



SPORTS A5
Baker wrestlers beat Mac-Hi



SPORTS A6
Bulldogs host swim meet

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 Frank Riggs of Richland.

BRIEFING

Local student on dean's list at Iowa Lakes Community College

ESTHERVILLE, Iowa — Katrina Fast of Baker City was named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 term at Iowa Lakes Community College. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99.

Public hearing set on North Baker transportation plan

The Baker County Planning Commission will have a public hearing on Feb. 8, to discuss proposed revisions to the county's comprehensive plan related to the Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan.

That plan covers proposed changes to Cedar Street, Hughes Lane, 10th Street and Pocahontas Road.

The public hearing is scheduled for 5 p.m. at the County Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

Residents can also participate remotely, by teleconference. Call 1-833-548-0282, enter meeting ID 6826121078 and passcode 967061.

A staff report for the Planning Commission will be available at the Planning Department in the Courthouse by Feb. 1. To receive a digital copy for no cost, or for more information, call Tara Micka at 541-523-8219.

WEATHER

Today
31/17
Mostly sunny

Wednesday
31/12
Areas of fog

Full forecast on the back of the B section.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Sara Artley, right, owns Sara's Richland Cafe. She, along with the help of employee Riata Brown, left, offers an international dinner night on the second Friday of each month, and special Friday dinners on other weeks.

Councilor to propose moving ahead with train quiet zone

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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The newest member of the Baker City Council wants the city to pursue a railroad quiet zone within the city limits rather than ask voters to weigh in on the issue.

Dean Guyer, who was appointed on Dec. 14 to fill the lone vacancy on the seven-member City Council, will ask his colleagues during their regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25, to move

See, Council/Page A3

A world of flavor

Sara's Richland Cafe offers international dinners once a month

BY LISA BRITTON
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RICHLAND — Sara Artley is bringing a taste of the world to Richland, one meal at a time.

She and her husband, Jeff, opened Sara's Richland Cafe on Sept. 4, 2020.

Prior to that, the couple managed Cornucopia Lodge, in the Wallowa Mountains north of Halfway.

At her cafe in Richland, about 41 miles east of Baker City via Highway 86, Sara wanted to incorporate special events that introduced unique flavors to the local community.

"That was one of our first ideas," she said. The cafe's first international dinner was in October 2020.

It went on hiatus when the cafe was shut down in the winter of 2020, but returned in February 2021.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Riata Brown cooked chorizo on Jan. 14, 2022, for the special Basque dinner that night at Sara's Richland Cafe.

The Artleys offer an international dinner on the second Friday of each month.

Featured meals have included Basque, Irish, Amish and Russian.

"Sometimes it's what I feel like, or what someone suggests," Sara said. "We want to give people an opportunity to open their horizons. We have one or two dishes they definitely have never tried before."

On Friday, Jan. 14, she and Riata Brown were busy preparing the meal for Basque night.

Brown, who grew up in Elko, Nevada, is familiar with the Basque culture

and food — including beef tongue, which she prepared that morning.

This dish, she said, tastes good if prepared well — she pressure cooked it first, peeled and sliced the meat, then slow cooked it in a red wine sauce.

See, Cafe/Page A3

COVID cases take slight dip

Cases did set weekly record for second straight week

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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Baker County has set a record for new COVID-19 cases in two consecutive weeks, but daily cases dipped a bit over a three-day period ending Sunday, Jan. 23.

It's too early to say that this constitutes a meaningful trend marking the passage of the peak of the surge caused by the infectious omicron variant, said Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department.

"We'll see what happens this week," Staten said on Monday morning, Jan. 24. "We want to be cautiously optimistic."

Nationwide, the seven-day average of cases on Friday, Jan. 21, was down 7% from the previous week.

The three-day weekend tally of cases in Oregon was not available by press time on Monday, Jan. 24.

See, COVID/Page A3



Staten

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

Removing roadkill a possible savior for sage grouse

Carcasses can attract ravens, which eat sage grouse eggs, chicks

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The connection between a dead deer rotting on the roadside, a live raven and a live (or budding) sage grouse is a somewhat circuitous one.

And not just because only two of the three things are birds.

Sometimes, though, this trio forges a link of sorts, and the only one that prospers from the confluence is the raven.

The deer, obviously, is already gone.

The problem, said Dallas Hall Defrees, coordinator for the Baker County Sage



Jill Anna Greenberg/Philadelphia Inquirer-TNS

Carcasses of roadkilled deer can attract scavengers, including ravens.

Grouse Local Implementation Team (LIT), is that the deer carcass can attract ravens, which then tend to stay in the area, searching for other easy meals.

Including sage grouse eggs. Or recently hatched sage

grouse chicks.

Research has shown that ravens can be a significant predator on sage grouse eggs and chicks, Defrees said.

"Ravens are very opportunistic," she said. A survey in the spring of

2016 in some of Baker County's best sage grouse habitat, mainly east of Baker City including the Virtue Flat and Keating areas, showed raven populations were high enough to potentially pose a threat to sage grouse.

Research suggests that ravens pose a particular threat when their population densities exceed 0.7 birds per square kilometer, Lee Foster, then the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) sage grouse conservation coordinator, said in 2016.

The 2016 ODFW survey between April 1 and May 30 — when sage grouse are nesting — yielded a preliminary population density estimate of 0.9 ravens per square kilometer.

Identifying, and trying to mitigate, threats to sage grouse is the focus of the effort that Defrees, a Baker

County native, is coordinating.

That campaign is spearheaded by a six-year, \$6.2 million grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that started in 2019. The money comes from Oregon Lottery revenue.

Defrees said the roadkill project, which is in its preliminary stages and has no definite timeline, aims to reduce the number of raven-attracting carcasses along Highway 86, which runs east from Baker City and bisects some of the county's best sage grouse habitat.

"If we can deter ravens from being there, it would be highly beneficial for sage grouse," Defrees said.

She emphasized, though, that curbing the presence of carcasses is, at best, a partial solution.

See, Roadkill/Page A3



TODAY
Issue 108
12 pages

Classified.....B2-B4	Crossword.....B2 & B4	Horoscope.....B3 & B4	Opinion.....A4	Sudoku.....B5
Comics.....B5	Dear Abby.....B6	Lottery Results.....A2	Senior Menus.....A2	Turning Backs.....A2
Community News.....A3	Home.....B1 & B2	News of Record.....A2	Sports.....A5 & A6	Weather.....B6

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