

Baker City Herald

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Kale Cassidy (left)

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports Monday **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Esther Evans of Baker City.

Sports, 6A

PORTLAND — The Denver Nuggets have been good at bouncing back all season.

Not even a draining four-overtime defeat could keep this team down.

Nikola Jokic had 21 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his second straight triple-double and fourth of the playoffs, and the Nuggets evened their Western Conference semifinal series against the Portland Trail Blazers at 2-2 with a 116-112 victory Sunday.

Sports, 8A

Baker will send nine players to the district tennis tournament at Kennewick Friday and Saturday.

The Bulldogs advanced after rolling through sub-district play last weekend at Nyssa.

BRIEFING

County commissioners to get Census update

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will have a work session Wednesday to receive an update from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

WEATHER

Today

72 / 40



Mostly sunny

Tuesday

73 / 42



Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Experts Inspect Sumpter Dredge And Find Its Hull Is In Good Shape

The Dredge Divers



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Deborah Marx uses lights connected to her small digital camera to help illuminate the scene below the surface of the greenish pond water at the Sumpter Dredge.

By Jayson Jacoby
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SUMPTER — Jim Delgado has visited the wreck of the Titanic, so you might expect that he would scarcely bother even to ponder the significance of the Sumpter Dredge, which has never been within 200 miles of an ocean and most probably will never be the subject of an Oscar-winning film.



Delgado

This is patently not so. As Delgado stood inside the hulking gold-mining machine Thursday morning he spoke with emotion and eloquence about why he believes this contraption

is truly a treasure.

He rapped his knuckle on a steel rivet and marveled at the workmanship.

He drew a finger along a Douglas-fir beam on which a worker scrawled words more than half a century ago.

He paused occasionally, as if to search for the words to express why this vessel — and indeed it is a boat, albeit a most unusual one — affects him so deeply, a man who in his 47-year career has traveled the globe and inspected the remnants of some of the world's most famous ships.

Delgado, who is one of America's more renowned maritime archaeologists, answers the question in multiple ways, but they can be distilled to a single word.

“People.”

“When I walk through I get a sense of the people working here,” Delgado said. “Even though it's silent now.”

He has found, while wandering through the Dredge's shadowy, chilly interior, many poignant examples of the human presence he feels so powerfully.

The spot where a worker stored his oil can, and the rags he used to wipe machinery.

The fir deck planks worn smooth by the passage of so many boots.

“The guy who ran this dredge probably operated this machine like a virtuoso violinist,” Delgado said. “I think history is more than just big names and magnificent tall ships. It's working vessels like this that I think



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jim Delgado, maritime archaeologist, marvels at the engineering used to build the Sumpter Dredge as he ponders the people who made it work.

“I think history is more than just big names and magnificent tall ships. It's working vessels like this that I think speak to the everyday experiences of so many people.”

— **Jim Delgado, maritime archaeologist, talking about the Sumpter Dredge**

speak to the everyday experiences of so many people.”

But this is not merely a matter of speculation — and that's one aspect of his visit to the Dredge, and to Sumpter, that's so different from Delgado's experiences at vastly better known sites such as the Titanic, or a

Roman ship from the third century A.D. that he dived to years ago off Albania.

The Dredge, Delgado concedes, might seem more ancient than it actually is.

See **Dredge** / Page 2A

County road fight could affect hunters

■ **Richland** rancher Dan Forsea says he will remove his property from a public access program due to the county's push to open a road

By Jayson Jacoby
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An eastern Baker County rancher says he will remove 9,300 acres of his family's land from a state public access hunting program because county commissioners are trying to force the removal of locked gates on a road in the area.

Dan Forsea of Richland doesn't own the property, near Lookout Mountain, where two locked gates were installed in 2017.

But the road that's blocked does lead to the part of his family's ranch that has been enrolled in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Access & Habitat Program for more than a decade.

That program pays property owners to allow hunting on their land. The money comes from a surcharge on hunting licenses and the sale of raffle tags.

The Forsea property, which is between Lookout Mountain and Brownlee Reservoir, gives hunters a place to pursue elk, deer, bighorn sheep, bear and a variety of upland birds. It is the biggest of several Access & Habitat properties in the Lookout Mountain unit, which is the least accessible of Baker County's four hunting units, having 38 percent public land.

Forsea said he is removing his family's property from the program, which pays them \$23,900 yearly, because he disagrees with county commissioners' decision to take legal action seeking to declare the gated road as a public access route.

The county has enlisted Vale attorney Larry Sullivan to represent it, and commissioners have discussed the issue at more than a dozen meetings over the past two years.

Forsea said he does not believe the road is a public route.

“I've been hoping they'd drop this thing, but they're not,” Forsea said on Sunday.

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WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE