



In SPORTS, A5
Wrestlers
second
at Elgin

Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION:

Local • Home & Living • Sports

\$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Patti Hall of Baker City.

Publication schedule for Christmas and New Year's weeks

The Baker City Herald will publish as usual on Tuesday, Dec. 21 and Thursday, Dec. 23. There will not be an issue for Saturday, Dec. 25.

Next week, the Herald will publish issues on Tuesday, Dec. 28, Thursday, Dec. 30 and Friday, Dec. 31. There will not be an issue on Saturday, Jan. 1.

BRIEFING

Community Connection receives grant for housing resources

U.S. Bank has awarded Community Connection of Northeast Oregon \$7,500 for Community Connection's Housing Resource Center.

The Center offers services including pre-purchase and mortgage default counseling, first-time homebuying education, and financial empowerment education.

The free workshops are being done virtually due to the pandemic. More information is available at <https://ccno.org/housing-and-homeownership-programs/>.

WEATHER

Today

36 / 20
Partly sunny



Wednesday

34 / 27
Rain or snow



Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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



Davis Carbaugh/The (La Grande) Observer

Snowboarders walk the incline near the Alice's Wonderland learning area at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort during opening day on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. The resort received enough snow from recent storms to open the winter ski season just in time for winter break.

The Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort opens for the season

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The (La Grande) Observer
NORTH POWDER — Ski season is back in Eastern Oregon.

Recent snowstorms allowed Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort to open just in time for winter break as skiers flocked to the slopes on opening day Saturday, Dec. 18. Conditions were ideal as ski resorts across the Pacific Northwest continue to see a rise in traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There's a lot of folks excited to get out and ski this weekend and through the holiday break," said Chelsea Judy, marketing director at Anthony Lakes. "We definitely expect to see it busy, but maybe not quite like last season."

Last winter in the



Davis Carbaugh/The (La Grande) Observer

Skiers ride the Rock Garden triple-chair lift up the mountain on opening day at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. Recent snow storms allowed the resort to open for ski season just in time for winter break.

midst of the pandemic, Anthony Lakes saw a major rise in skiers as most indoor activities were closed off. Judy noted that the absences of winter sports also added a rise in individuals looking for a different athletic outlet.

"With no winter sports and people being eager to get outside, throughout the Northwest and even the nation the ski industry was very busy," Judy said.

One skier noted that she was surprised by the more standard turnout

this year, noting that last year at this time she sometimes had to wait up to 20 minutes to board the ski lift.

Another skier at the opening day stated that they were a bit rusty since last ski season, but that the conditions were ideal for getting back in the swing of things.

Judy emphasized that skiing in general has seen a rise in newcomers in recent years, which was only furthered during the pandemic. While those at Anthony Lakes were happy to see an increase in visitors, the resort underwent a series of precautions.

Anthony Lakes opened its lodge again this year after closing it last winter for COVID-19. More skiers are also allowed to park and congregate in closer confines than last season. Masks are required inside at the ski area as the pandemic persists.

See, Powder / Page A3

BAKER COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. DIRECTOR

Staten urges booster shots

■ Baker County cases drop again, but surge predicted due to new variant

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Although COVID-19 cases have dropped for four straight weeks in Baker County, to near the lowest weekly total since July, health officials across the state and nation are bracing for a projected rapid rise in cases due to the new omicron variant.



Staten

Nancy Staten is among those worried about the possible effects.

Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, encourages residents to be vaccinated.

And for those who already are vaccinated, Staten recommends a booster dose, which experts say can increase protection against the omicron variant, which has proved to be much more resistant to the two-dose vaccination compared with the still-dominant delta variant.

"Our case count is staying low, and we may get through Christmas with low counts, but they're anticipating a spike in cases after the first of the year," Staten said on Monday morning, Dec. 20. "Our best protection is being vaccinated and getting boosters."

A forecast from the Oregon Health & Science University projects that omicron will replace delta as the dominant variant by the last week of December.

See, COVID / Page A3

Getting into video gaming

■ The Attic in Baker City offers classic and contemporary video games, snacks and more

By SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Familiar tunes from classic video games such as Street Fighter, DigDug and more drift down the stairs of Baker City's newest establishment — The Attic.

Located above Kicks Sportswear, at the southwest corner of Main and Valley — the entrance is on Valley — the dynamic club offers a variety of games and a fun atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

"Kids want thrills and this is kind of a place to do that without getting in trouble," said owner Timothy Eide.

Eide, 38, had been thinking about starting a sitdown arcade for six years and his

dream came to fruition when he found the space above Kicks was available to rent.

The Attic isn't just a place for kids — it caters to families of all ages. Eide offer snacks, coffee and other beverages, and more.

Chris Brown, 38, who is The Attic's co-owner, said Baker City residents have helped them with donations.

"Just thinking about how, Xboxes, controllers, and games, people were just donating stuff to us. It was really cool," Brown said.

"Once we posted on Facebook, it was growing like wildfire and I was picking up ten TVs a day," Eide said.

See, Gaming / A3

Berms are back ... briefly

■ City crews will haul away snow as quickly as possible

By JAYSON JACOBY

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And just like that, the berms are back.

But not for long.

Although there's no winter thaw in the forecast to do away with the heavy snow that descended on Baker City on Sunday, Dec. 19, crews from the city's public works department will strive to haul away the temporary snow berms from streets as soon as possible, said Tom Fisk, operations supervisor for the department.

"We're going to continue to run a midnight pickup crew to remove the berms until they're all gone," Fisk said on Monday morning, Dec. 20.

That's been the city's



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Snow berms along Washington Avenue between First and Second streets, looking east, on Monday morning, Dec. 20.

practice for several years.

Previously, the berms, which snowplows push into the center of some streets, sometimes stayed in place for several weeks.

Typically, crews plow heavily traveled streets when at least four inches of snow have fallen, and there's a likelihood for more, Fisk said.

That was precisely the situation on Sunday evening, when four to five inches had accumulated, with snow continuing to fall.

Fisk said a four-man crew arrived at the public works shop at 11 p.m. on Sunday to put chains on the city's graders.

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TODAY
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THURSDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE