



SPORTS A5
Baker boys sweep, girls split two games on Central Oregon road trip



THURSDAY
Go! Magazine
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 Judy Karstens of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Deadline nears for OTEC scholarships, D.C. Youth Tour

Jan. 31 is the deadline to apply for an Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Scholarship or the annual Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

Through the OTEC Member Foundation, \$5,000 scholarships are available to graduating high school students, returning college students and adults entering educational and technical programs.

Four scholarships will be allocated to the OTEC-EOU Rural Scholarship Program. For the third year, four incoming EOU freshman will have the opportunity to have their entire four years of tuition and fees paid for, if they commit to attend and graduate from Eastern Oregon University and complete a summer internship with OTEC.

The other academic scholarships are for graduating high school students, returning college students or adults looking to begin college.

Applications and specific criteria for all the OTEC scholarships are available at otec.coop/scholarships. Students can apply for the Youth Tour at otec.coop/dc-youth-tour.

WEATHER

Today
30/21
Mostly cloudy

Wednesday
32/16
Mostly cloudy

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

A busted truck, a steak dinner and a lifelong bond

Elk hunter grateful for help given by Cpl. Dennis Lefever of the Baker County Sheriff's Office

BY JAYSON JACOBY

Steve McKibben was frustrated and angry and sad, and then Dennis and Maja Lefever appeared suddenly out of the dark, bearing a steak dinner.

McKibben accepted the plate, marveling that it was still hot despite the November chill and the early snow mantling the ground in the remote woods near Granite.

As he looked at the steaming steak and the mound of fried potatoes and the green beans, McKibben was about as surprised as he would have been had a pizza delivery car pulled into his elk hunting camp and disgorged a large double pepperoni.

McKibben hadn't even felt especially hungry as he sat there, despondent, in the cab of his Ford pickup truck, formerly reliable but now come up lame.

But the savory smell got his mouth watering.

"I wolfed that meal down pretty quick," McKibben said. "It was unbelievably delicious."



Steve McKibben with his 1999 Ford pickup truck. McKibben, who lives in Mosier, near The Dalles, is grateful for the help that Dennis Lefever, a corporal with the Baker County Sheriff's Office, gave him when his truck broke down during an elk hunting trip near Granite in November 2021.

His new friendship was even more satisfying.

A chance meeting in the woods

It had all started just that morning, Nov. 10, 2021.

A day earlier, McKibben, 53, had driven four hours or so from his home in Mosier, near The Dalles, to look for

elk in the lodgepole forests near Granite.

He said he has hunted and fished and whitewater rafted all over Oregon, but had only briefly explored the country around Granite, in Grant County just beyond the Baker County border.

Driving his 1999 Ford F-250 diesel, a rig he maintains with

metronomic regularity, McKibben found a spot to camp near Corrigal Springs, a few miles southwest of Granite.

On the morning of Nov. 10 he awoke to three or four inches of snow and a temperature of 19.

He hiked around, looking for elk tracks in the fresh snow, but to no avail.

McKibben decided to go for a drive, but when he turned the key his trust-worthy Ford wouldn't fire.

At all. A warning light indicated there was water in the diesel.

McKibben said he had filled up in Ukiah, about 50 miles from Granite.

He let the glow plugs get fully hot and tried again.

The engine wouldn't start. He connected jumper cables from his secondary battery to the primary.

Again, nothing but the straining whine of the starter.

"I was definitely stranded," McKibben said.

He started walking toward the highway, a few miles away.

He hoped to come across another hunter who could give him a ride back to his camp and possibly jump-start his truck.

He had run the batteries down trying to get the diesel to run.

See, Deputy/Page A3

COVID-19

Weekly case count third-highest

Vaccine clinic set for Jan. 13

BY JAYSON JACOBY

Baker County had its highest weekly COVID-19 case count in almost four months, with 91 cases reported from Jan. 2-8.

