



In **SPORTS, 6A**

Crane gets by Joseph

Spring forward

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday:



QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Suzanne Kahle of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — In an extraordinary move, Democratic legislators on Thursday effectively ended the contentious and gridlocked 2020 Legislature, killing key legislation and taking with it the hotly debated climate change legislation that Republicans fought.

BRIEFING

Sen. Ron Wyden plans town hall in Baker City March 14

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has scheduled a town hall meeting for Saturday, March 14, at 1 p.m. at the Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St.

WEATHER

Today

46 / 20

Rain or snow

Sunday

51 / 27

Mostly cloudy

Monday

51 / 22

A few showers

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

After Nearly 2-Month Closure, Swimming Pool Set To Reopen On Monday

Set For Splashing



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Sam-O Swim Center's big pool is full and scheduled for public use by Monday. The training pool, foreground, hopefully will reopen by March 14 following more repair work. Paula Moe, aquatics director for the Baker County YMCA, has been bringing to balance the pool's chlorine, calcium and pH values for its 122,000 gallons. She also is cleaning any kind of residue on the bottom of the pool with a wet vacuum machine, a chore that will need to be done daily until Monday, she said.

By Samantha O'Conner
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Sam-O Swim Center will be open again after a nearly two-month closure due to a failed heating system. The date for the reopening is set for Monday, March 9. The pool closed Jan. 13.

The large pool at Sam-O, 580 Baker St., is full and has been warmed to 84 degrees, the temperature required for opening the city-owned pool to the public.

The training pool, however, will not be open at the same time.

Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, said the city is waiting for a new heat exchanger for the smaller pool — the same part that was replaced for the main pool.

"We'll just need to continue keeping the training pool closed but things should be back on track for the majority of classes and whatnot starting next week," Owen said.

In an email Tuesday, Owen said installing a new heat exchanger in the large pool will cost around \$20,000 with materials and installation labor.

For the training pool, the heat exchanger is \$7,975. Installation will likely be several hundred dollars with required PVC pipe, fittings, and labor.

She said she will work with the finance department once the bills are added and forward a resolution to the City Council, as the city will need to transfer money from its general fund contingency to cover part of the repair cost.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Paula Moe, nearest to vacuum machine, says cleaning the pool bottom usually is done at least once a week during regular pool use. Melanie Rhodes, YMCA employee and lifeguard, uses a stiff brush to loosen residue on the stubborn areas.

FOREST SERVICE WANTS TO REBUILD MARBLE CREEK PASS ROAD

Wyden, Merkley back road work

By Jayson Jacoby
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Oregon's two U.S. senators have endorsed a plan to rebuild a road through Baker City's watershed as part of a logging project designed to reduce the risk of wildfire in the 10,000-acre area in the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles west of town.

In a letter to Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen, senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, support the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's request for almost \$1.3 million through the agency's Capital Improvements Project fund to improve the Marble Creek Pass road.

"Funds from the Capital Improvements Project and the subsequent restoration work would provide greatly needed access for hazardous fuels reduction treatments to reduce impacts from a large fire," the senators wrote.

Those impacts could include ash and mud fouling the streams and springs from which Baker City obtains its drinking water.

City officials have worried for more than two decades that such a blaze could force the city to build a filtration plant for its water, at a cost likely exceeding \$10 million.

"Your support for this project would be greatly appreciated and significant for this small, rural community," Wyden and Merkley concluded in their letter to Christiansen.

The proposal is to rebuild about 6 miles of the road, which climbs through the watershed to Marble Creek Pass, 7,542 feet.

See Road Work / Page 3A

Heritage Museum has a new director

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Teresa McQuisten almost majored in history.

She earned a degree in English instead.

Now she's back to history.

McQuisten started her job as director of the Baker Heritage Museum on Monday. The position is part time, and she will continue running the Eltrym Theatre, which she owns with her husband, Dan.

See Museum / Page 2A

Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

Teresa McQuisten is the new director of the Baker Heritage Museum. The photograph is of Myrtle Buckmiller, one of 12 women selected for a new display, "Extraordinary Women of Baker County." The Eltrym Theatre, which McQuisten owns, was named for Buckmiller (Myrtle spelled backward).

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TODAY

Issue 138, 16 pages

Calendar.....2A

Classified.....3B-6B

Comics.....7B

Community News.....3A

Crossword.....5B & 6Bw

Dear Abby.....8B

Horoscope.....5B & 6B

Jayson Jacoby.....4A

News of Record.....2A

Obituaries.....2A

Opinion.....4A

Outdoors.....1B

Senior Menus.....2A

Sports.....5A & 6A

Weather.....8B

TUESDAY — BAKER GIRLS, BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF GAMES