

# Opinion

BAKER CITY  
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## EDITORIAL

# Let's keep the lead in contest for playground

Baker City is in a three-way race, and about half-way through we're pretty far out ahead.

But one competitor is still within view, and could start closing the distance any time.

The uncertainty has to do with the nature of this contest to claim a grant to help build an all-abilities playground at Geiser-Pollman Park.

The winner will be determined by online voting through 5 p.m. on March 20.

Which means a concerted campaign could yield an immense number of votes almost immediately, given the ubiquity of the internet.

It also means Baker residents need to continue to be diligent both in voting themselves — you can do so once per day — and in encouraging others, wherever they live, to do the same.

As of this morning, Baker City had about 32,070 votes. Its nearest competitor, Prineville, had 23,400. The third entrant, Independence, had 10,600.

The winner in the Moda Assist contest will receive an estimated \$35,000 to \$40,000. The actual amount depends on how many assists the Portland Trail Blazers amass during the regular season, which ends in April.

Baker City officials say the grant would cover about half the cost to add an all-abilities playground at Geiser-Pollman Park.

That would be a wonderful addition to the play structure that was installed in May 2014, ensuring that kids of all abilities could enjoy Baker City's biggest park.

You can vote by going to [www.nba.com/blazers/assist](http://www.nba.com/blazers/assist).

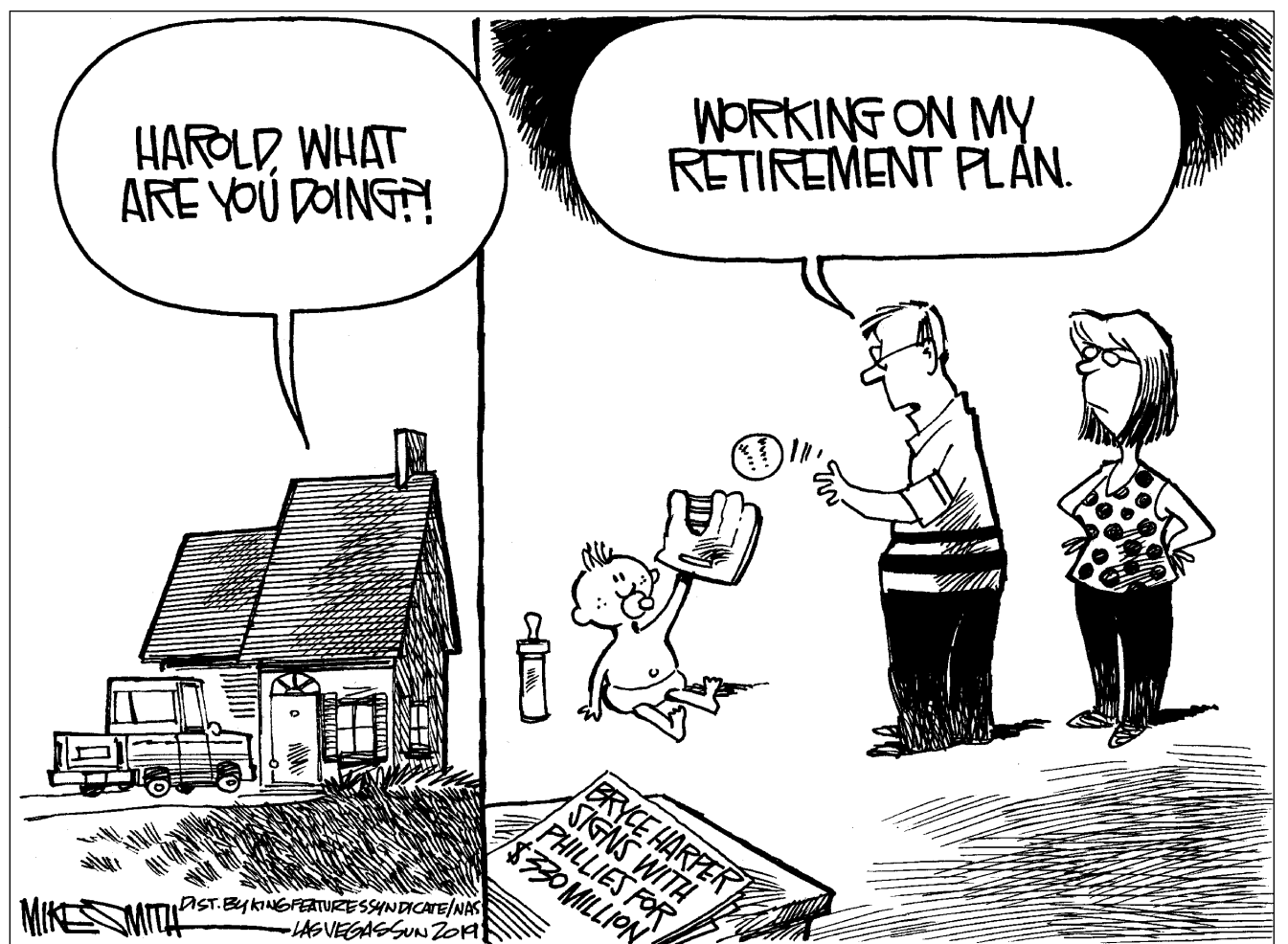
And remember — you can vote once per day.

