

New at the Library

• 2400 Resort St.

FICTION

- "Lethal Legacy," Heather Graham
- "Bell Elkins mystery series," Julia Keller
- "Paris in the Present Tense," Mark Helprin
- "The Sinners," Ace Atkins
- "Tony's Wife," Adriana Trigiani

NONFICTION

- "Ghost of the Innocent Man," Benjamin Rachlin
- "The Parents' Guide to Climate Revolution," Mary DeMocker
- "Birding Without Borders," Noah Strycker
- "I'm Fine.... And Other Lies," Whitney Cummings
- "The Saboteur," Paul Kix

DVDS

- "Bumblebee," (science fiction)
- "Joni 75" (documentary)
- "The Mule" (drama)
- "Vice" (drama)
- "Vox lux" (musical)

DAY CARE

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The child care situation in Oregon received a publicity boost in January when a report from Oregon State University, "Want to Grow Oregon's Economy? Fix the Child Care Crisis," described the prevalence of "child care deserts" across the state, including in Baker County.

The term refers to areas where there are more children who could be in child care than there are openings in licensed care facilities.

Both DeVore and Tobie Sass, the child development director for CCR&R in Hermiston, agree that parents sometimes have trouble finding a child care provider they're comfortable with.

But they said these child care "deserts" can be explained in part by the reluctance of providers to become licensed.

"People are scared of the state and regulations," Sass said. "We're not the state. We're trying to help."

Specifically, the organization can help day care providers — including the unlicensed "underground" providers who DeVore said are common in Baker County — understand the potential benefits of becoming licensed, including being able to charge higher fees than unlicensed providers.

DeVore said she can not only guide providers through the licensing process, but CCR&R also offers first-aid and a variety of other trainings that they need to become licensed.

"We want them to be successful in their business," DeVore said.

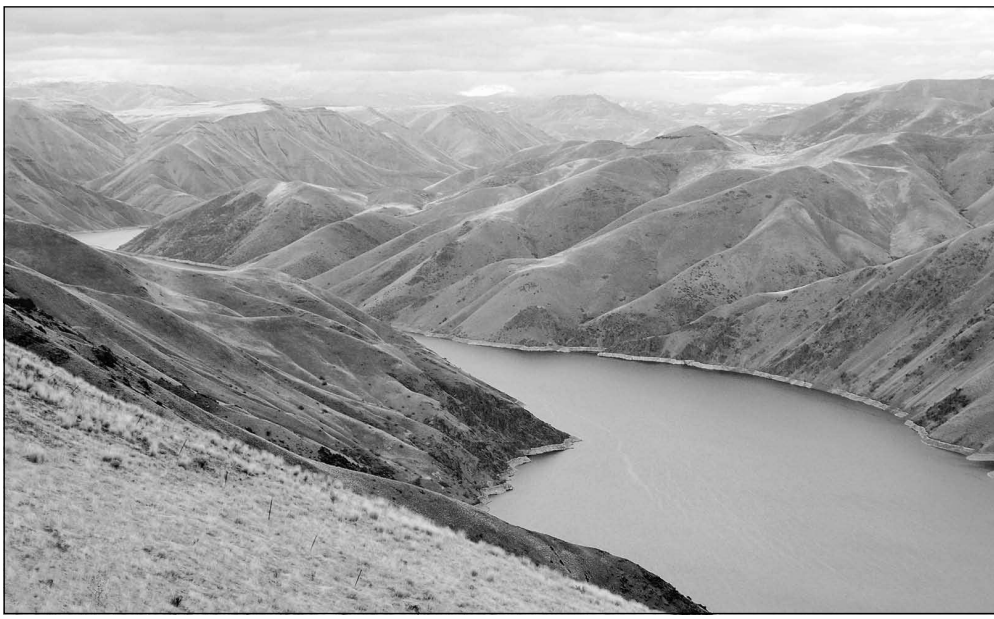
Sass said the state also has programs, some of which include monetary aid, to "help day care businesses do better or expand."

As for parents, DeVore said she spends much of her time counseling them on how to choose a provider.

"It's all about the children and their well-being," she said.

More information about CCR&R is available at www.umchs.org.

