



INSIDE
Go! Magazine
Arts and entertainment
magazine



SPORTS A5
Baker boys beat
Nyssa, 62-40



SPORTS A5
Nyssa ends Baker
girls' streak, 58-48

Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Robert McKim of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Brooklyn Primary throws taco fundraiser

Brooklyn Primary School is again organizing a Taco Tuesday fundraiser in February in place of its traditional taco feed event organized by the school's PTO.

Throughout the month, four restaurants will donate a percentage of proceeds every Tuesday to Brooklyn. Participating businesses are D&J Taco Shop, El Erradero, Delicioso Mexican Restaurant, and MC Taco Bus.

Brooklyn students are selling raffle tickets throughout the month (\$1 each, six for \$5, or 25 for \$20). Tickets will also be sold by a PTO member every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in front of TEC Copiers, 2019 Main St. Raffle winners will be drawn Feb. 24.

Sneak peek of Oregon Trail Experience Feb. 8 at Heritage Museum

The Baker Heritage Museum's monthly lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 8, features Barbara Mahoney and her talk "The Salem Clique: Oregon's Founding Brothers." The event starts at 6 p.m. at the museum, 2480 Grove St. At 7 p.m., there will be a celebration of Oregon's birthday with treats and a sneak peek at the new Oregon Trail Experience exhibit designed by the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

WEATHER

Today
31/17
Partly sunny

Wednesday
30/16
Afternoon snow

Full forecast on the back of the B section.



Beverly Calder, center, held a "Give More" fundraiser in December 2021 at BELLA shops in Baker City and La Grande to support three organizations, including the Baker Relief Nursery. She presented a replica check on Jan. 26, 2022, to Kim Mosier, left, chair of the relief nursery board of directors, and RaeAnn Butler, right, program coordinator.

Fundraiser benefits Baker Relief Nursery

BY LISA BRITTON
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RaeAnn Butler plans to hang the larger-than-life check on the wall of the place it supports — the Baker Relief Nursery.

"We are so grateful," Butler said, holding the giant replica of the \$5,399 donation from BELLA.

Butler is the program coordinator for the Baker Relief Nursery, which was one of three organizations to receive donations from BELLA's "Give More" campaign in December 2021.

Throughout that month, customers at the BELLA shops in Baker City and La Grande were given one nut for every \$10 they spent. Each nut represented \$1.

Customers then dropped the nuts into a stocking for their chosen organization — Baker Relief Nursery, Baker City Quiet Zone, or La Grande's Angel Fund.

"We got an incredible response," said Beverly Calder, owner of the BELLA shops. In addition to donating 10% of the month's sales, BELLA held a raffle for two \$200 shopping sprees, with ticket sales benefiting the cause in each store that received the most nuts.

In Baker City, raffle profits went to the Relief Nursery.



The Baker Relief Nursery classroom includes hands-on activities, books and toys.

Calder said customers at both stores supported organizations in the neighboring county.

"Our La Grande store customers dropped 1,513 nuts into the Baker City Relief Nursery stocking, and I wouldn't be surprised if they started an effort to get a similar program going in La Grande," she said. "We introduced the concept to thousands of people."

Funding for the Baker Relief Nursery is a public-private partnership — of the annual operating cost, 30% is provided through the Oregon Department of Education, 30% by grants, and 40% by private donations.

By statute, a 25% cash match is required from the local community.

Baker Relief Nursery
The Baker Relief Nursery opened in the spring of 2021 at 1925 16th St.

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 key outcomes, ac-

ording the OARN, are:
• Keeping children safe in their homes.
• Reducing the number of children in foster care.
• Reducing stressors for families.

The program
Butler works closely with local agencies to ensure families know about the relief nursery. Families can be referred to the program, or self-refer, Butler said.

Relief nurseries use a therapeutic, individual approach with an emphasis on social-emotional support in small class settings.

Right now, the relief nursery has a toddler class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and an infant class on Wednesday mornings.

The "classroom" is stocked with colorful rugs, books, toys, a play kitchen and more. A stroller with six seats allows outdoor adventures in warmer weather.

"We had it out quite a bit in the fall," Butler said.

Enrollment is capped at eight toddlers and six infants. "We had to start a wait list," Butler said.