— Jayson Jacoby, Baker City Herald editor

## Letters to the editor

- We welcome letters on any issue of public interest. Customer complaints about specific businesses will not be printed.
- Letters are limited to 350 words; longer letters will be edited for length. Writers are limited to one letter every 15 days.
- The writer must sign the letter and include an address and phone number (for verification only). Letters that do not include this information cannot be published.
- Letters will be edited for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons.

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## Your views

### Frightening film about the effects of bottled water

My wife, myself and others came together at Churchill School recently for a free viewing of "Tapped," a documentary film about the bottled water industry, presented by one of Baker's newest and most important organizations — "Trash Talk." You may recognize the name from a fresh and informative new monthly column in the Herald. As per usual I was saddened by the lack of attendance. I am slowly getting accustomed to the prevalent apathy of our community even though I personally, and selfishly, find it unacceptable. Enough of that.

I was totally unprepared for what this movie revealed. "Tapped" turned out to be a horror movie. "The Exorcist"

had nothing on the real life terror that "Tapped" unleashed. I will forever strive to never purchase another plastic bottle of water. The guilt and shame would be overwhelming. With total disregard for our environment and the health of all life the bottled water industry is quickly destroying the livability/viability of our planet. It is being done with lies, zero regulation, deceptive marketing and the complete absence of government oversight. This whole evil juggernaut is, of course, fueled by money and greed.

Surveying the small crowd of 25 or so concerned citizens I noticed (with a bit of tact and hopefully without offending anyone) that the majority had celebrated, at least, their 50th birthday. I feel it is critical that a younger demographic see this film. It is the younger consum-

ers (having more time) that must be involved in fixing this scourge that we have "all" allowed to happen. Young mothers, fathers, teenagers. I daresay "Tapped" should be required viewing for all middle schoolers, if only for the shame they can inflict on parents.

"Tapped" is 10 years old. It may seem a bit dated — which it is — but only because the negative impacts have increased a hundredfold. Its relevancy has never been more horrifying. Please find and watch "Tapped" — your Earth depends on it.

My "limited" understanding is that "Tapped" is available from our local library or [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and "Trash Talk" welcomes you on Facebook.

**Mike Meyer**  
Baker City

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Remembering Norma Paulus: A true Oregon trail blazer

### Editorial from The (Bend) Bulletin:

The first woman to hold statewide constitutional office in Oregon died Thursday. Norma Paulus, a Republican, was 85.

There's so much more to Paulus than being secretary of state from 1977 to 1985, however, that it would be a shame to look only at that small part of her life.