DeVore, whose office is in the Basche-Sage Place, 2101 Main St. Suite 214, can be reached at 541-523-7838, or by email at sdevore@umchs.org.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Brownlee Reservoir from the Snake River Road south of Richland

BROWNLEE

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When hydrologists predict plentiful runoff into Brownlee due to a dense snowpack, the Corps of Engineers usually requires Idaho Power to lower the level at Brownlee so the reservoir can hold back some of that water rather than let it flow down the Snake River and, eventually, to the Columbia.

There's quite a lot of snow this spring in the Idaho mountains upstream from Brownlee.

The water content in the snowpack in the Boise and Payette river basins, for instance, is about 30 percent above average.

That's similar to the snowpack in early April of 2017.

That year the Corps of Engineers ordered Idaho Power to severely lower Brownlee — to 64 feet below full by the end of April.

The situation is quite different today, despite the snowpack similarity.

Brownlee is 23 feet below full, and the water level is rising, not falling, as was the case at this time a year ago.

The Corps of Engineers

has set a target for April 15 to have Brownlee about 16 feet below full, said John Hildreth, senior engineer for Idaho Power.

The tentative target for April 30 is 9 feet below full — or 55 feet higher than the same day two years ago.

Hildreth acknowledges that it's unusual for the Corps of Engineers flood control requirements to be this lenient when the Idaho snowpack is well above average.

The explanation is straightforward.

The storms in February and early March that bolstered the snowpack in Idaho (and in Northeastern Oregon) mainly missed the northern half of Washington and British Columbia.

Those upper reaches of the Columbia River basin, above Grand Coulee Dam, have an outsized influence on flood control requirements on the lower Columbia, Hildreth said. That's because the Snake, major river that it is, ranks well behind the mighty Columbia in volume.

"The Columbia has less snowpack than the Snake, so the (flood control) targets aren't as deep as we've seen

in past years," Hildreth said.

The snowpack in the upper Columbia region is about 31 percent below average, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In April 2017, by contrast, the snowpack in that region was 10 percent above average.

Brownlee's comparative fullness is a boon for boaters and anglers who recreate on the 53-mile-long reservoir, which forms the eastern border of Baker County.

During springs such as 2017, many of the reservoir's boat ramps are unusable for weeks.

At its current level, all main ramps, with the possible exception of Spring Recreation Site near Huntington at the reservoir's upper end, are in the water, according to Idaho Power.

Hildreth said he expects the reservoir to continue to rise slowly into early May, when it's likely that the Corps of Engineers will release Idaho Power from flood control requirements.

The company strives to have Brownlee near full by the Memorial Day weekend.

OTEC scholarship winners

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative has announced the recipients of several scholarships.

College scholarships (\$5,000 each)

OTEC awarded 26 scholarships, 10 of which were for returning college students.

Recipients from Baker County include graduating high school seniors, Megan Bingham, Powder Valley High School; Emily Black, Baker High School; Zachary Schwin, Baker High; Logan Brashler, Baker High. Recipients who are returning college students include Kourtney Lehman, Oregon State University; Danielle McCauley, Otterbein University; Samantha Sexton, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Jacque Cobb, Northwest Nazarene University.

"We congratulate the 2019 scholarship winners and are proud to reward the students for their academic success

and dedication to their community," Andrew Cutler, OTEC's manager of communications and public relations, said in a press release.

Applications are evaluated for four selection committees made up of OTEC member volunteers in each of the four counties the cooperative serves: Baker, Union, Grant and Harney.

Money for scholarships comes from interest earned on unclaimed capital credits refunds.

Trade school scholarship (\$2,500)

The recipient is Caden Spencer, a Baker High School student who plans to enter the Volta Trade School in Astoria and enroll in its entry level lineworker program.

Lineman school (\$5,000 each)

Recipients are Jace Hays of Baker City and Danner Davis of Prairie City.

Washington, D.C., trip

OTEC also announced the four high school juniors who will go on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

- Sam McCauley, Baker High School
- Lauren Benson, Baker High School
- Ellie Justice, Grant Union High School
- McKinzie Beaudry, La Grande High School

The four will represent Oregon and the Northwest on the 2019 Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. They will visit historical sites, meet with Oregon's congressional representatives and learn leadership skills.

