

# Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Victoria Valenzuela of Baker City.

BRIEFING

**Brooklyn School taco feed Friday**

Brooklyn Primary School's annual Taco Feed fundraiser is scheduled Friday, Feb. 8. The event will be from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School, 2500 E St. The cost for the dinner is \$5 for all ages. Tacos will be prepared by students in the Baker Technical Institute's Culinary Arts program and D&J Taco Shop.

In addition to the taco feed, there will be a silent auction, raffle and book fair.

**Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre auditions set for Monday**

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre will have auditions for "Three Days of Rain" at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the EORT theater, 2101 Main St.

Director Paul McNeil is looking for two men and one woman for this adult drama romantic show.

**Family History Discovery event Feb. 15-16 at LDS Church**

People interested in learning about their family's history are invited to a free event Feb. 15 and 16 at the LDS Family History Center at the Baker City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Participants should use the east entrance to the church at 2625 Hughes Lane.

There are classes for all levels, given by experienced genealogists.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 15**

• Registration starts at 5:30 p.m., with classes starting at 6 p.m.

• 2 class periods with a choice of two classes

• Open Family History Center lab

• Cookies will be served

**SATURDAY, FEB. 16**

• Registration starts at 8:30 p.m., with snacks served

• Welcome at 8:50 a.m., sign in to Relatives Around Me on your FamilySearch app

• 9 a.m. to noon, 3 class periods with 3 classes each, plus open Family History Center

WEATHER

**Today**  
26 / 5



Mostly sunny

**Thursday**  
32 / 16



Mostly sunny

**2018: Warmest Year On Record At Baker City Airport**

## Baker's Balmiest



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

There wasn't much snow to be seen, even in the Elkhorn Mountains, during the summer of 2018. This photograph, from 2013, was made near Alder Creek southeast of Baker City.

By Jayson Jacoby  
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That 2018 was the warmest year on record in Baker City might not seem surprising to anyone who endured the August heat wave that incinerated a record that had lasted more than half a century.

But it turns out that typically chilly January played a bigger role than sizzling August.

The average temperature at the Baker City Airport during January 2018 was 9.4 degrees above average.

August, despite all-time record highs being set on consecutive days, was not quite 3 degrees warmer than average.

Both July and May were also hotter, relative to the long-term average, than August was — May's average temperature was 6.3 degrees above average, and July's was almost 4 degrees.

Ten of the 12 months in 2018 were warmer than average. February was cooler than average by about three-quarters of one degree, and September, in a statistical anomaly, was exactly average.

All told, tallying all the daily high and low temperatures during 2018 yields a yearly average temperature of 48.0 degrees.

That's 2.5 degrees above the long-term average at the airport, where detailed temperature records have been kept since 1944.

With its 48.0-degree average, 2018 eclipses the two previous record-setting years — 1992 and 1973 — each of which had an average annual



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

The snow line had retreated to the higher reaches of the Elkhorn Mountains by May 2018, following a winter that was warmer and drier than usual.

temperature of 47.7 degrees.

But even though a cool stretch late in August demoted the month's average temperature down to sixth-hottest on record, it was that three-

day stretch, Aug. 8-10, that most of us likely will remember.

Especially the latter two days.

See **Balmy** / Page 6A

## Council talks goals

By Casey Crowley  
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The Baker City Council discussed possible ways to boost the city's general fund revenue during a goal-setting work session Tuesday night at City Hall.

Councilors made no decisions, and they didn't officially adopt a list of goals.

They'll probably do so during their Feb. 26 regular meeting, City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said.

During Tuesday's work session representatives from each city department briefed councilors on progress made on the goals the City Council approved last year.

Those included: Maintain and enhance water security, implement the Wastewater Disposal Plan, require cost-effective budget management, enhance community livability, evaluate and enhance economic development plan, promote government integrity, increase citizen involvement, continue to promote communication and collaboration with community partners and government entities, continue support of parks and outdoor spaces and implement an asset maintenance schedule.

Each goal had a number of more specific bullet points.

The first main topic of the night was the city's water security. In the past the city had discussed drilling a second well but there has not been any progress made to start the project. Estimates from Public Works Director Michelle Owen put the cost of the project somewhere between \$1 million and \$2 million.

Councilors also discussed proposals to thin forests in the watershed in an effort to reduce the fire risk in the 10,000-acre area in the Elkhorn Mountains. The city obtains its drinking water from a dozen streams and springs in the watershed.

See **Council** / Page 3A

## 5J board members visit Washington, D.C.

By Chris Collins  
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Kevin Cassidy and Andrew Bryan have taken their roles as school board members to a higher level.

They not only represent the Baker School District as board members, but for the past several years both men have represented all of Eastern Oregon — and at times, all of Oregon — as representatives from the region in their respective roles with the Oregon School Boards Association.

This year Cassidy, 48, a 1988 Baker High School graduate, is president-elect on the OSBA Board. He will step into the president's role next year and will remain a Board officer the year after that in the position of past president.

Bryan, 53, serves as the Eastern Oregon representative on the association's Legislative Policy Committee.

He is the longest tenured member of the 5J Board. Bryan was appointed to fill an unexpired term in July 2010 and was first elected to a four-year term in 2011.



Submitted photo

See **School Board** / Page 2A

Baker School Board member Kevin Cassidy, left, met with Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.

**TODAY**  
Issue 117, 24 pages

Business.....1B & 2B  
Calendar.....2A  
Classified.....4B-9B

Comics.....3B  
Community News...3A  
Crossword.....6B & 7B

Dear Abby.....10B  
Horoscope.....6B & 7B  
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News of Record.....2A  
Obituaries.....2A  
Opinion.....4A

Senior Menus.....2A  
Sports.....5A  
Weather.....10B

**FRIDAY — WINTER TRANSFORMS A STREAM INTO SCULPTURE**

