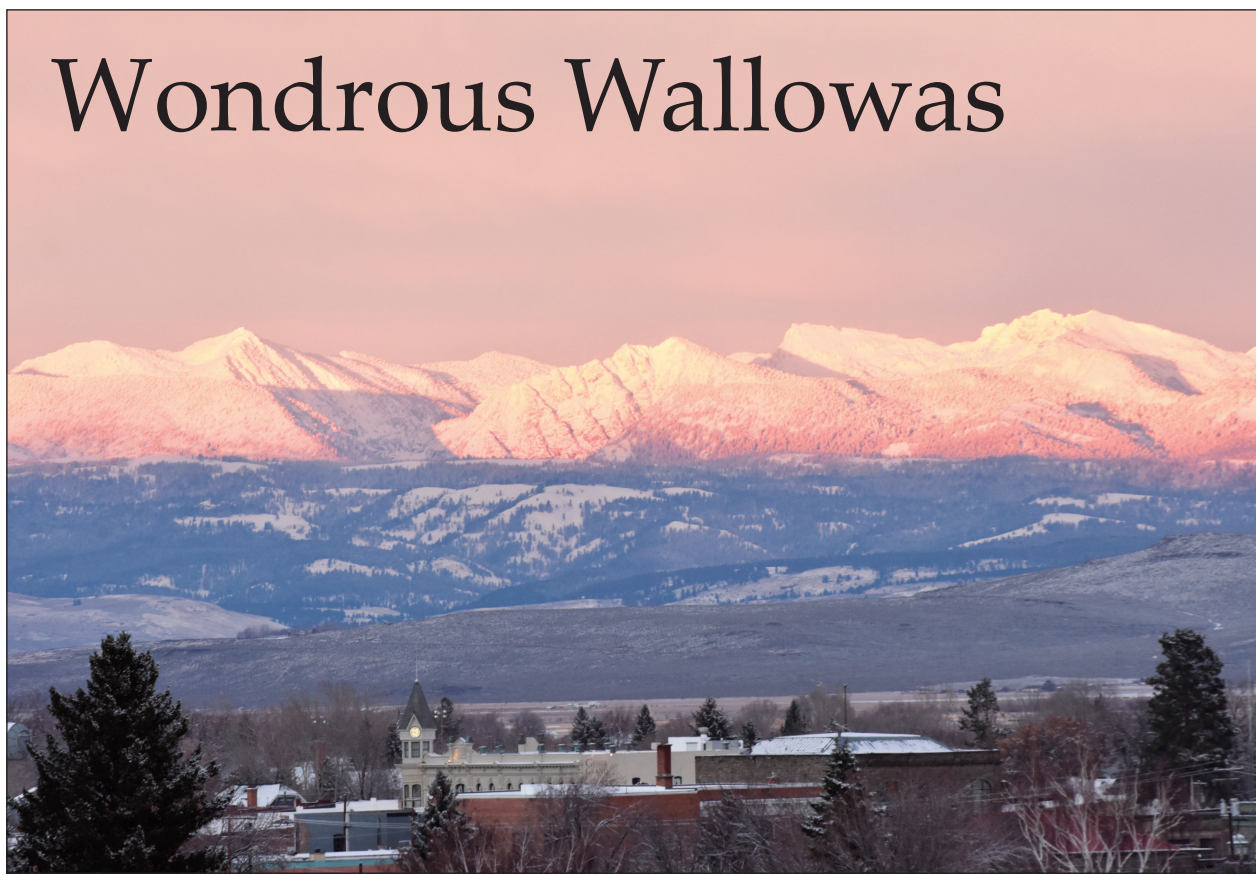


Correction: A story about two COVID-19-related deaths in Baker County in the Dec. 11 issue misstated the gender of one of the residents who died.

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Wondrous Wallowas



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The waning sun shining on the Wallowa Mountains created a stunning scene Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 14 in Baker City.

Council appoints Dean Guyer

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

The Baker City Council is again complete.

The Council reached its full complement of seven members Tuesday night, Dec. 14, when councilors voted 5-1 to appoint Dean Guyer.

