

Baker City Herald

March 20, 2021

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com



IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Kim Anderson of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

WALLOWA — Wallowa High School Principal David Howe resigned his position as the school's girls basketball coach Monday night, March 15, in the face of an official complaint filed by the school's football team with the Wallowa superintendent of schools March 2.

The outcome of the complaint is pending and still in review.

Sports, 6A

The Baker girls soccer team dominated Ontario Thursday, March 18 at the Sports Complex, topping the Tigers 6-1 to improve to 3-2 on the season.

Freshman Daphne Thomas and sophomore Sydnee Pierce each scored a pair of goals, and freshman Jozie Livingston added another score. Baker's other goal came on an own goal by Ontario. Baker led 6-0 at halftime.

Sports, 6A

The Baker boys soccer team, playing at home for the first time this season, lost 4-1 to Ontario on Thursday. After allowing three goals early, Baker's defense tightened up.

WEATHER

Today
49 / 28



Rain or snow showers

Sunday
50 / 32



A few showers

Monday
49 / 29



A few showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

Baker Relief Nursery Opens in Baker City

Supporting Families

■ Program, for ages 0 to 2, includes classes and parent education



Contributed Photo

The Baker Relief Nursery classroom is at 1925 16th St. in Baker City.

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

After 18 months of planning, paperwork, and fundraising, the emerging Baker Relief Nursery is now open to help local families

The start of relief nurseries dates to 1976 when women of the Junior League of Eugene created a childcare center "in response to a growing crisis of child abuse and neglect," according to the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries (OARN).

The model, which is now replicated by relief nurseries across Oregon, was to provide

respite care and support to families.

The Baker location was spurred when Kim Mosier did some research on "childcare deserts," which refers to areas where the available childcare spots are fewer than the number of children who need care. Baker City is considered a childcare desert under that definition.

She also found data showing Baker County having high rates of child abuse and neglect, as well as higher rates of foster care than most other Oregon counties.

"That lead me to research

what's proven to work to keep kids out of foster care. Relief nurseries are the only thing I found," she said.

She also learned that of the 35 relief nurseries in Oregon, only two are east of the Cascade Mountains.

The relief nursery model is for ages 0 to 5. It is a three-pronged approach that includes a classroom, home visits, and parent education.

"To support struggling families and give parents the tools to support their kids," Mosier said.

See Nursery / Page 2A

COVID cases down by 50%

■ County on pace to return to lowest risk level on March 26

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

With the rate of COVID-19 cases dropping by about 50% over the past two weeks, Baker County could return to the lowest of the state's four risk levels starting March 26.

The county, which had been at the lowest risk starting Feb. 12, moved to the moderate level — one step higher — on March 12.

That jump was due to the county reporting 44 new virus cases for the two-week measuring period, Feb. 21 through March 6.

To qualify for the lowest risk, the county must have fewer than 30 cases during the two weeks, and a test positivity rate below 5%.

Counties' risk levels change every two weeks.

The next change, effective March 26, will be based on case totals and positivity rates for the period March 7-20.

Through Thursday, March 18, Baker County had 20 new cases during that period. That means the county could have up to nine new cases on Friday and Saturday and still meet the threshold for the lowest risk level.

The county hasn't had that many new cases in a two-day period since March 4-5, when there were 10 total cases.

See COVID-19 / Page 2A

Renovation grants for older buildings

By Samantha O'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

The owners of five historic buildings in Baker City have received federal grants totaling \$10,000 to replace roofs, repair windows and do other improvements.

The money is from the Historic Preservation Fund, which is administered by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

The list of grants:
• 1928 Court Ave., \$2,650 for window and trim repairs

See Buildings / Page 2A

A snowmobile, a 14-foot tent pole and an adventure in the mountains

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

David Spaugh and his daughter, Katie, might some day return to the alpine saddle high in the Elkhorn Mountains.

But they won't be riding a snowmobile.

David is emphatic on that point.

"I'll never go up that pitch again," he said. "It was quite a challenge."

See Adventure / Page 3A



David Spaugh/Contributed Photo

Katie Spaugh, 14, measured 83 inches of snow in the Elkhorn Mountains on Wednesday, March 17. She and her father, David, reached the spot via snowmobile.



TODAY
Issue 133, 14 pages

Classified..... 4B-6B
Comics..... 7B
Community News..... 3A

Crossword..... 4B & 6B
Dear Abby..... 8B
Health & Fitness..... 2B

Horoscope..... 4B & 6B
Jayson Jacoby..... 4A
News of Record..... 2A

Opinion..... 4A
Outdoors..... 1B
Senior Menus..... 2A

Sports..... 5A & 6A
Turning Backs..... 2A
Weather..... 8B

TUESDAY — DUCKS, BEAVERS IN NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT