



In **SPORTS, 6A**
Stadler
 sets state
 record

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Patty Vowell of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — You can buy it, sell it, grow it, smoke it, eat it, rub it on as a cream. Storefronts and billboards advertise it, doctors prescribe it, the state taxes and regulates it, and business groups promote it.

But if your employer finds out you've used it — marijuana — you can be fired.

Two bills before the Legislature are trying to change the situation.

BRIEFING

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 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

31 / 10

Mostly sunny



Tuesday

32 / 24

Snow possible



The space below will be blank on issues delivered or sold from boxes. The space is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

New Flooring At Baker Heritage Museum

Solid Foundation



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Kaleb Guthrie, Carpet One employee, continues installation of new flooring at the Baker Heritage Museum's gift shop. He and Brady Hill have taken out old carpeting to replace it with a vinyl/plastic, waterproof floor in the tones of weathered wood.

Visitors to the Baker Heritage Museum will see some changes when it opens for the 2019 season on March 16.

But they'll have to look down. Workers are replacing old carpeting with new flooring in two sections of the Museum, at 2480 Grove St., just east of Geiser-Pollman Park.

The waterproof vinyl flooring, which is designed to look like weathered wood planks, is being installed in the gift shop on the main floor and in the upstairs balcony.

The Baker County Museum Commission received a \$15,000 grant from the Leo Adler Foundation, which covers the cost of the materials and labor.

Brady Hill is offering a discounted rate for the installation, said Steve Bogart, chairman of the Museum Commission.

Future plans include replacing flooring in the Rock Room, the Adler Room, the entry and some offices.

But the next major project on the Commission's agenda is replacing the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems at the Museum, Bogart said.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The floor surrounding the upstairs balcony also is being resurfaced with the hard vinyl/plastic flooring.

Schools deal with illness

■ More than 10 percent of students have been absent on some days

By **Chris Collins**
 collins@bakercityherald.com

Baker schools have been taking turns sending out letters to parents this winter alerting them of the high rate of absenteeism linked to illness.

Baker High School Principal Greg Mitchell said the letters were distributed by his school last week as a preventive measure designed to keep more students from getting sick.

Mitchell noted in the letter that many Baker County residents have been sick over the past month.

"A lot of students and teachers in our school are sick with the flu also," he wrote. "We hope they will all get better quickly. At this time, the county health department tells us that students who are not ill can safely come to school."

"Schools will remain open," he stated. "We will keep you updated with any important information."

Mitchell's letter is similar to those sent out by other Baker schools in the past several weeks as the flu season has made its way through the community, said Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer.

See **Schools** / Page 2A

Hearing on carbon bill Feb. 25

Baker County residents will have a chance to comment on the carbon cap-and-trade bill the Oregon Legislature is considering.

Although none of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction's four scheduled public forums is in Baker City, a remote hearing is slated for Monday, Feb. 25 at the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative office, 4005 23rd St. OTEC is sponsoring the hearing along with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce.

The time for the hearing has not been set, but will be announced.

Officials from OTEC and the Chamber have expressed concern about the potential effects of House Bill 2020, in particular increases in the cost of gasoline, natural gas and other fossil fuels.

See **Carbon** / Page 2A

Northeast Oregon Compassion Center Honors New Directions Northwest Volunteers

Firewood providers recognized

The Northeast Oregon Compassion Center honored members of New Directions Northwest's Men's Program during the Center's annual banquet earlier this month for their volunteer work to help provide firewood for needy families.

Cliff Cole, Compassion Center director, presented the award to Andy Micka, New Directions substance use disorder counselor, on

behalf of the volunteers, a press release stated. In addition to his counseling position, Micka also coordinates community service projects for the men with partnering organizations.

Those enrolled at Baker House, New Directions' men's residential treatment program, volunteered to help cut, split and deliver more than 200 cords of firewood to 50 families identified by the

Compassion Center.

New Directions Northwest Inc. specializes in helping people find "New Directions for Positive Change" through treatment programs for alcohol, drug and gambling addictions as well as mental health, developmental disabilities and prevention services, the press release stated. It also manages three residential treatment programs, mental

health school-based services in three school districts, a 24/7 mobile crisis response unit, a respite center and the Powder River Alternative Incarceration Program.

The agency employs 132 Baker County residents and is seeking to add to that number.

More information is available by visiting the website: newdirectionsnw.org or by calling 541-523-7400.



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