

PICTURES

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They traveled to Baker City to visit family, including Tyson's aunt, Nancy Duncan, who joined them at the Center Monday.

Kylea was among about a dozen kids who gathered in the Flagstaff Gallery to learn about petroglyphs from Glenn Reynolds, an interpretive park ranger who joined the Center's staff in October.

The students knelt on blankets covering the gallery's new carpeting for the lesson. Each child used a wooden stylus to scratch images on a pad that Reynolds said was covered with dark orange sand produced by iron oxide minerals from the Jurassic period.

The session about petroglyphs was one of five special classes offered during spring break week at the Interpretive Center.

"Archaeologists study petroglyphs," Reynolds told the group of youngsters gathered around him. "They try to determine who left these migratory stories."

He provided a handout sheet for students that explained: "Petroglyphs are images created by removing part of a rock surface by incising, picking, carving, or abrading, as a form of rock art."

The ancient communication system continued in some native cultures into the 20th century when contact was made with Western culture, the handout states.

It continues: "Petroglyphs have been found in all parts of the globe except Antarctica with highest concentrations in parts of Africa, Scandinavia, Siberia, southwestern North America and Australia."

To help kick start the children's art projects, Reynolds supplied a "picture dictionary" of simple symbols used to illustrate terms such as "hunting," "a lot of meat," and "campfire."

"Take your time," Reynolds encouraged his students as they began carving on their sand pads. "We're not in a hurry. Ancient people had no time. There was no clock."

Some petroglyphs, including some found in the Columbia River Gorge area, have depicted what appears to be people wearing helmets of some kind, Reynolds told the group.

"There are theories that some petroglyphs might be of people from outer space," he said. "They could be sacred people that they depicted with energy."

Reynolds encouraged the students as they huddled



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The petroglyph class at the Interpretive Center Monday finds Baker City youths Daen Chesterman, 6, and his sister, Rozlyn Dyke, 8, trying to decide what other petroglyph examples they want to scratch onto their pads.

together or worked on their own.

"I'm seeing creativity," he said. "I'm seeing what might be some stories."

Jeremy Wilson, 10, of Meridian, Idaho, scratched out drawings to depict the story of a hunting party that traveled to the mountains with a gun. The hunters camped overnight and killed a buffalo, a duck and fish. They harvested "a lot of food," Wilson explained in showing his petroglyphic drawings to the others.

"It was pretty cool," the fourth-grader said of the class.

His parents, Dale and Lori Wilson, were eager to visit the Interpretive Center with their son during spring break.

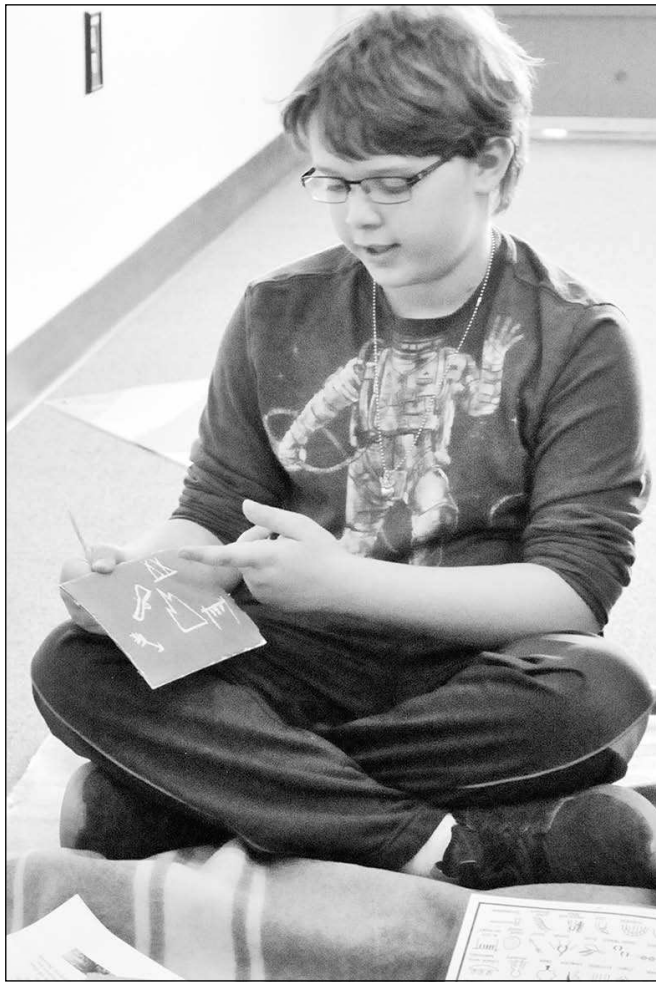
"I've always loved this piece of history," Lori Wilson said.

They chose to travel to the Baker center to help their son learn more about the Oregon Trail because it was closer to their Idaho home than a similar one in Montpelier, Idaho.

That town of about 2,600 in southeastern Idaho is home to the Oregon-California Trail Center.

Spring break special classes continued at the Interpretive Center with lessons on the essential tools of a mountain man on Tuesday and pioneer survival skills today at 11 a.m.

The last special class of the week is titled "Be a Pioneer," in which children can use



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jeremy Wilson, 10, of Meridian, Idaho, tells his story about a successful hunting trip in the mountains.

their imaginations to consider the lives of the pioneers as they traveled the Oregon Trail. Homemade biscuits cooked in a Dutch oven will be served as part of the class, which begins at 11 a.m. Thursday.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to call 541-523-1843 to reserve a space.

