

Community

"There's years of work here."

— Anna Stafford,
Baker Rockhounds

ROCKS

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When Stafford met with Maggie Schirack, the museum's director, about the Rockhounds meeting there, they also discussed having group members volunteer to revamp the rock collections.

A year or so later, the Rockhounds have devoted more than 500 hours to the project.

And they're not even close to being finished, Stafford said.

"There's years of work here," she said. "The relationship between the Rockhounds and the museum is absolutely beneficial on both sides."

Since April 2019 the Rockhounds have congregated regularly at the Heritage Museum to inventory the entire Cavin-Warfel Collection — all 18 tons that the sisters, whose father was a Durkee placer miner, donated in 1984 when both women were in their 90s.

A considerable amount of this material was stored in boxes in an anteroom and has never been displayed, Stafford said.

"The boxes were piled four feet high," she said.

Some of the specimens aren't display-quality, she said, but the first task was to determine the extent of what was available.

More recently the Rockhounds have focused on ensuring that the specimens on display are correctly labeled. They've also cleaned the items to make them sparkle and glimmer.

On the morning of Jan. 16 about a dozen Baker Rockhounds were at the Museum, some photographing items and others recording information in a computer database.

That step will avoid future labeling errors, Stafford said.

She considers this work vital not only to making the Cavin-Warfel Collection more compelling, and informative, for visitors, but also to preserve the two sisters' work.

"It's a matter of respect," Stafford said.

Stafford said that when items in the Cavin-Warfel



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Patty and Bill Hanley of Baker City joined the Baker Rockhounds about one year ago. Last week they helped to catalog the displayed items in the museum's rock room by numbers and photographs.



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Fossils are a big part of the museum's rock room collection. Volunteers on that job include Myra Skidgel of Sumpter, left, and Kathy Davidson of Baker City. A third member of the group was Sue Westrup of Sumpter.

Collection were moved temporarily several years ago so lights could be installed in the display cabinets, roughly half of the specimens ended up mislabeled.

Stafford said she enlisted geologists to help the Rockhounds correct those mistakes.

"We're bringing in outside experts to ensure what we're doing is appropriate and cor-

rect," she said.

Stafford and Jarri McClarin, who with her husband, Dick, have been active in the Baker Rockhounds from its inception, said that starting next month they plan to start refreshing the display, including adding items from the Cavin-Warfel Collection that have never been shown to the public at the Museum.

Some specimens have



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Unusual discoveries, such as barite on top of quartz, look like this only after careful cleaning by experienced rockhounds, according to Memory Saunders of the Baker Rockhounds.

numbers attached, but thus far the volunteers haven't found a key that identifies the items' origin.

Working with the Cavin-Warfel Collection is an ideal job for the Baker Rockhounds during the winter, when snow covers many of their favorite places to look for new finds to add to their own collections.

But once the weather warms the group will be spending more time outside than in, McClarin said.

And one of the Rockhounds' goals is to encourage local residents to share their passion for searching out treasures that, in many cases, have been sitting, undiscovered, for millions of years.

S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Camel teeth are millions of years old. They are being arranged to be documented by numbers and photographs along with other fossilized plants and bones.

"It's such a great family activity," McClarin said. "Most every kid I've ever met loves rocks."

The Rockhounds have events besides their monthly meetings.

This Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon they invite people to come to the Museum to paint rocks and to create pet rocks. Everyone is welcome, and all supplies will be provided for free. There will be a donation jar.

Information about meetings, field trips and other events is available on the Baker Rockhounds Facebook page.

In the meantime, although the volunteers aren't necessarily making any great new discoveries inside the Museum, Stafford said they enjoy every minute with these bits of Earth's immense history.

"Just getting to play with rocks all the time is a fantastic way for we rockhounds to learn."

What's New At The Library

• 2400 Resort St.

FICTION

- "Country Strong," Linda Lael Miller
- "A Long Petal of the Sea," Isabel Allende
- "Blue Justice" series, Lynette Eason
- "The Scent of Murder," Kylie Logan
- "Blood in the Water," Jack Flynn

NONFICTION

- "It's Ok That You're Not Ok," Megan Devine
- "Tough Love," Pauline Neff
- "The Illustrated Herbiary," Maia Toll
- "Ruthless Tide," Al Roker
- "Auschwitz," Laurence Rees

DVDS

- "Crosscurrent" (Drama/Foreign)
- "In Darkness" (Drama)
- "The Lighthouse" (Drama)
- "Rambo: Last Blood" (Action)
- "Rigged: the Voter Suppression Playbook" (Documentary)

Diaper drive continuing

The Rachel Pregnancy Center is continuing its Diaper Drive over the next week.

The drive was begun on Jan. 19 (Sanctity of Human Life Sunday). Nearly 30 Baker County churches are collecting diapers, Sizes 1-6, to benefit families who are served by the Rachel Center, said Vera Grove, Center director. Diapers for newborns are not needed at this time, she said.

Other community members may contribute to the drive by dropping off diapers at the Center at 2192 Court Ave. during regular business hours.

The Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed during the lunch hour) Wednesday through Friday.

In February, the days of operation will change to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with hours remaining at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed during the lunch hour). More information is available by calling 541-523-5357.

The first National Sanctity of Human Life Day was recognized on Jan. 22, 1984, by proclamation of President Ronald Reagan. (Jan. 22, 1973, was the day the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states.)

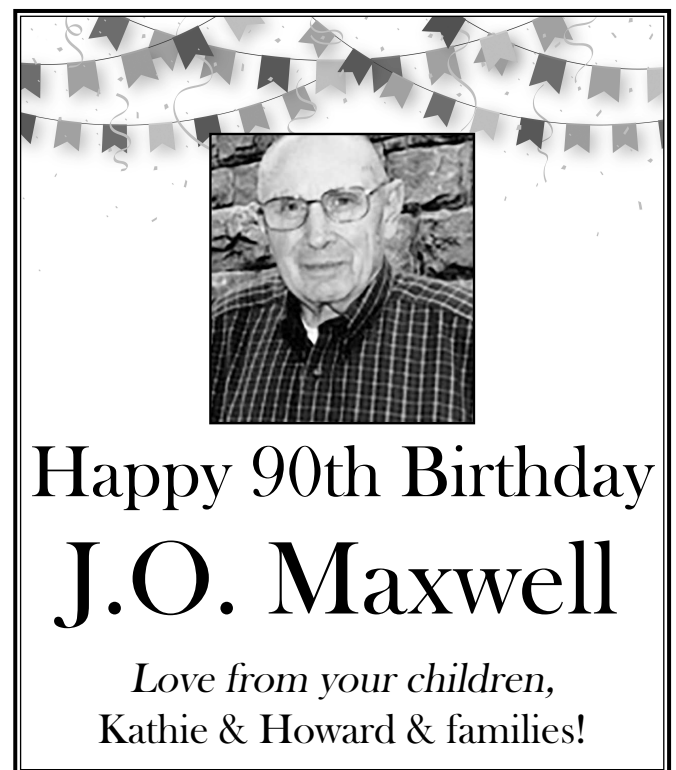
Churches around the United States continue to commemorate the Sanctity of Human Life Day annually on the third Sunday in January.



Welcome, Dr. Brandon Snow

Baker Dental Group would like to welcome Dr. Brandon Snow to their General Dental practice. Dr. Tod Chandler will be retiring in February and Dr. Brandon Snow will be the new partner with Dr. Justin Bingham. Dr. Chandler would like to sincerely thank all of his patients, staff and friends for many years of enjoyable association. All of us at Baker Dental Group have every confidence in Dr. Snow and are excited to welcome him to the practice.

Brandon was born and raised in Boulder City, Nevada, a small town outside of Las Vegas. After graduating high school, he attended Brigham Young University where he met and married Jill Richards of Baker City. The couple moved to Las Vegas where Brandon completed his formal education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine in 2016. For the past 3 1/2 years they have been in Fruitland, Idaho while Brandon has worked for Valley Family Health Care in Ontario and Nyssa. They are excited to be moving to Baker City with their family to a community that they love.



Happy 90th Birthday
J.O. Maxwell

Love from your children,
Kathie & Howard & families!