



# Baker City Herald

March 6, 2021

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In **SPORTS, 5A**  
Lillard leads  
Blazers to  
two wins

**IN THIS EDITION:**

Local • Outdoors • Sports • TV

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Betty Perry of Baker City.

**Oregon, 3A**

Counties that might fall back into the state's most restrictive extreme risk level for COVID-19 spread will be given a two-week grace period on heightened restrictions, Gov. Kate Brown announced Thursday, March 4.

Brown said the state's low overall infection rates and its steep trend downward since the winter holidays allowed for "a bit more time" for some state trouble spots. The state currently ranks 49th of the 50 states in new infections per 100,000 people — only Hawaii scores better.

**BRIEFING**

**Daughters of the American Revolution to meet in person March 12**

The Lone Pine Tree chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will have an in-person meeting Friday, March 12, at noon at the Sunridge Inn in Baker City. Health safety precautions will be followed, including face masks. Masks can be removed prior to the meeting for lunch, and during the meeting discussions. Visitors are always welcome to have lunch prior to the noon meeting.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
43 / 29



Rain or snow

**Sunday**  
49 / 28



A few showers

**Monday**  
48 / 25

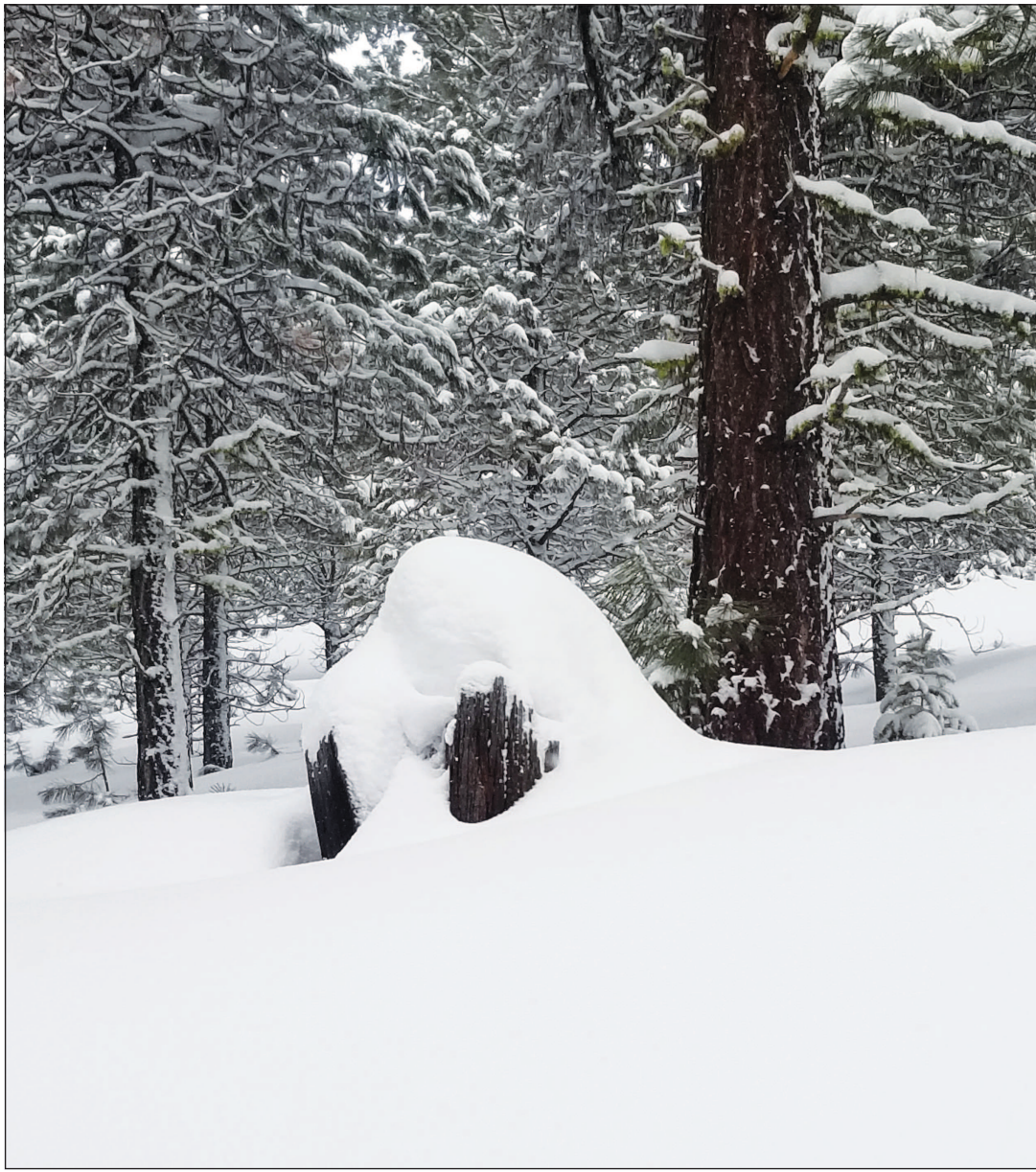


Mostly cloudy

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

**Snowpack Jumped From Below Average To Well Above In February**

## Shortest Month Has Major Effect



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Snow nearly buries a stump in a ponderosa pine forest near Sumpter on Feb. 27.

