

Baker City Herald

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In **SPORTS, 6A**
Powder girls top Nixyaawii

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Barry Nemec of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Fair Board meeting on February 12

The Baker County Fair Board will meet Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds small meeting room, 2600 East St.

Saint Alphonsus Auxiliary offering scholarship

The Saint Alphonsus Auxiliary-Baker City is offering a \$1,500 college scholarship to a graduate of a high school in Baker County or a current Baker County resident who will be at least a sophomore in college this fall. The scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a healthcare profession. Applications are available in the Auxiliary's gift shop in the front lobby at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, 3325 Pocahontas Road, or by calling Peggy Payton, chairperson of the Auxiliary's scholarship committee, at 541-519-8118, Marilyn Bloom at 541-523-2750 or Marilyn Delfatti at 541-523-4598. Applications must be returned to a committee member by April 15. The winner will be notified by May 15.

WEATHER

Today
47 / 39

Rain likely

Friday
47 / 33

Mostly cloudy

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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.

City Prepares Site For All-Accessible Playground At Geiser-Pollman

Making Space For Some New Toys



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

A slide at Geiser-Pollman Park is lifted and removed Tuesday by Justin Plumbtree, Baker City Department of Public Works employee. The city crew, which includes Blain Leamaster and Brian Johnson, is clearing the way for new equipment that will be accessible to children using wheelchairs as well as others. The new toys are slated to be installed in May.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Baker City's newest playground, an "all-inclusive" design that will be accessible to children in wheelchairs and open to all, is scheduled to be built May 11-15 at Geiser-Pollman Park.

The city recently received a \$23,010 grant from the Ford Family Foundation that brings the budget to the full estimated cost of \$308,000, said Joyce

Bornstedt, the city's technical administrative supervisor.

The city also hopes to receive a \$5,000 grant from Northwest Farm Credit Services, Bornstedt said.

Earlier grants, the largest being \$164,000 from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, allowed the city to order playground equipment late last year.

Most of that equipment has arrived and is in storage, Born-

stedt said.

The artificial turf surface in the new playground, which will overlay a shock-absorbing rubber layer, will be sent to Baker City just before the installation contractor arrives, Bornstedt said.

(That part of the park now has wood chips, which aren't compatible with wheelchairs and walkers.)

See **Play** / Page 3A



Submitted illustration

An artistic rendering of some of the new playground equipment slated to be installed in May at Geiser-Pollman Park. In the lower center is a four-seat seesaw toy, and the blue toy at right is a climbing arch equipped with hand grips.

Two men get prison terms for sex crimes

■ In two separate cases, James Bacon sentenced to 20 years, and Miguel Estudillo gets a 15-year term

By Chris Collins
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Two Baker City men have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms on separate convictions for sexually assaulting two girls younger than 12.

Allen James Bacon, 36, will serve 20 years in prison, and Miguel Angel Estudillo, 50, will serve 15 years in prison, District Attorney Greg Baxter said Tuesday.

Both were sentenced last week in Baker County Circuit Court after pleading to charges of attempting to commit first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy.

Bacon, who was indicted on the charges by a grand jury in September, pleaded guilty Jan. 27 to the Class B felonies.



Bacon



Estudillo

See **Prison** / Page 3A

New state money will help homeless students

By Chris Collins
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While the latest statistics from the Oregon Department of Education show that about 5% of Baker students could be considered homeless by the state's standards, the percentage is actually much higher.

Kim Virtue, who works by contract as the District's homeless liaison, says the actual percentage is closer to 12% at the District's brick-and-mortar buildings, which as of January had a total enrollment of about 1,735 students.

See **Students** / Page 2A

County to replace bridge

By Samantha O'Conner
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Baker County commissioners on Wednesday authorized the Road Department to spend about \$45,000 on parts needed to build a new bridge over East Eagle Creek.

Commissioner Bruce Nichols was absent. Roadmaster Noodle Perkins said the current bridge, which gives access to mining claims and to recreationists, is failing. The structure is near where Hudson Creek flows into East Eagle Creek, in the Wallowa Mountains about 30 air miles northeast of Baker City.

Money for the bridge parts is coming mainly from the Road Department, as well as smaller private donations.

See **Bridge** / Page 2A



TODAY
Issue 125, 22 pages

Business 1B & 2B
Calendar 2A
Classified 3B-6B

Comics 7B
Community News 3A
Crossword 5B & 6B

Dear Abby 8B
Horoscope 5B & 6B
Lottery Results 2A

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

Sports 6A
Turning Backs 2A
Weather 8B

SATURDAY — REDISCOVERING THE MAGIC OF A SIMPLE COMPASS