She grew up poor in Burns, one of seven children. There was no question about attending college — her family lacked resources to pay for higher education — and she went instead to Salem to be a secretary. She worked for the chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, who encouraged her to go to law school.

Paulus was admitted to Willamette University's law school without ever having attended college, one of the last people in the state who was able to skip that now-crucial step. She graduated with honors, became a lawyer and got into state politics in 1970, when she ran for a House seat in the Legislature. She served three terms, crossing the aisle to work with Democrats Vera Katz and Gretchen Kafoury and others.

Paulus was an old-fashioned Oregon Republican, fiscally conservative but socially liberal. She was a committed feminist, among other things.

She became Oregon's secretary of state in 1977, a job she held for two full terms. It was as secretary of state that Paulus, in 1984, pushed lawmak-

ers to test vote-by-mail with a bill that allowed it in special elections.

Also in 1984, she worked to ensure a fair election in Wasco and Jefferson counties, bringing in 69 lawyers to check eligibility of would-be new voters, many of whom were the homeless, bused into the area by followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

She ran for governor in 1986, losing to Neil Goldschmidt. And, in the 1990s, she served as the state's elected superintendent of public instruction.

Paulus, a mother of two, was engaging and bright. She gave her best to Oregon for much of her adult life and set a high bar for the women who followed her into politics. She will be missed.

# Moving past our recent delivery struggles

The snowiest February in at least a couple decades.

A printing press that suffered the mechanical version of a massive heart attack.

A section of freeway prone to prolonged closures (see: snowiest February).

It's a litany, but one of facts, not excuses.

And it's the confluence of these unfortunate circumstances that over the past month has made it difficult, and on some days impossible, for the Baker City Herald and The Observer to bring our publications to your home with the punctuality to which you, our subscribers, have been accustomed.

But we believe the worst, as the saying goes, is over.

This Monday, for instance, your papers were in the hands of our car-



**JAYSON JACOBY**

riers about the same time as usual — around 12:45 p.m. for The Observer, and about 45 minutes later for the Herald, which has to travel an extra 42 miles of Interstate 84.

And although we'd never tempt Mother Nature by suggesting the Blue Mountains have seen their final blizzard of the season, barring future freeway closures, we're confident that Monday's schedule will once again be the standard.

The challenge that was February actually started a few days earlier, when the 53-year-old printing press at The Observer burned out its mo-

tor on Jan. 28.

Because repairing the press was not financially feasible — an offset printing press is considerably more complicated than, say, a copy machine — we had to contract with the East Oregonian in Pendleton to start printing The Observer and the Herald.

This adds about 50 miles to the journey your paper makes each day before you sit down to read it.

(Possibly following the latest bout of shoveling snow.)

To compensate for the longer commute, both newspapers have moved up their deadlines by 30 to 45 minutes.

This is problematic.

Most notably, the earlier deadline gives our news staffs less time to gather information and interview sources each morning before we

send the pages to the printer.

But we decided that relatively minor sacrifice was justified to make the transition to our new printing schedule as seamless as possible for you, our readers.

The weather, needless to say, cares not a whit for our deadlines.

And just as we were adjusting to our new regimen to ensure The Observer and the Herald returned from Pendleton in time for our regular afternoon delivery, the benign winter turned malignant.

Freeway closures were the biggest culprit in our struggles to deliver during February.

On several days the papers arrived so late that, rather than require our carriers to try to distribute papers after dark, and in nasty weather, we allowed them to deliver the next morning.

On one day a freeway closure

made it impossible to drive copies of the Herald to Baker City until the day after publication.

The weather improved last week but both The Observer and the Herald arrived late on Friday due to a mechanical problem at the press in Pendleton.

Machines break, of course.

But press failures that significantly delay our papers are rare.

And, notwithstanding our recently ended (and much maligned) February, so are month-long bouts of severe weather.

Which is to say, Monday was a typical day.

And after a month of travails, we expect the return to normalcy was as welcome to you as it was to us.

Jayson Jacoby is editor of the Baker City Herald.