

Baker City Herald

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In **SPORTS, 6A**
Baker
wrestlers
in action

IN THIS EDITION: Local • State • Outdoors • TV Listings **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Susan Hinzpeter of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Red Cross blood drive set Jan. 27

The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive for Monday, Jan. 27, at the Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. Call Myrna Evans at 541-523-5368 to make, cancel, or reschedule an appointment.

Free soup lunches planned at Haines Methodist Church

HAINES — The Haines United Methodist Church invites residents to join its congregation for free soup lunches on the last Sunday of the next three months — Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and March 29. Lunch will be served from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., following the regular Sunday morning service. The menu includes soup, bread and a dessert. The church is at the corner of the Anthony Lakes Highway and Roberts Street, west of the railroad tracks.

WEATHER

Today
43 / 29

Rain or snow showers

Saturday
41 / 36

Mostly cloudy

Sunday
43 / 30

Chance of rain showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Baker Rockhounds Volunteer At Baker Heritage Museum

Reveling in Rocks

■ Group has been cataloging the ‘world class’ Cavin-Warfel Collection



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Rockhounds cataloging rocks last week at the Baker Heritage Museum are, from near to far, Memorey Saunders, Lynn Johnston and Maureen Beverlin.

By Jayson Jacoby

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Anna Stafford is talking about keeping a display at the Baker Heritage Museum “current,” which might seem a curious adjective when many of the items in questions are millions of years old.

But Stafford is quick to explain this apparent discrepancy.

The Cavin-Warfel Collection, which includes hundreds of samples of rocks, minerals and fossils that Baker City sisters Mamie Cavin and Elizabeth Cavin Warfel amassed over almost half a century, is indeed ancient.

But that doesn’t mean the display can’t be refreshed occasionally, said Stafford, a founder of the Baker Rockhounds, a group of local residents who share a deep affection for rocks.

When Stafford talks about keeping the Cavin-Warfel Collection current, her definitions include something as simple as moving particularly colorful samples to the front of the display.

“We want to invite any visitor who has been here in the past to come again — and come back every year,” Stafford said. “When something stays in the same place for years, that’s boring to me. To be relevant, museum displays need to be changed.”

It was perhaps inevitable that the Baker Rockhounds, who started meeting in 2018, would end up at the Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jarri McClarin, left, and Anna Stafford discuss rock-hounding and the logistics of cataloging the museum’s collection.

The group gathered at a couple of other locations but there were scheduling conflicts and other issues.

Then someone suggested the Museum.

Besides having ample space, the building — the former city natatorium, built in 1920 — also boasts

multiple rock collections, including the Cavin-Warfel Collection.

“It’s a world-class collection,” Stafford said. “Part of our goal is to garner that collection some notoriety. It deserves it.”

See **Rocks**/Page 3A

Quiet zone open house Jan. 30

■ In a Quiet Zone, freight trains don’t sound their whistles near crossings except in emergencies

By Jayson Jacoby

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Baker City officials are inviting residents to attend an open house on Jan. 30 to learn about the city’s interest in potentially applying for a railroad Quiet Zone, and to tell officials what they think about the idea.

The open house will run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.

At the behest of a group of local residents who support a Quiet Zone, the Baker City Council in November authorized the city to submit a notice of intent to apply for a Quiet Zone designation from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

The city could file that notice by the end of February, said Michelle Owen, the city’s public works director.

Filing the notice would not obligate the city to do anything else, and there is no fee.

Owen said Thursday that she and others are working on potential designs for safety improvements at each of the five railroad crossings that would be affected — at Auburn Avenue, Broadway, Campbell and 17th streets, and Pocahontas Road.

See **Trains**/Page 2A

Cool pool means travel for BHS swimmers

By Chris Collins

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When the heat exchanger unit that regulates the water in the Sam-O Swim Center pool malfunctioned earlier this month, the season was turned upside down for Baker High School swim team members and their coach, Paula Moe.

Rather than diving into the pool at 5:30 a.m. to begin practice, the 13 swimmers have had to change their practice time start to 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, after a 45-minute bus ride to La Grande.

Moe, who also serves as YMCA operations and aquatics director, said city workers spent several days trying to determine why the city-owned pool wouldn’t hold heat before the heat exchanger unit was identified as the problem.

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MONDAY — BAKER HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND SPORTS ROUND UP