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
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February pulled off a feat in its 28 days that most months can't manage in 30 or 31.

A barrage of blizzards during the shortest month boosted the snowpack in the mountains of Northeast Oregon from below average to well above.

At a few measuring sites the snowpack doubled, or nearly so, during February.

Nathan Petrucci saw blatant evidence of the month's

achievements firsthand.

Petrucci, a deputy watermaster for Baker County, wallowed through freshly fallen powder recently with another deputy watermaster, Luke Albert.

The pair's destination was a meadow just east of Anthony Lake, in the Elkhorn Mountains about 35 miles northwest of Baker City.

This is one of Oregon's oldest snow survey sites — crews have trudged into the meadow every winter since 1936 to sample the

snow, a key element in estimating the coming summer's water supply.

Petrucci, who also was a member of the group that measured snow in the meadow in late January, said the scene "was quite a bit different."

The snow was almost twice as deep — 89 inches compared with 45 inches a month earlier.

"It was nice to see," Petrucci said in an interview on March 4.

See **Snowpack / Page 2A**

## N.E. Oregon Snowpack Report

Measuring Site	Elevation	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)				Snow Depth (inches)
		Now	Average	% of avg.	Last year	
Anthony Lakes	7,125	22.6	19.8	132	26.2	89
Beaver Reservoir	5,150	13.9	8.9	156	11.8	51
Bourne	5,800	16.0	14.0	114	14.5	67
County Line	4,530	6.4	4.3	149	5.5	22
Eilertson Meadow	5,440	13.1	9.2	142	10.4	45
Gold Center	5,340	14.6	9.0	162	12.6	55
High Ridge	4,980	32.1	21.4	150	27.4	97
Little Alps	6,200	13.0	10.4	113	11.8	53
Little Antone	4,560	10.4	8.8	107	9.4	38
Moss Springs	5,850	26.6	20.9	127	32.3	96
Mount Howard	7,910	11.3	11.8	96	11.8	44
Schneider Meadow	5,400	29.5	25.3	117	23.2	100
Taylor Green	5,740	26.7	18.1	148	25.9	80
Tipton	5,150	13.8	11.1	119	10.6	59
Wolf Creek	5,630	15.9	14.6	109	16.2	66
<b>AVERAGE</b>				<b>129</b>		

## Risk level on pace to increase

■ County reported 42 new cases from Feb. 21 through March 4, which is 13 more than the threshold to stay at the lowest of four risk levels

**By Jayson Jacoby**  
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An increase in COVID-19 cases in Baker County over the past two weeks has the county on pace to move out of the lowest of the state's four risk levels.

The county reported seven new cases on Thursday, March 4. That's the highest one-day total since 11 cases on Jan. 15.

As for the county's risk level under Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines, and the associated restrictions on businesses and other activities, Baker County has been at the lowest level since Feb. 12.

See **Risk Level / Page 6A**

## Pair accused of stealing truck from Or. State Police property

**By Chris Collins**  
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Oregon State Police arrested a Yakima, Washington, couple Wednesday, March 3, on multiple charges, including the theft last month of a truck containing drugs and stolen property that had been kept as evidence at the OSP compound in Baker City.

The two are accused of trying to destroy the vehicle after driving it through the locked fence at the OSP compound at 2445 Windmill Road and continuing to the area of Campbell Street and Atwood Road, where they allegedly set fire to the truck early on Feb. 22.

Mark Timmy Caoile, 44, and Carole Daniel DeRoche, 45, who identified herself to police as Caoile's fiancée, were arraigned Thursday, March 4, in Baker County Circuit Court by visiting Judge Daniel J. Hill, who serves Umatilla and Morrow counties, on charges related to the investigation.



Caoile



DeRoche

See **Arrests / Page 6A**

## Baker City Police surveys residents

**By Chris Collins**  
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The Baker City Police Department is seeking comments from residents about what they believe are major safety issues in the community. Those comments are being sought through an online survey that can be found at s.surveyplanet.com/eQRJNcie.

See **Survey / Page 6A**



**TODAY**  
Issue 127, 12 pages

Calendar.....2A  
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Comics.....5B

Community News.....3A  
Crossword.....2B & 4B  
Dear Abby.....6B

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Obituaries.....2A  
Opinion.....4A  
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**TUESDAY — TRIO OF BAKER CITY BOYS STARTS FLY-TYING BUSINESS**