



SPORTS A5
Seahawks dominate Detroit

TODAY A3
A look at new laws that took effect January 1 in Oregon

THURSDAY
GO! Magazine
Weekly arts and entertainment guide

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • HOME & LIVING • SPORTS

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber
A special good day to Herald subscriber Daryl Robertson of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Republican gubernatorial forum postponed
The Republican gubernatorial candidate forum set for Tuesday, Jan. 4 in Baker City has been postponed due to a winter storm. The forum will be rescheduled, according to the Baker County Republicans.

Baker County seeks volunteers for committees
Baker County is seeking volunteers to serve on several committees, boards and commissions. These include:
• Baker County Planning Commission.
• Natural Resource Advisory Committee.
• Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Local Community Advisory Committee.
• Compensation Board
• Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Board.
Anyone interested must submit a volunteer form. Forms are available online at www.bakercounty.org/commissioners. More information is available by calling the county commissioners' office at 541-523-8200 or by emailing Heidi Martin at hmartin@bakercounty.org.

WEATHER

Today
32/25
Snow likely

Wednesday
35/23
Morning snow

Full forecast on the back of the B section.



Kyle Sullivan, 16, and Johnathan Sullivan, 11, unload Christmas trees at Wade Williams on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022. Every year, the Boy Scouts collect trees as a community service project.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Pitching In

Boy Scouts brave weather to collect Christmas trees

BY LISA BRITTON
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Kyle Sullivan has helped collect Christmas trees with the Boy Scouts for about six years. On Sunday, Jan. 2, he had one word to describe this year's collection:
"Cold."
But at least Jan. 2, when Scouts and their parents drove the streets of Baker City to pick up discarded trees, wasn't quite as frigid as Saturday, Jan. 1.
Even so, the temperature was only about 15 degrees, causing fingers and toes to quickly go cold during the annual tree collection, which is a community service project for the local Scout troops.
"Sometimes people come out and say hi, and give us a donation," Sullivan, 16, said as he pulled a tree from the trailer and tossed it on the pile.

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David Blair and his son, Asher, 11, toss more Christmas trees on the pile at Wade Williams on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022. Boy Scouts and their parents divided Baker City into four sections to collect trees set by the curb.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

12 COVID cases on first day of 2022

Highest one-day total since Nov. 18

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The new year started with the highest one-day total of COVID-19 cases in Baker County in six weeks.
The Baker County Health Department reported 12 cases on Jan. 1, 2022. That was the most in one day since 13 cases on Nov. 18.



Staten

Whether this indicates that omicron, the much more contagious variant that is responsible for a significant jump in cases in Oregon over the past two weeks, has arrived in Baker County isn't certain.
The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) doesn't list case numbers, by variant, at the county level.
But there's no doubt that omicron will be here, if it isn't already, said Nancy Staten, director of the Health Department.

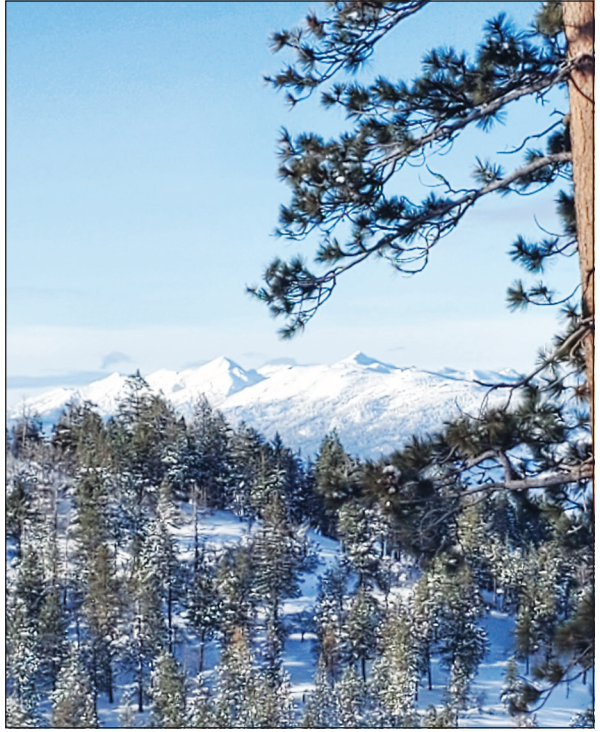
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2022 off to subzero start

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Baker County had an arctic end to 2021 and an even more frigid start to 2022.
But neither the last day of the old year nor the first day of the new managed to set a record for the lowest temperature.
With skies clearing and winds subsiding late on Friday, Dec. 31, conditions were ideal for what meteorologists call "radiational cooling" — meaning that any heat near the ground could radiate back into the atmosphere, causing temperatures near the ground to plummet. The fresh coat of snow also contributes, since snow reflects heat rather than absorbs it.
The temperature dropped to 14 below zero at the Baker City Airport before midnight on Dec. 31. But that was well short of the record low for Dec. 31 — 25 below zero, set in 1978.
It got colder still in the first hours of 2022, dipping to 20 below zero at around 6:30 a.m. But that didn't threaten the record low for Jan. 1 of 27 below zero, set in 1979.
Though no records were set, Jan. 1 was the coldest day at the airport in almost five years. A record low of 24 below zero was set on Jan. 5, 2017. That was the coldest reading at the airport since Dec. 22, 1990, when the low was 25 below zero.
Other low temperatures on Jan. 1 in Baker County included:
• Hereford: 27 below zero
• a weather station in Baker Valley near Haines: 26 below zero
• Unity Dam: 24 below zero
• Mason Dam: 22 below zero
• a station in Baker Valley between Baker City and Haines: 23 below zero
• a weather station on I-84 at the Medical Springs exit, Milepost 298: 21 below zero
• a weather station along I-84 at North Powder, in Union County: 25 below zero.

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

Storms bolster snowpack



The Elkhorn Mountains seen from near Dooley Mountain summit on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022.

Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Water content in snow above average in some places

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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A series of storms in the final week of 2021 pushed the snowpack above average in some parts of Northeastern Oregon.
And although this vital source of water for irrigation, recreation and municipal supplies typically doesn't peak until late winter or early spring, the solid start to the snowpack raises the prospect of at least some relief from the drought that has plagued the region for more than a year.
Snowpack is measured not by the depth of the snow but by its water content.
The latter figure, which is based on the weight of the

snow, more accurately estimates the amount of water held in the snowpack.
A foot of powdery snow, for instance, holds considerably less moisture (and thus weighs less) than the same depth of slush.
Overall, based on Monday, Jan. 3 readings from 13 sites around the region, the water content was exactly average for the date.
But readings at individual sites vary widely, from 31% below average at Aneroid Lake, in the Wallowa Mountains south of Wallowa Lake, to 65% above average at the County Line measuring site in the Blue Mountains between La Grande and Pendleton.
There is a wide difference in the snowpack even over a relatively small geographic range.

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