

# Baker City Herald

December 18, 2021

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In SPORTS, A6  
Grizzlies slip past Baker girls

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

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

**State, A5:**

People who get COVID-19 despite being vaccinated against the disease could develop "super immunity" against future coronavirus infections, Oregon Health & Science University researchers have found.

WEATHER

**Today**

30 / 23  
Snow showers



**Sunday**

33 / 23  
Snow showers



**Monday**

34 / 21  
Rain or snow



**Corrections:** A story in the Dec. 16 issue about the appointment of Dean Guyer to the Baker City Council didn't mention the initial vote, in which Guyer received three votes (Kerry McQuisten, Joanna Dixon and Johnny Waggoner Sr.), Ray Duman received two votes (Heather Sells and Jason Spriet) and Marvin Sundean received one vote (Shane Alderson). Because the city charter requires that councilor appointments be made by a majority of the council — at least four — there was a second vote. Guyer received five votes, with Sells and Spriet also supporting Guyer. Alderson didn't vote in that round.

A story about the Baker City Rotary Club in the Dec. 11 issue listed the wrong time for the club's weekly meetings in the Baker Tower. The meetings at Mondays at noon.

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

## Festively fanciful



ReNae Cameron/Contributed Photo

ReNae Cameron's collection of Christmas village homes and buildings will be on display through Christmas at Sumpter City Hall.

### Sumpter's city recorder displays a Christmas village at City Hall

By LISA BRITTON

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ReNae Cameron needed to find a new place for her Christmas village.

"It's just outgrown my house," she said with a laugh.

She estimates she has at least 80 houses.

"Plus all the people, animals, snowboarders, skiers, the trees and the train," Cameron said.

Her house may not be big enough to contain this miniature town, but this year it's in a public place for all to enjoy.

Cameron's village is on display at Sumpter City Hall, where she works as the city recorder for the town of about 200 residents, on the west side of the Elkhorn Mountains about 28 miles west of Baker City via Highway 7.



ReNae Cameron/Contributed Photo

ReNae Cameron's Christmas village, on display at Sumpter City Hall, features at least 80 houses.

Cameron, with the help of her daughter, arranged the village over a week-end.

It took 12 hours. "Just unpacking took me two hours," she said.

Cameron has collected these houses and other additions for 25 years. It grew more when her mom

and uncle added houses they'd been collecting, too. "That's how it got to be so big," she said.

Prior to taking the job as Sumpter city recorder in June 2020, Cameron taught in Mountain Home, Idaho, where she'd set up the village in her classroom.

In Sumpter, she put it up just after Thanksgiving. "I never set it up the same way," she said.

She arranges everything on top of white sheets, then uses garland to disguise the wires. The miniature homes are illuminated from within, and she winds extra lights beneath the sheets.

This year, her mom and uncle were able to visit the village they helped create. "They hadn't seen it all together in person," she said. "Now they can enjoy it without having to set it up."

She'll have the village on display through Christmas.

And she already has plans for 2022.

"I have three new buildings to add next year," she said. "That's my Christmas gift to myself"

Sumpter City Hall is located at 240 Mill St. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — except Thursday, when it closes at 2 p.m.

## Volunteers sought for 'human library'

By LISA BRITTON

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Readers and "human books" are needed for a special event later this winter sponsored by Neighbors of Baker and the Baker County Public Library.

It is called the Human Library, which is an international organization founded in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"It's been around for over 20 years," said Gretchen Stadler, who is helping facilitate the event.

The motto is "unjudge someone." The format mimics a library, but with real people as the books, which readers can "borrow" to learn more about a topic through conversation.

Human books are volunteers who have unique experiences with prejudice, stigma, or stereotypes.

According to the Human Library information, book topics may include ethnicity, religion, physical/mental health, social status, occupation, LGBT+, immigration status, violence/abuse or past drug/alcohol addiction.

The goal is "to challenge preconceived biases and encourage honest and respectful dialogue."

Readers "borrow" a book for 30 minutes.

"One of the goals is to create a safe environment for the books — they are sharing a personal experience," Stadler said.

The goal for this initial Human Library event is to have five books, who will each offer three time slots for readers.

"Each book will tell their story and have a conversation three times," Stadler said. "This is an opportunity for the reader to ask questions."

The event is set for Feb. 19 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the library, 2400 Resort St.

Stadler and Perry Stokes, library director, have worked on this project since early summer of 2021. Organizations who wish to have a Human Library must first apply and be approved, then go through a training process for both the organizers and human books.

Readers also have guidelines and ground rules of respect.

"They've maybe never sat with someone recovering from a drug addiction," Stadler said. "Here's someone you may never have met and here's an opportunity to ask questions."

This is, as the name implies, a way to learn about life through another's perspective, much like the many topics found in a library.

"Part of learning is being aware and empathetic of another person's struggling," Stokes said. "This is another storytelling format — this one's just face to face."

Those interested in being a human book can email Stadler at neighborsofbaker@gmail.com.

Readers can begin signing up in January at the library or by calling 541-523-6419.

The three-hour event will consist of three time slots, which includes 30 minutes with a book and time to fill out an evaluation form, which will be shared with the Human Library organization.

To learn more, visit <https://humanlibrary.org/>.



Stadler

## Snowpack surging after storms

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Wes Morgan was happy to see the snow finally begin to fall, and happier still that the flakes were sticking on ground that was moist rather than dusty.

Morgan has more than a passing interest in such matters.

He manages the Burnt River Irrigation District in southern Baker County, and the amount of snow, as well as the moisture level in the ground on which it accumulates, can have significant effects on the supply of irrigation water many months ahead.

In the midst of one of the most severe droughts in the region in the past 20 years, Morgan's concerns were multiple.

See, **Snow** / Page A3

## Deer disease outbreak may leave hunting tags unaffected

■ Insect-spread disease confirmed in mostly white-tailed deer in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties

By JAYSON JACOBY

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An insect-borne virus killed dozens of deer, most whitetails, in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties this summer, but wildlife biologists said the die-off might not lead to any reduction in hunting tags.

Officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) started getting reports of dead deer around the region this summer.

Tests of tissue samples confirmed that the animals were infected with a virus, spread by biting midges, that causes the frequently fatal illness, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD).

Although EHD can kill both white-tailed and mule deer, as well as other wild animals such as elk and pronghorn antelope, and sheep and cattle, the disease typically is much more virulent among whitetails, said Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at ODFW's Baker City office.

In late summer, Ratliff said 33 of the 36 dead deer he had examined were whitetails.

### Baker County

In Baker County the disease outbreak was mostly confined to the western edge of the Baker Valley, an area including Pine and Goodrich creeks, Ben Dier Lane and upper Hunt Mountain Lane, Ratliff said.

White-tailed deer are common in that part of the valley, about 12 miles northwest of Baker City.

Ratliff didn't have a final estimated tally of how many deer died.

See, **Disease** / Page A5



TODAY  
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TUESDAY — WEEKEND BAKER HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND UP