

Baker City Herald

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



A Look Back At The Top Local Stories From 2019

14-page special section includes a page of photos, as well as one page for each month, with excerpts from front-page stories from each month

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscribers Tim and Carol Delsman of Baker City.

Sports, 3A

ONTARIO — Baker's new girls wrestling team finished third at the Charlie Anthony Memorial tournament Friday and Saturday. Baker's JV boys team placed 5th competing against varsity teams, and Pine-Eagle's boys were 3rd.

WEATHER

Today

37 / 25

Mostly cloudy

Tuesday

36 / 31

Rain showers

Correction: A story in Friday's issue misspelled the name of Rod Runyon, a candidate for Oregon Senate District 30.

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.

Northeastern Oregon Snowpack Well Below Average

A Sluggish Start



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

The Elkhorn Mountains are white, but the brown patches on the foothills are indicative of a snowpack that's well below average for late December.

By Jayson Jacoby
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The brown patches on the mountains tell the tale more blatantly, if not quite so precisely, as a table of numbers.

The one just to the right, for instance. But however you measure it, the snowpack in Northeastern Oregon — the biggest source of water for irrigation and recreation in the region — is well below average as the year approaches its end.

The snow season, however, is just beginning.

See **Snow** / Page 2A

N.E. Oregon Snowpack Report

Measuring Site	Elevation	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)				Snow Depth
		Now	Average	% of avg.	Last year	
Aneroid Lake	7,300	3.7	8.8	42	6.1	20
Anthony Lakes	7,125	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18
Beaver Reservoir	5,150	2.9	4.1	71	4.4	11
Bourne	5,800	3.8	6.3	60	6.8	13
County Line	4,530	0.7	2.1	32	2.2	2
Eilertson Meadow	5,440	4.9	4.8	102	5.5	13
Emigrant Springs	3,800	0	3.1	0	2.3	0
Gold Center	5,340	3.8	4.4	86	5.0	14
High Ridge	4,980	4.8	10.4	46	12.6	15
Moss Springs	5,850	7.7	9.8	79	10.7	28
Mount Howard	7,910	3.7	7.2	51	5.5	22
Schneider Meadow	5,400	7.3	11.3	65	11.0	28
Taylor Green	5,740	4.6	7.4	62	8.5	17
Tipton	5,150	3.1	4.8	65	4.7	10
Wolf Creek	5,630	2.8	5.7	49	6.0	13
AVERAGE				58		

Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

The hills near North Powder are conspicuous for their lack of snow as December wanes.



LES SCHWAB TIRE COMPANY FOR SALE

Tire store hopes to stay with Schwab

■ **Low Brothers** Tires of Baker City, which is independent but sells under the Les Schwab name, has been aligned with the company since 1970

By Jayson Jacoby
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Rocky Brown pretty much grew up as a “Les Schwab boy,” as he puts it, and he hopes his family’s association with perhaps the most iconic name in the Northwest tire business will continue for decades to come.

Brown and his brother, Jim, own Low Brothers Tire Service Inc., a business that’s been operating in Baker City for 103 years.

The tire store has been under the ubiquitous red-and-yellow Les Schwab sign since 1970, and so the Browns had a personal stake in the recent announcement that Les Schwab Tires, a private firm based in Bend, is up for sale.

“There’s certainly some unknowns,” said Rocky Brown, who with his brother bought the business in 1984 from their father, Pleas Brown. “All of our heads are just kind of spinning.”

(Pleas Brown died in 2010.)

But the situation for Low Brothers is different from that of the majority of the stores branded as Les Schwab retailers.

Of the approximately 500 stores in 10 western states, about 435 are owned by the company, Rocky Brown said.

But Low Brothers is among the 65 independently owned stores that operate under the Les Schwab banner but remain separate business entities, Brown said.

“Les Schwab is our supplier,” he said.

Brown said it seems logical to him that if a company buys Les Schwab, it would want to keep the name — and the reputation that goes with it.

See **Tires** / Page 2A



TODAY
Issue 109, 28 pages

Calendar 2A
Classified 4B - 6B
Comics 7B

Community News 3A
Crossword 5B & 6B
Dear Abby 8B

Home 1B-3B
Horoscope 5B & 6B
Lottery Results 2A

News of Record 2A
Opinion 4A
Senior Menus 2A

Sports 3A, 5A & 6A
Turning Backs 2A
Weather 8B

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE