



LOCAL A2
McQuisten attends Trump speech



SPORTS A5
Baker basketball prepares for season



OUTDOORS B1
Feeding stations ready for elk to arrive

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • OUTDOORS & REC • SPORTS Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022 • \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Britta Yates of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Gingerbread house decoration contest

Youth are invited to design and decorate a gingerbread house for a contest sponsored by CASA. Houses are built at home on a base no larger than 12 inches by 15 inches. The house and all decorations must be edible. Please include the child's name and age. Decorated houses can be submitted Friday, Dec. 2, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the CASA office, 2024 Main St. Winning entries will be displayed after 4 p.m. on Dec. 2. Special prizes will be awarded to these age groups: 2-4; 5-7; 8-10; 11-15; and 15-18.

Gingerbread houses can be picked up on Friday, Dec. 9, between 9 a.m. and noon. Any that are not claimed will be thrown away. For more information, call Sue Richard at 541-519-7227.

Pet supply drive through Dec. 16

Bisnett Insurance is hosting a pet supply drive for Best Friends of Baker through Dec. 16. You can drop off donations at Bisnett, at 2001 Main St. (corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street). Needs include kitten and adult cat food (dry or wet), dog food (large and small breeds), kitten milk replacement powder, and monetary donations for medical needs will be accepted as well.

WEATHER

Today
 43/25
 Mostly sunny

Tuesday
 37/26
 Afternoon rain

Monday
 33/14
 Snow showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

BAKER CITY COUNCIL

Property owner objects to intersection plan

Jim Ingram concerned about loss of some of his family's alfalfa field

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
 soconnor@bakercityherald.com

A Baker City man told the city council Tuesday, Nov. 22 that a proposed change to the intersection of 10th Street and Hughes Lane/Pocahontas Road could take part of his family's farmland

without compensation for the long-term loss in productivity.

Jim Ingram attended the meeting at the request of Mayor Kerry McQuisten. Ingram, whose family has owned the field at the northeast corner of the intersection for 27 years and farmed the land for 45 years, told councilors that the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) proposed design for the intersection could take about one-third of an acre from the field.

"We all value our private property and I think this community should

value its farm ground," Ingram said. "And, while I don't have any personal objection to ODOT making improvements to the safety of intersections, I believe there are ways to do it that don't encroach as much on people's private property rights."

The intersection redesign is part of a larger project intended to make improvements to sections of 10th Street and Cedar Street.

ODOT and Baker City and Baker County officials have been discussing the proposal for the past few years.

Although ODOT would have to pay the Ingrams for the market value of private property taken as part of the project, Ingram told councilors that the one-time payment wouldn't compensate the family for the permanent loss of production. The 77-acre property grows alfalfa now.

In a letter to City Manager Jonathan Cannon, Ingram wrote that based on current hay prices, that third of an acre could yield hay worth about \$50,000 over 50 years.

See **Plan** / A3

A Day set aside for giving not buying

Giving Tuesday set for Nov. 29

BY LISA BRITTON
 britton@bakercityherald.com

Black Friday is known for its hectic early morning rush of snatching deals, and Small Business Saturday aims to keep dollars in communities by encouraging shoppers to browse local shops.

Cyber Monday turns everyone to their computer for the best online deals.

But there's another day, coming up soon, that encourages a different type of gift.

Nov. 29 is Giving Tuesday, a movement started in 2012 to inspire people "to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity," as described at givingtuesday.org.

Some organizations plan special fundraisers on this day — for instance, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center in Baker City has a Giving Tuesday fundraising link posted on Facebook.

"Giving Tuesday allows us to reach a much wider audience about our mission and programming," said Ginger Savage, executive director of Crossroads. "It is just so important that when you have shopped Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday to remember Giving Tuesday where you give back to those organizations in your community that we know need help. This is a critical piece of Crossroads' budget each year."

She said checks are welcome too, in case donors don't want to do an online transaction.



Oregon Cultural Trust/Contributed Image

The Oregon Cultural Trust released this new license plate design Oct. 1, 2021. Designed by Liza Burns of Eugene, it includes 127 symbols that represent life and culture in Oregon.

Crossroads' Giving Tuesday campaign continues through Dec. 31.

A tax credit

In addition to encouraging people to support a favorite nonprofit on Giving Tuesday, the state of Oregon provides a cultural tax credit for those who also donate to the Oregon Cultural Trust.

A tax credit can reduce the amount of tax you owe or increase a tax refund.

See **Giving** / A6

Police look into altercation at GOP meeting

BY JAYSON JACOBY
 jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker City Police are investigating an altercation that happened after a meeting of the Baker County Republican Central Committee Friday evening, Nov. 18, in Baker City.

People involved give distinctly different accounts of the episode in a meeting room at the Sunridge Inn.

Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby said "we're investigating all of it."

"We're in the early stages; the reports aren't done," Duby said on Monday, Nov. 21.

There is agreement on the basic elements.

Kerry McQuisten, a Republican precinct committee person (PCP) and Baker City mayor, said she was talking with a group of people standing next to the wall inside the meeting room after the meeting.

Rick Rienks of Baker City, who is also a PCP, was also in the room.

Rienks said his wife, Penny, 71, who had hip replacement surgery 11 days earlier and is using a walker, was coming into the room to meet her husband.

In Rick Rienks' written account, which he emailed to the Baker City Herald, Penny Rienks was trying to move past McQuisten, saying "excuse me" to McQuisten.

Rick Rienks contends McQuisten said "just go around me," and that McQuisten "grabbed" Penny Rienks and "pushed her from behind."

Rick Rienks said he "grabbed McQuisten and pushed her away from (Penny Rienks)."

McQuisten called Rienks' account of the episode "complete garbage."

McQuisten said she and the group she was talking with were standing next to the wall and were not blocking anyone's progress.

"I was literally standing there, talking," McQuisten said.

She said Penny Rienks walked directly toward her. McQuisten denied grabbing or pushing Penny Rienks.

McQuisten's account coincides with Rick Rienks in that both said he grabbed her arm.

Rick Rienks wrote that after the incident

See **Meeting** / A3

Learning to love reading

O TEC giving newborns a book before they go home

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
 soconnor@bakercityherald.com

Parents of infants born at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City receive gifts on their special day, and now they're going home with more than diapers and blankets.

Newborns get a new book, as well. And the chance to get a lot more during their first five years.

In 2019, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative partnered with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a foundation that provides books to children from birth to age 5. And now OTEC has joined with the James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation of Portland, which pays half the cost for the new book donation program.

See **Reading** / A6



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Cebrina Phillips-Baggerly and her newborn daughter, Erin May Warner, are the first recipients of a bag containing a book and information about signing up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, which provides children one book per month through age 5. Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is partnering with the James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation to give the gift bag to parents of all babies born at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

Printing Issue Delayed GO!

Due to a printing plant problem, this week's issue of GO! magazine, the arts and entertainment guide for Northeastern Oregon, was not inserted as intended in the Tuesday, Nov. 22 issue. GO! is included in today's issue. As a result, some of the events listed in this week's issue have already happened. This week's GO! was included with the e-edition only section available to subscribers on Thursday. Next week GO! will return to its usual schedule, inserted with the Thursday, Dec. 1 issue.



TODAY
 Issue 84
 38 pages

Classified	B2-B4, B9	Crossword	B2-B4, B9	Jayson Jacoby	A4	Opinion	A4	Sports	A5
Comics	B10 & B11	Dear Abby	B12	Lottery Results	A2	Outdoors	B1 & B2	Turning Backs	A2
Community News	A2	Horoscope	B2-B4, B9	News of Record	A2	Senior Menus	A2	Weather	B12