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SUBMIT NEWS

Submit your event information by Monday for publication the following week (two weeks in advance is even better!).

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ADVERTISING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Baker City Herald

541-523-3673

The Observer

541-963-3161

East Oregonian

541-276-2211

Wallowa County Chieftain

541-426-4567

Blue Mountain Eagle

541-575-0710

Hermiston Herald

541-567-6457

What we're into



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

OWLS

About a year or so ago, I had been texting my best friend until around nine at night. I said good night and proceeded to fail at going to sleep.

Instead, I was browsing YouTube and came across a documentary on the lives of snowy owls raising their chicks in Alaska. The video was informative and hilarious when the wildlife photographer got a little too close and the angry male owl chased him away.

Two hours later, I texted my friend: "Dude, I am three inches taller, if that, than the wingspan of a snowy white owl!"

Needless to say, she was confused, but that wasn't the first

time I had texted her about owls out of the blue.

I'm not positive when I started loving owls, but like any fan of the franchise, I would guess it was around the time I first watched "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." I won't lie — Hedwig is my favorite character.

The snowy owl is one of my favorites but my main favorite is the elf owl. I watched a recent video about elf owls that said they grow to be around 5 inches tall and weigh less than a tennis ball. That is tiny!

I don't get to see many owls outside of YouTube, Instagram and Planet Earth, but I did have the amazing luck to see one a year or

so ago on a walk with my mom.

We were trekking the Leo Adler pathway in Baker City, nearing the Lion's Park. Boredom had me looking up at the trees and I saw a tree blink at me. It was an owl! He nearly blended into the tree he perched on and seemed mildly annoyed that I was openly gawking at him.

I flagged my mom down and attempted to take a photo of him. Apparently, they are camera shy because he took off before I could get a snapshot.

Now, every time I go down the pathway, I look up at the trees hoping to see another one. I haven't had much luck yet.

My love for owls has caused me to collect a rather large amount of stuffed owls. I also have a few decorative ceramic owls on my work desk, an owl Scentsy, and a calendar featuring North American owls.

I may have a problem, but that's fine.

— SAMANTHA O'CONNER,
REPORTER, BAKER CITY HERALD

New releases

'AGAINST THE WORLD'
BY HANSON

The guys from Hanson are celebrating 30 years as a band next year, and if that makes you feel old, it's not their fault. They've even put out an album to help you feel young again.

The seven-track "Against the World" is a rich and diverse group of songs that showcase the brothers' range, musicianship and influences — ones that leave their monster sugar pop hit "MMMBop" far in the rear-view mirror. The Hansons' harmonies are glorious in the Queen-like "Stronger," "One" is a nice plea for unity and the anthem "Fearless" leans on an orchestra as the brothers soar above strings.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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