The Council's vacancy dates back almost four months, to August when Lynette Perry resigned due to health issues.

Councilor Shane Alderson cast the only dissenting vote on the motion to appoint Guyer.

Alderson said Wednesday morning that he wasn't opposed to Guyer joining the Council, but that he doesn't know Guyer. Alderson said he is acquainted with the two other people who had applied to fill the vacancy — Marvin Sundean and Ray Duman.

Duman was the city's police chief until he retired June 30 of this year.

After his appointment, Guyer was sworn in and participated in the rest of Tuesday's meeting.

The Council had tried to replace Perry at previous meetings, with candidates including Thomas Hughes and Randy Daugherty, but all motions failed on 3-3 votes.

Guyer is a longtime banker who retired Jan. 31, 2021, from Malheur Federal Credit Union in Ontario.

In his application for the councilor position, Guyer wrote that in Baker City he worked for several banks and credit unions, most of the moves resulting from mergers.

Guyer also has been a board member for several church organizations, president of a non-profit housing board that built a 24-unit apartment for low- to moderate-income families.

"I am a civic-minded person who wants to participate with other civic-minded individuals for the betterment of all Baker City residents," Guyer wrote in his application.

In other business Tuesday, the Council scheduled a work session for Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. to talk about the homeless issue in the city.

Councilors want to meet with Baker County Commissioners, who recently proposed to open a temporary warming shelter this winter.

McQuisten also plans to add a discussion about the pharmacy crisis to the agenda for the Council's next meeting.

Doling out doses



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Vehicles lined up Monday morning, Dec. 13, at the Baker County Fairgrounds for a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

More than 330 COVID-19 doses given during 3-day drive-thru clinic this week

By JAYSON JACOBY and SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

As winter weather finally arrived this week in Baker City, more than 300 people received COVID-19 vaccine doses without leaving the welcome warmth of their cars.

During a three-day drive-thru vaccination clinic at the Fairgrounds, a team that works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency administered 336 doses, said Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department.

"I really think that is a good number for our county," Staten said on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

The vast majority of those doses — 307 — were booster doses, Staten said.

The traveling team also conducted one-day clinics on Monday, Dec. 13 in Halfway, where 43 doses were given, and on Tuesday, Dec. 14 in Huntington, where 12 people were vaccinated.

In addition to the drive-thru clinics, vaccine doses were given at the Health Department and at some

other medical providers, Staten said.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported that 144 doses were given in Baker County on Sunday, and 186 on Monday.

The two-day total of 330 doses is the highest two-day total since early April, when 634 doses were administered on April 9, the last of the Health Department's several major clinics at Baker High School last winter and spring.

See, Doses/Page A3

Driver killed in crash near North Powder

By DICK MASON and DAVIS CARBAUGH

NORTH POWDER — The driver of a full-sized Dodge pickup pulling a camper died in a single-vehicle accident on the south edge of North Powder early Wednesday, Dec. 15.

The driver, an adult male, was killed when the pickup he was driving went off the left westbound lane of Interstate 84 and down an embankment. The pickup and the camper came to rest on Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The accident was reported at 6:29 a.m. to the Baker County 911 dispatch center.

According to Oregon State Police Sgt. Dave Aydelotte, the driver was deceased by the time first responders arrived. The victim was not ejected from his truck, said Sr. Trooper Greg Retherford.

The driver in the fatal accident had no passengers. The pickup the man was driving was an Enterprise rental and had Washington license plates. The camper also had at least one Washington license plate.

A Life Flight helicopter was dispatched to the crash but turned around immediately after reaching North Powder because the driver did not survive the crash.

"It flew in and circled the area but it did not set down," Retherford said.

The identity of the driver was not released as of press time, pending the notification of the next of kin.

In addition to OSP, those responding to the accident included the La Grande Fire Department, the Union County Sheriff's Office and Union Pacific Railroad. Retherford said a La Grande Fire Department vehicle got stuck on the railroad tracks while a train was coming toward it about a quarter mile west of the accident scene.

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INSIDE — 2022 CALENDAR WITH SCENIC PHOTOS INCLUDED WITH TODAY'S ISSUE