Friday's Fun Day will feature nature walks with an

interpreter at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and pioneer demonstrations ranging from blacksmithing to beekeeping from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Interpretive Center is about 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. It is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3.50 for seniors; and children 15 and younger are admitted free.

COACH

Continued from Page 2A

"When we find that something is not what we need to be happening ... it doesn't match with our policies or the way we've been trained through Safe Schools, discipline is always progressive," Witty said.

The TSPC, an agency criticized for years for the backlog of cases and the length of time it has taken to resolve cases, is more likely to focus on what Witty calls "high-end situations" and prioritizes them for investigation by the agency itself, the superintendent said.

Wilson's case was investigated by the District and the information was forwarded to TSPC for action, he said.

"We always follow policy, follow advice from OSBA, meet with attorneys and operate within the parameters and policies of standard practices," Witty said.

As a coach only, Wilson was not represented by a union. He was, rather, an "at-will" employee who could be released from his job at the district's discretion.

It's not unusual in today's age of expanded student programming for districts to employ coaches who are not teachers.

"I've had exceptional experiences with off-site coaches and on-site coaches," Witty said. "People from all walks of life — I look at what they bring to the table rather than whether they are a certified teacher or not."

Regardless of whether a coach is employed as a teacher, all coaches and all district staff receive training aimed at keeping students and staff safe.

"I've been in this business for 33 years and there are trainings that we do now that we didn't even consider in the 1980s," Witty said. "It's a progression of how to best be a professional."

"Ethics built into the law reflect the learnings over the last 35 to 40 years," he said. "We have higher standards than we did 20 years ago."

Once Wilson was disciplined in 2017, the District had "a spectrum of opportunities that could have been taken," Witty said. "The District chose to move toward progressive strategies."

"We hoped it would have moved along in the right direction," he said. "The parameters fell within the prerogative of the District in consultation with HR and OSBA."

Witty said there is no further action required regarding Wilson's termination from the district.

"The Board was clear and upheld the decision," he said. "They had an opportunity to view all the material — and they don't usually get to do that — and they have upheld all the decisions the District has made up to this point."

"Boards are elected by the public and they are generally people who do a thorough and thoughtful job. They take these types of things very seriously," he said. "I would have respected their decision however it might have turned out."

LOCAL BRIEFING

Eagles Past Presidents Club to meet

The Eagles Past Presidents Club has scheduled a dinner Friday night.

Beef Stroganoff will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 2935 H St. Dinner also will include salad, rolls and dessert for \$7.

Eagles members and their guests are welcome.

Garden Club speaker to talk pruning

The Baker County Garden Club will host guest speaker Anna Stafford on Wednesday, April 3, at 10:30 a.m.

Stafford, an arborist and applicator, will present a program about pruning bushes and shrubs at the Sunridge Inn.

Both new and current members are welcome.

Ladies Golf and Bridge luncheon April 3

The Baker Ladies Golf and Bridge association will have its season-opening luncheon on Wednesday, April 3 at Quail Ridge Golf Course. Weather permitting, golf will start at 8:30 a.m., with lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by bridge. Cost is \$9 for lunch, a one-time charge of \$5 for the membership fee and \$1 for the social club fee.

To reserve a place for lunch, call Dianne Ellingson at 541-523-4553 or 541-519-4703 by Tuesday, April 2.

HAINES

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Brown said that some of the details of the letter are inaccurate and that he advocated for hiring Fry when the city was looking for a public works employee.



Brown

"I think I have been bashed quite a bit, I'm getting real tired of it, especially whenever the bashing is not true," Brown said.

During the meeting, Fry, Brown, other city councilors

and members of the audience were all given a chance to speak and to ask questions.

Some councilors questioned the accuracy of the letter, while others were concerned about the instructions the letter claimed Fry had received from Brown. The Council made no decision about Fry's employment status and will do so at a later date.

When Fry was allowed to speak, he read the entirety of the letter aloud. He also said that he was disappointed the letter was not addressed at the city's regular council meeting on March 12. Fry said that he wants to

"I think I have been bashed quite a bit, I'm getting real tired of it, especially whenever the bashing is not true,"

Jim Brown, Haines mayor

continue to work for the city if possible.

In January, Fry was given a raise, after he was not given a formal performance review. The mayor said that at the time he was doing an excellent job and didn't require a review.

Fry had originally wanted to discuss the letter at the

March 12 Council meeting, but the mayor said the Council first needed to consult with the City's lawyer on how to proceed before officially discussing it.

Fry originally submitted the letter to the Council on March 7.

"Brandon had nothing to gain and everything to

lose by writing that letter and I just don't think he would have wrote it unless he thought they were valid concerns," said Kevin Luckini, who is mentioned in the letter and owns property in Haines.

Fry is on paid administrative leave as of March 19, but he says the mayor told him he had been terminated.

According to the City's employee handbook, the mayor is the only one with the authority to discipline or fire

employees. Councilor Katy Jones-Bedolla said councilors should look at possibly changing what authority the mayor has related to employee discipline.

The Council has tentatively scheduled an executive (closed to the public) session for Monday, April 1, at 6 p.m. to discuss Fry's employment status. The council may reschedule the meeting if the city's attorney is unable to attend. He was not in attendance at Tuesday's meeting.

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