"Youth Tour delegates come back energized with a broader understanding of their government, the nation's history and the electric cooperative form of business," Cutler said.

The winners were chosen by OTEC's board of directors.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Rifle competition Saturday at Virtue Flat

The Powder River Sportsmen's Club's April 1,000-yard bench rest rifle match is set for 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, at the Virtue Flat range. The event is open to any rifle/scope combination. Entry fee is \$8 per rifle and \$2 per additional 5-shot group, and \$2 for shooters who want to keep their target. The course of fire is 1,000 yards, any rest, unlimited sighting shots for up to 10 minutes, then 5 shots for score with a 7-minute limit. More information is available by calling Steve Simons at 541-805-8030.

Baker County Job Fair set for April 11

A Baker County Job Fair is set for April 11 at the Baker County Event Center, 2600 East St. There will be a priority period for veterans from 1 p.m. to 1:15, with the fair continuing for the general public through 3 p.m.

More information, including businesses planning to attend, is available at www.facebook.com/WorkSource.Eastern.Oregon.Baker.City/

Community Orchestra concert April 12

The Baker Community Orchestra's spring concert is set for Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at the Baker High School auditorium, 2500 E St. There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

The concert will feature American composer Clare Grundman's Hebrides Suite, a collection of folk songs from the isles of the Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. The islands maintain a strong folk song tradition including the five folk songs in the suite. Also on the program is the Children's March by Percy Grainger, an arrangement of Johannes Brahms' Academic Festival Overture, a rousing march by Oregon composer Steve Hodges, and perhaps a little rock and roll.

The Baker Community Orchestra, under the direction of Russ Carpenter, is made up of volunteer community members. New musicians are always welcome, and instruments are available for loan. There is no audition requirement, and the orchestra is open to any community member who can play a band or orchestra instrument, or learn to play, at a high school level. More information is available by calling Brian Watt at 541-523-4662, and updates are posted on the Orchestra's Facebook page.

Mothers of preschoolers plan yard sale

The annual yard sale for MOPS — Mothers of Pre Schoolers — is set for April 13 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Nazarene Family Life Center, 1250 Hughes Lane. Spots are available for tables, at \$10 per space, and MOPS asks that people who have a table donate 10 percent of their proceeds to the organization.

More information is available by calling Kimberley Godes at 541-403-3174.

Clay class to be offered at Crossroads

Mo Quinn will offer a clay class on April 8 and April 15 at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave.

Each session is from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. All ages are welcome (students age 8 to 12 need to bring an adult helper). Cost is \$40 for members or \$60 for nonmembers. Clay is provided and included in the class cost.

This workshop will focus on closed forms such as piggy banks, rattles or a frog. It is designed to be an introductory class. To register, call 541-523-5369 or go online at www.crossroads-arts.org.

Wildland fire refresher course set

Eastern Oregon Training Group will have the RT-130 Wildland Fire Refresher course on April 13 in Baker City. The course will start at 8 a.m. at the 5J School District Building, 2090 Fourth St. Cost is \$100. All participants should bring gloves for the practice fire shelter deployment.

Registration can be done at oregonfiretraining.com. Pre-registration is requested; the cost will be \$120 at the door. This is a required class for all federal and state contractors. More information is available by calling Laurel Goodrich at 541-403-0907 or Jeff Sherman at 541-519-6213.

Preschool registration open at Haines

HAINES — Parents can still register students for preschool at Haines Elementary. They will need a pre-K registration packet, which is available at Haines Elementary or at the Baker School District office, 2090 Fourth St. in Baker City. Preschool hours are 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

To be eligible, students must turn 4 by Sept. 1. Registration will remain open until the limit of 15 students is reached. The class has a \$25 fee for supplies.

Thank You

Thank you all:

My son Shawn and two buddies
built my ramp;
Tom, Marilyn & Flint
from Home Health;
John, Mike, Phil, David W.,
Connie B., Wendy P., Mary Jane
G., Andi W., Brenda D., Jan S.,
Lori T., neighbors and friends.

**A great big thanks for your
help while I recouped from
surgery.**

- Sandy Wood

OH YOU KID!



Happy
95th
Birthday,
Phyllis
Badgley!