That was the most in a week since Sept. 12-18, when there were 139 cases, according to the Baker County Health Department.

The total of 91 was the third-most in any week during the pandemic.

The second-highest weekly total was 128 cases from Sept. 5-11.

From late September through the first week of January, the county averaged 38 cases per week, with as few as 20 cases (from Oct. 31-Nov. 6).

The September surge — a record monthly total of 465 cases — was spurred by the spread of the delta variant.

See, COVID/Page A2

Handling the dirty details

Nicolas Luna's car detailing shop has been busy

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

Nicolas Luna is ready to help local residents deal with the snow, slush and mud that can find their way into the nooks and crannies of any sort of vehicle.

Luna opened RM Detail and Car Wash in July.



Nicolas Luna offers interior and exterior car detailing at his shop in Baker City.

See, Shop/Page A3

Baker City Council to discuss pharmacy issue

BAKER CITY HERALD

The Baker City Council will discuss the crisis with long lines at local pharmacies during its regular meeting Tuesday evening, Jan. 11.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Councilors talked about the situation during their Dec. 14 meeting.

Dean Guyer, who was appointed during that meeting to fill the one vacancy on the seven-member Council, volunteered to gather information to bring back to his colleagues.

"The information that I did gather is going to be generic," Guyer said on Monday morning, Jan. 10. "The reason it is going to be generic is because I was asked that I not quote anybody."

Also on the Council's agenda is the issue of DoorDash, a food delivery service, operating in Baker City and its potential effect on the city's licensed taxi company.

According to the packet for councilors for the meeting, the city's attorney "indicated he does not believe state statute nor city code regulate DoorDash services."

During the Dec. 15 meeting, David Sanders, owner of Elkhorn Taxi, expressed his concern about DoorDash hurting his and other small businesses.

Mayor Kerry McQuisten asked to add the matter to the agenda for the Jan. 11 meeting.

Commissioners to discuss 'constitutional county' resolution

BAKER CITY HERALD

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will meet in a work session Wednesday, Jan. 12, to continue a discussion about a proposed "constitutional county" resolution that a local group is urging commissioners to approve.

That discussion is scheduled for noon at the Baker County Events Center, 2600 East St. This is the former armory at the fairgrounds north of Campbell Street.

Commissioners scheduled the session after hearing from proponents of the constitutional county resolution during a Dec. 15 meeting.

The work session will also include a discussion about a request from a resident in the Pine Creek area north-

west of Baker City to enact a no-shooting zone in that area after his home was twice hit by stray bullets.

Ted Davis made the request during commissioners' Nov. 3, 2021, meeting.

Prior to the work session, commissioners will convene at 11:30 a.m. at the Events Center for a special session with two items on the agenda — approving an application for a grant to support transportation for veterans to health care appointments, and a review of the county's nuisance ordinance.

'Constitutional county' resolution

A group called Baker County United is promoting the "constitutional county" resolution, which states,

among other things, 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."

Jake Brown of Halfway, representing Baker County United, told commissioners Dec. 15 that "we are merely asking you commissioners to double down on the liberty that we already are afforded in the Constitution and Bill of Rights."

About 30 people attended the Dec. 15 meeting, some of them standing in the relatively small room at the Courthouse where commissioners usually meet.

Only a couple of those attending were wearing masks.

Baker City resident Gary Dielman, who was wearing a mask, complained that the county was violating Gov. Kate Brown's executive order requiring people to wear masks in public indoor spaces, including the Courthouse.

Signs referencing that requirement are posted outside the Courthouse.

The public notice for the Jan. 12 meeting at the Event Center, which is a much larger space, notes that: "Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 333-019-1025, Masking requirements for indoor spaces) states that individuals five years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask, face

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



TODAY
Issue 102
12 pages

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Comics.....B5	Dear Abby.....B6	Lottery Results.....A2	Opinion.....A4	Weather.....B6