



LOCAL A2
\$16,500 reward offered for information in wolf killing



SPORTS A6
Oregon beats UCLA 84-81

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • OUTDOORS & REC • SPORTS

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Bonnie Paullus of Sumpter.

BRIEFING

Drive-thru COVID-19 testing Jan. 16

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City is asking residents who need a COVID-19 test to use the hospital's drive-thru testing clinic on Sunday, Jan. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the hospital. Follow signs to the back parking lot of the physicians' clinic, and call 541-524-8000.

Library book sale starts Jan. 28

The Friends of Baker County Library will have the Winter Book Sale from Friday, Jan. 28, to Sunday, Feb. 6, in the Riverside Meeting Room during library hours. A bag sale will take place Sunday, Feb. 6. Proceeds support the Friends, which in turn support the library.

Open house Jan. 21 at Blue Mountain CC

Blue Mountain Community College will have an open house at its Baker City campus on Friday, Jan. 21, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The campus is at 3275 Baker St., between Broadway and Campbell streets. More information about BMCC is available by calling 541-523-9127 or online at www.bluecc.edu.

WEATHER

Today
35/20
Partly cloudy

Sunday
33/20
Mostly cloudy

Monday
35/22
Cloudy

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

Air quality advisory in effect through Monday

BAKER CITY HERALD

Baker County will be in an air quality advisory at least through Monday morning, Jan. 17, due to widespread temperature inversions that trap cooler air, along with smoke and other air pollutants, near the ground.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued the advisory for Baker and several other counties in Eastern and Southern Oregon: Douglas, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake and Malheur.

DEQ recommends residents in the affected counties take precautions including:

- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity and recreation.
- People with heart or lung problems, and young children, are especially vulnerable, and

should stay indoors if smoke concentrations are high.

- Use high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters for indoor ventilation, or portable air purifiers.
- Avoid using wood stoves if possible.

Air stagnation tends to be a problem during temperature inversions, a situation when warmer air higher in the atmosphere traps colder air, which is more dense, in valleys.

See, Advisory/Page A3



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Matt Diaz sells barbecued smoked brisket and more from his food truck on Broadway Street in Baker City.

Bitter weather can't block barbecue

Matt Diaz sells smoked brisket from his food truck

BY LISA BRITTON

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When Matt Diaz lifts the metal lid, smoke swirls around him and wafts across the parking lot toward Broadway Street.

A barbecue place, he says, should smell like barbecue. Diaz owns Get Smoked BBQ, a food truck he's parked at 2715 Broadway St., near 10th Street, in Baker City.

He officially opened at this spot a month ago. Although the business venture is new, this approach to food is not. "I've been doing barbecue for 15 years," Diaz said.

He decided to make it official in the spring of 2021. "I think God wanted me to step out and do this as a business," he said.

He switched to barbecue full time in September. Prior to that, he was the youth pastor at Harvest Christian Church.

Diaz grew up in Massachusetts, and served in the U.S. Navy in San Diego. His wife, Mandy, was also in the Navy.

They moved to Baker City four years ago.

His barbecue business is housed inside a trailer that was originally used by the Baker County Sheriff's Posse.

"It was stolen from them and set on fire," Diaz said.

He has worked as an aircraft mechanic, so he set to work repairing the trailer and transforming it into a kitchen.

When it's time to smoke meat, Diaz pulls the mobile restaurant to his home, where it's easier to check on the meat throughout the night.

He offers smoked brisket and pulled pork, as well as smoked macaroni and cheese and slaw. He offers a discount for veterans and first responders.

For now, he's open Wednesday through Saturday, from noon to 3 p.m. (unless he sells out, in which case he closes early).

He said the winter weather has not deterred customers.

"It's been great," he said. "Eastern Oregon people are hardy — they don't mind cold and snow." He plans to expand his hours this summer. Someday, he'd like to see an expansion of food truck offerings, as well.

For updates and specials, check the "Get Smoked BBQ" pages on Facebook and Instagram.

Vaccination clinic draws 85 patients

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR AND JAYSON JACOBY

Baker City Herald
Richard Erwin was among about 85 people who turned out on a chilly day to get a COVID-19 vaccination during a drive-thru clinic at the Baker County Fairgrounds Thursday, Jan. 13.

"I just figured I needed to get my booster," Erwin said. "I had the two regular shots. I just needed to get my booster shot. A little more precaution, I think."

Daniel Turk received his second COVID-19 vaccination.

"I feel fine," Turk said. "I don't like needles. I'm not really a fan of doing this but I feel like it's necessary. But physically I feel great."

See, Clinic/Page A3

Speakers urge commissioners to protect rights

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

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Baker County Commissioners heard from several local residents on Wednesday, Jan. 12, who urged commissioners to defend the state and federal constitutions and help businesses being harmed by pandemic-related mandates from Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

The work session at the Baker County Events Center was a continuation of a discussion that started Dec. 15.

Baker County United, a county group formed last fall, is urging commissioners to adopt a resolution designating Baker as a "constitutional county."

Proponents say that would help protect the county and its residents against what they consider unconstitutional mandates, including Brown's executive orders requiring people to wear masks in some indoor public spaces, and, for employees in some



Harvey

See, County/Page A3

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

CANDIDATE FOR REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION

Pierce says 2022 promising for GOP

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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Bud Pierce figures 2022 is the best time in the past four decades for a Republican to run for Oregon governor in the general election.

And he'd like to be that Republican. Pierce, one of a dozen Republicans seeking his party's nomination in the May 17 primary, visited Baker City on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

Pierce hosted a meet-and-greet event that evening at the Baker County

Events Center. It was his third campaign event of the day, following appearances in Ontario and John Day.

An airplane made the hectic day possible, said Pierce, an oncologist who started the day at his home in Salem.

Pierce knows firsthand how challenging it is for a Republican seeking to become Oregon governor.

He was the party's nominee in the 2016 election, losing to incumbent Kate Brown, who had almost

51% of the vote compared with Pierce's 43.5%.

Pierce, 65, was the latest in a series of eight Republicans who tried to break a string of Democratic victories dating to 1986.

Vic Atiyeh, who was elected to his second four-year term in 1982, is the last Republican to hold that office.

Brown can't run this year due to the state's term limits law.

The absence of an incumbent is one of the factors Pierce believes makes 2022 such an auspicious year for Republicans.

See, Pierce/Page A3

Welcome: Dominic James Buddy Hillman Baker City's first baby of 2022



Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City/Contributed Photo

The first baby born at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City in 2022 waited quite a bit longer than his predecessor. Dominic James Buddy Hillman was born Jan. 10, 2022, at 7:42 p.m. to Natawani and Dustin Hillman. The first baby from 2021, Paycen Reese Preston, arrived at 8:19 p.m. on the first day of the year. Dominic, who weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long, was welcomed by a brother, Mason, and a sister, Ararah. Both mother and baby are doing well, according to a press release from Saint Alphonsus. To commemorate the hospital's first birth of 2022, Saint Alphonsus presented Dominic and his parents with a gift basket containing several newborn necessities, including a little Alphonso Bear wearing an "I'm a Saint Al's kid" shirt, baby blanket, teething rings, diapers, wipes, a musical animal rattle, onesies and an outfit.



TODAY
Issue 104
12 pages

Classified.....B2-B4	Crossword.....B2 & B4	Jayson Jacoby.....A4	Opinion.....A4	Sports.....A5 & A6
Comics.....B5	Dear Abby.....B6	News of Record.....A2	Outdoors.....B1 & B2	Turning Backs.....A2
Community News.....A3	Horoscope.....B3 & B4	Obituaries.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Weather.....B6