



In **OUTDOORS**, 1B
Significant surge in snowpack

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Shirley Bowman of Baker City.

Baker High School burned 30 years ago

Today marks the 30th anniversary of the fire that destroyed much of Baker High School. The blaze was reported at 1:26 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1989.

The electrical fire started in the building's attic and spread to most of the rest of the structure. A new school opened in 1991.

BRIEFING

Concert Saturday evening at Churchill School

Calvin Johnson of Olympic, Washington, is touring his newest album titled "A Wonderful Beast," and will be in concert Saturday, Feb. 16, at Churchill School. The music starts at 5:30 p.m., and also features Baker City's Shannon Gray. Admission is \$8, or free for those 10 and younger.

To hear a podcast with Calvin Johnson, visit http://www.churchillbaker.com/assets/calvin-johnson-podcast_mixdown.mp3.

Dueling pianos show benefit for Orpheum Theatre

Killer Keyz by Dueling Pianos Anywhere, the top-rated dueling pianos show in the country, will entertain at the Baker City Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St., at 7 p.m. Feb. 20. The event is a fundraiser for the Baker Orpheum Theatre Project. Killer Keyz brings exuberant performances that thrill clients with all-request high-energy audience-interactive performances. Each entertainer performs songs directly from the audience's requests, creating their own special blend of hilarity, excitement and musical favorites and delighting guests of all ages.

Pre-benefit tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students, available at Betty's Books, Random Resales and online at bakerlivetheatre.com. Tickets at the door will be \$30.

WEATHER

Today

39 / 22



Snow showers

Saturday

36 / 20



Snow showers

Sunday

35 / 17



Mostly cloudy

Sheepdog Missing For Six Days Near Sparta Found Safe On Thursday

Honey is Home



Submitted photo

Lise Madson cuddles Honey, her 2-year-old Shetland sheepdog. Honey went missing for six days in a snow-bound rural area near Sparta, east of Baker City. Madson found Honey, who was healthy, on Thursday.

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

When Lise Madson found the splotch of blood beside the road she figured it was futile to keep searching. Her dog must be dead.

Less than an hour later the dog in question, a 20-pound Shetland sheepdog named Honey who had gone missing for six days, was not only very much alive, she was safely ensconced in Madson's arms.

And happy to stay there — at least until a bowl of food was made available.

"She was extremely hungry," Madson said.

But otherwise the diminutive dog,

which stands 14 inches at the shoulder, was in good condition despite having spent almost a week — and the snowiest week of the winter — roaming a rural part of Baker County.

Madson said veterinarian Brett Hamilton examined Honey Thursday afternoon and said the dog had a fever but was otherwise healthy.

A day that ended up with a joyful reunion started much differently.

Madson said a volunteer searcher found small canine tracks, a patch of blood and a chunk of flesh Thursday morning beside a road not far from where Honey had been seen in the Sparta area about 25 miles east of

Baker City.

"When we found the blood I had just about given up hope," Madson said. "I cried."

A neighbor reported seeing wolves in the area two days earlier, and Madson envisioned her dog falling prey to the predators.

Not long after, and about three-quarters of a mile from the tracks and the blood, Madson, who was driving along East Eagle Creek Road about a mile and a half north of Sparta Road, suddenly saw a dog sitting beneath a roadside pine.

It was Honey.

See **Honey** / Page 5A

Ranchers seek money to cover wolf losses

By Casey Crowley
ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

The Baker County Wolf Depredation Committee recommends the state pay Panhandle ranchers almost \$66,000 for cattle injured or killed by wolves last year, or that went missing.

The committee met Wednesday to review applications from several ranchers through the Oregon Department of Agriculture's compensation program.

Typically state officials pay ranchers for the full market value of animals that state wildlife biologists confirm were killed or injured by wolves.

Three ranchers in the Halfway area about 50 miles east of Baker City — Dean Tucker of Pine Valley Ranch, Barry DelCurto and Chad DelCurto — combined requested \$10,584 for 12 animals that were either killed or injured in April 2018 by wolves from the Pine Creek Pack.

Those three ranchers, along with three others, also submitted requests for compensation for missing cattle they believe might have been killed by wolves.

Those requests total \$55,399.

Ranchers who have missing cattle whose loss was not definitely caused by wolves generally received much less than the market value of their animals.

The committee awarded about \$12,000 to four ranchers to help them hire range riders, who travel with cattle herds to try to protect them from wolves.

Chad DelCurto will receive \$7,143, Pine Valley Ranch \$1,941, Deven Thompson \$1,482 and Barry DelCurto \$1,431.

Each of the four could receive more money if it's available from the state. Combined they asked for \$23,500.

Attorneys Writing In Legal Journal Contend County Overstates Its Authority In Public Land Management

Harvey says coordination article misleading

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Bill Harvey gives a rueful chuckle as he leafs through an article in a legal journal whose authors argue that Baker County's natural resources plan greatly overstates the county's authority over managing public lands within its borders.

It's not that Harvey, who recently started his second four-year term as chairman of the county's three-member Board of Commissioners, is particularly amused by the topic.

But this isn't the first article he has read that challenges his contentions about how the county can influ-

ence federal agencies that manage the public land that makes up about 51 percent of the county's 2 million acres.

And his minor degree of mirth derives from the reality that multiple attorneys have written what he believes are misleading interpretations of how much power the county actually claims for itself.

"We don't have supremacy over the (public) land," Harvey said Thursday from his office in the Courthouse.

"We fully understand that (federal agencies) are in charge of managing the land. But Congress gave us the authority to help plan the manage-

ment of these lands, to be a part of the planning process."

The authority Harvey refers to is known as "coordination."

As outlined in federal law, coordination states that federal agencies such as the Forest Service and BLM will work with local officials to try to make sure management of public land is consistent with the goals outlined in, for instance, a county's natural resources plan.

The law notes, however, that this effort to be consistent does not supersede the requirement that public land be managed in accordance with environmental laws such as the

Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

If there is a conflict — for instance, if an agency would have to violate a federal law to be consistent with a county goal — then the federal law, not the county plan, would dictate the agency's decision.

Coordination has been a centerpiece of Harvey's political career since he first ran for his current position in 2014, and it's also the subject of the article that sits on his desk, many sections of which he has highlighted in brilliant yellow.

See **County** / Page 3A



Calendar.....2A	Community News...3A	Health.....2B	Obituaries.....2A	Senior Menus.....2A
Classified.....4B-7B	Crossword.....5B & 7B	Jayson Jacoby.....4A	Opinion.....4A	Sports & 6A
Comics.....3B	Dear Abby.....8B	News of Record.....5A	Outdoors.....1B	Weather.....8B

MONDAY — DISTRICT HOOPS, BAKER IN GOL TITLE GAMES



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