



In SPORTS, 6A

Baker tennis in action

# Baker City Herald

March 20, 2019

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

### QUICK HITS

#### Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Dennis Beyer of Baker City.

### BRIEFING

#### Money being raised to buy rings for BHS girls hoops

There is a community-wide fundraising effort to help purchase state championship rings for the Baker girls basketball team. If you would like to donate, you can drop off your contribution at Low Bros. Les Schwab tires or mail to Baker Girls Hoops, P.O. Box 593. Any amount is appreciated.

#### Use recycled items for artwork

Ginger Rembold will offer a kids class during spring break that uses recycled items to create flowers and critters. This one-day workshop will be Friday, March 29, from 1-3 p.m. at Crossroads. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers, or \$25 for a family of three or more. Students should bring recyclables to share and a creative mind. To register, call 541-523-5369, visit the art center at 2020 Auburn Ave., or go online to www.crossroads-arts.org.

#### Greg Walden sets town hall in Baker

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., has scheduled a town hall in Baker City for Saturday, March 30, at 8:30 a.m. at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St.

### WEATHER

#### Today

60 / 30



Mostly sunny

#### Thursday

61 / 34



Mostly sunny

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.

## Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo An Annual Event In Halfway For 62 Years

# Rodeo Dispute



Base Camp Baker Photo

The Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo has been a summer fixture in Halfway since the late 1950s.

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

Members of the board that organizes the annual Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo in Halfway will ask residents during a meeting there this evening whether they support continuing the July event for a 63rd year or whether it should move, possibly to Haines or Baker City.

The meeting was set to begin at 5 o'clock at the Pine Valley Grange Hall in Halfway, said Tina Griffin, president of the Board for Hells Canyon Riders, the nonprofit that organizes the annual youth rodeo.

Griffin said the organization, which was formed in 1957, has been plagued by harassment from a former member of the rodeo court who served on the newly organized Board last year before she was asked to resign.

Griffin claims the woman, Kailey Henderson, has recruited family members and friends to cause trouble for the organization and for two teenage girls who are members of the 2019 Hells Canyon Rodeo Court.

The Hells Canyon Riders Board has sought legal advice attempting to stop the behavior and to protect the court members, Griffin said.

Laura Eckstein, a La Grande attorney, has written cease and desist letters demanding that Henderson and her friend, Shyla Melchior, stop their "unlawful and malicious behavior" toward the Board members and their children or face legal action.

Henderson declined to answer specific questions for this story.

But she wrote in an email to the Herald: "I feel there has been false statements made about me and I



Base Camp Baker Photo

Action at the Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo in Halfway.

am trying to move on with my life and start fresh outside of the Baker County area with my family. The Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo is no

longer any of my concern and I have wiped that clean out of my life."

See Rodeo/ Page 2A

# Coach fired

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

The Baker School Board on Tuesday upheld Superintendent Mark Witty's decision to dismiss a Baker High School coach from his duties with the baseball team and any future duties with the girls volleyball team.

Warren Wilson, head girls volleyball coach since the 2015 season, who also had been a pitching coach for BHS baseball, was fired after an investigation of complaints against him related to this past volleyball season.

Gary Carter was one of three people who spoke in support of Wilson during the meeting.

Carter, whose daughter, Anna, a BHS junior, plays on the volleyball team, criticized the way the investigation of what he called a "sexual harassment complaint" against Wilson was handled.

See Coach/ Page 3A

# 2 charged in recent vandalism

Baker City Police on Tuesday arrested two suspects in a weekend vandalism spree along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway, as well as at Central Park, Baker Garage and St. Francis de Sales Cathedral.

Dylan Michael David Richmond, 21, 880 Elm St. No. 1, and a 16-year-old Baker City female, are charged with first-degree criminal mischief. Richmond is also charged with criminal conspiracy. The pair is accused of spray-painting profanity-laced graffiti on the Parkway, benches, signs and other objects.

Richmond was taken to the Baker County Jail, and the girl to a juvenile detention center.

See Vandalism/ Page 2A

# Harvey optimistic after forest plan withdrawal

By Casey Crowley

ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

After last week's withdrawal of the proposed new management plans for the three national forests in the Blue Mountains, Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, is optimistic that the Forest Service will work with Eastern Oregon on forest management issues.

During the first week of March, Harvey and representatives from other Eastern Oregon counties visited Washington, D.C. The primary reason for Harvey's trip was to attend a conference for the National Association of Counties, but he and

others from Eastern Oregon also talked with federal officials about the region's concerns about how public lands are managed.

Harvey said they met with officials with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, as well as members of Congress and anyone who would listen.

On the second day of his visit, March 2, Harvey and others presented officials from the Department of Agriculture with a petition to exempt the Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur national forests from



Harvey

the Travel Management Planning rule.

The petition was signed and approved by commissioners from Baker and five other counties — Union, Malheur, Wallowa, Grant and Harney.

Harvey is among those concerned that the 2005 federal rule will result in thousands of miles of roads being closed to motor vehicles on the Wallowa-Whitman.

A travel management plan unveiled in March 2012 would have banned vehicles from about 3,000 miles of roads on the forest. But the Forest Service withdrew the plan about a month later after

widespread complaints, including by Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.

Last week's withdrawal of the revised management plans for the Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur and Umatilla national forests followed a similar trajectory.

After the Forest Service unveiled the plans in late June 2018, residents and elected officials in Baker and other counties expressed concerns about the plans.

The Eastern Oregon Counties Association, of which Baker County is a member, submitted a list of seven concerns with the plans.

See Forests/ Page 3A



TODAY  
Issue 135, 24 pages

Business.....1B & 2B  
Calendar.....2A  
Classified.....5B-9B

Comics.....4B  
Community News....3A  
Crossword.....7B & 8B

Dear Abby.....10B  
Horoscope.....7B & 8B  
Lottery Results.....2A

News of Record.....2A  
Obituaries.....2A  
Opinion.....4A

Senior Menus.....2A  
Sports.....6A  
Weather.....10B

FRIDAY — AN EARLY-SEASON HIKE THAT COMES WITH A VIEW(S)