See, Fundraiser/Page A3

Surprise snowstorm snarls freeway traffic

Sections of I-84 closed Tuesday night and again early Wednesday

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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A snowstorm that was more potent than predicted dropped about 3½ inches in Baker City in just a couple hours Tuesday night, Feb. 1, and contributed to two multihour closures of Interstate 84.

Snow started falling in the afternoon in the Blue Mountains between La Grande and Pendleton, and there were several crashes involving commercial trucks, said Tom Strandberg, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

In many of those cases, the trucks were not chained up, a problem that resulted in several freeway closures earlier this winter.

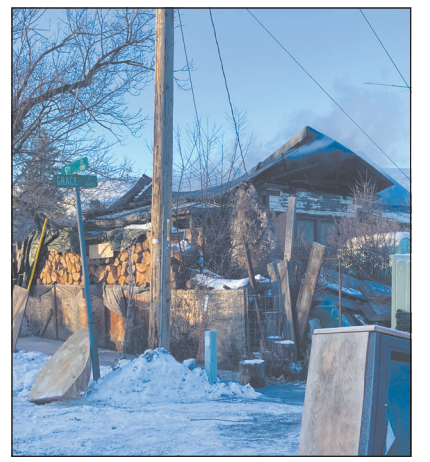
"It's definitely a recurring theme," Strandberg said.

Commercial trucks with trailers pose a particular problem because they're wide enough that when they jackknife the combination can block both freeway lanes, he said.

And if two or more trucks tangle, it can require several hours for multiple tow trucks to clear the way.

Both eastbound and westbound lanes were closed around 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1, between Pendleton and Baker City.

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Firefighters from the Baker City Fire Department and Baker Rural Fire District responded to a blaze in a home at 1249 Fifth St. on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Fire damages home near South Baker School

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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A fire caused significant structural damage to a house near South Baker School on Monday night, Jan. 31.

The fire was reported about 9:24 p.m. at 1249 Fifth St.

That's at Fifth and Grace streets, one block west of South Baker, and just north of the railroad tracks.

Six firefighters from the Baker City Fire Department responded, along with two from the Baker Rural Fire Protection District, said Cameron Kiyokawa, a division chief with the Baker City Fire Department who was incident commander.

See, Fire/Page A3

County commissioners all oppose River Democracy Act

Resolution was unanimously approved

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Baker County Commissioners voted unanimously on Wednesday, Feb. 2, to approve a resolution opposing the River Democracy Act, a bill in Congress that would add about 163 miles of streams in the county to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act list.

Oregon's two U.S. senators, Democrats Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, introduced the River Democracy Act exactly one year ago, on Feb. 2, 2021.

The resolution notes that the bill, which is pending in Congress and has not been voted on, would nearly triple the river mileage in Baker County under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Local streams on the list

The following stream segments in Baker County are included in the River Democracy Act, which U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced in February 2021.

- Black Canyon, 2.8 miles
- Burnt River, 12.6 miles
- East Eagle Creek, 3.7 miles
- West Eagle Creek, 5 miles
- Bullrun Creek, 2.6 miles
- Middle Fork Burnt River, 6.1 miles
- North Fork Burnt River, 16.2 miles
- South Fork Burnt River, 5.3 miles
- West Fork Burnt River, 3.8 miles
- Clear Creek (Halfway area), 9.1 miles
- East Fork Pine Creek (Halfway area), 4.6 miles
- East Pine Creek, 7.9 miles
- Elk Creek (Halfway area), 8.1 miles

- Fish Creek, 8.4 miles
- Lake Fork Creek, 13.5 miles
- Middle Fork Pine Creek, 1.1 miles
- Pine Creek (Halfway area), 1.3 miles
- Trail Creek (Halfway area), 4.4 miles
- West Fork Pine Creek, 0.5 miles
- Flat Creek, 3.4 miles
- Horseshoe Creek, 2.9 miles
- North Fork Elk Creek, 3.8 miles
- Sheep Creek, 5.2 miles
- South Fork Elk Creek, 1.3 miles
- Swamp Creek, 5.4 miles
- Dutch Flat Creek (Elkhorns), 6.7 miles
- Killamacue Creek (Elkhorns), 4 miles
- North Fork North Powder River (Elkhorns), 2.5 miles
- North Fork Rock Creek (Elkhorns), 3.3 miles
- Rock Creek (Elkhorns), 5.9 miles
- Van Patten Creek (Elkhorns), 1.6 miles

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



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