



**SPORTS A5**  
**Baker wrestler**  
**claims state title**



**SPORTS A7**  
**Baker routs**  
**Outlaws, 61-38**



**SPORTS A8**  
**Bulldog girls score**  
**51-32 over Pendleton**

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • HOME & LIVING • SPORTS

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**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Elma Ziegler of Richland.

**BRIEFING**

**Baker County Garden Club meets March 2**

The Baker County Garden Club will meet Wednesday, March 2, at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St. in Baker City. Janice Cowan will present a class on container gardening. Lunch will be available, \$5 for seniors or \$7.50 for those under 60, or bring your own lunch. New members are always welcome.

**Joyce Badgley Hunsaker to speak at Heritage Museum**

Joyce Badgley Hunsaker will give a talk titled "From Bloomers to Briefcases: Women's Legacies in Creating Community" for this month's lecture series at the Baker Heritage Museum, in partnership with the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

The event is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the museum, 2480 Grove St. Admission is free.

Hunsaker is a fourth-generation Oregon Trail pioneer descendant and a native Bakerite. She has written a number of award-winning books about Western history, and her work in historical interpretation has been honored by the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic Society, National Public Broadcasting, TIME Magazine, Scholastic, and others. She was named Baker County Legacy Woman in 2015.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
 43/32  
 Mostly cloudy

**Wednesday**  
 45/32  
 Rain showers

**Full forecast on the back of the B section.**

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

## Convoy protesting vaccine and mask mandates to roll through Baker County

**Convoy on I-84 slated to pass Baker City Wednesday morning**

**BY ALEX WITTWER**  
 EO Media Group  
 A nationwide convoy of trucks that's a protest against COVID-19 vaccine and mask mandates will travel through Eastern Oregon on Interstate 84 this week.

According to a flyer shared around social media, the American Freedom Convoy will make its way from Troutdale to Washington, D.C., stopping at the Arrowhead Travel Plaza in Pendleton, on Tuesday, March 1, for the night

before continuing east on Interstate 84 and Interstate 80 on its way to the nation's capital. The convoy is scheduled to roll through Baker Valley between about 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2.

Paul Veluscek, an organizer from Creswell, near Eugene, says the spirit of the convoy will be about freedom, citing mask and vaccine mandates as the cause.

See, **Convoy**/Page A3

## Getting ready to ROLL

**Sumpter Valley Railroad preparing for busy 2022 season**

**BY LISA BRITTON**  
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The snow still lies deep in Sumpter, but preparations are underway for the 2022 season of the Sumpter Valley Railroad.

The restrooms and picnic shelters now have new roofs at the McEwen Depot, thanks to a grant, and crews are working on the engines, said Kim Svaty, depot manager.

"We were thrilled that Four Seasons Roofing was able to complete this project before the season started in not-so-perfect conditions with all the snow," she said. "What a great job they did and further damage was avoided."

See, **Roll**/Page A3



The Sumpter Valley Railroad's #19 engine will be out of service until July due to maintenance. Although it's a few months before the trains run, crews are busy making sure the engines are ready.



Sumpter Valley Railroad/Contributed Photo

Thanks to a grant, the restrooms and picnic shelters have new roofs at the Sumpter Valley Railroad's McEwen Depot.

## Basketball ticket sales online only

**Baker athletic director offers to help buyers navigate online ticketing**

**BY JAYSON JACOBY**  
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 Spectators planning to attend the Class 1A state basketball tournament this week at Baker High School, or the Baker girls Class 4A playoff game on Saturday, March 5, also at BHS, will need to buy tickets online. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Ticket sales are also on-

line only for the Baker boys Class 4A playoff game at Gladstone on Friday, March 4, at 6 p.m. The Class 1A boys tournament starts Wednesday, March 2, with four quarterfinal games, at 1:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. The girls tournament starts Thursday, March 3, with four quarterfinal games at the same times. The Baker girls will play Marshfield, with a berth in the state tournament at stake, on Saturday, March 5, at 4 p.m. The Oregon School Activities Association

(OSAA) has had limited online ticketing over the past few years, said Kyle Stanfield, assistant executive director. But this is the first year all ticket sales for the Class 1A tournament have been online. Stanfield said ticket sales for fall sports championship events were online only, and he said the system worked well. He said OSAA expanded online sales during the pandemic to reduce the face-to-face interaction at ticket booths. The change also helped OSAA and event venues

deal with a shortage of ticket takers, he said. Finally, Stanfield said online sales make it easier for OSAA to track sales and to do financial auditing. The online ticket purchasing portal is on the OSAA's website — www.osaa.org/tickets.  
 • Click on Basketball  
 • Click on Boys or Girls Basketball  
 • Click on 1A (or 4A, for the Baker boys and girls games)  
 • Scroll down to select the game you want tickets for.

See, **Tickets**/Page A3

## COVID cases drop to 2-month low

**Indoor mask mandate, including for schools, ends March 12**

**BY JAYSON JACOBY**  
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 The decline in new COVID-19 cases in Baker County continues to accelerate as the omicron surge wanes.

And with cases dropping statewide, Oregon officials announced on Monday, Feb. 28, that the statewide mask mandate for indoor public spaces, including schools, would end March 12, a week earlier than previously announced.

Gov. Kate Brown said Monday morning that Oregon, California and Washington would lift their mandates simultaneously at 11:59 p.m. March 11. "As has been made clear time and again over the last two years, COVID-19 does not stop at state borders or county lines," Brown said in a statement. "On the West Coast, our communities and economies are linked. Together, as we continue to recover from the omicron surge, we will build resiliency and prepare for the next variant and the next pandemic."

Brown had originally said that the mask mandate would end March 31, about when Oregon Health & Science University projected the state would drop below 400 daily patients in

See, **COVID**/Page A3

## Frigid winter persists through February

**BY JAYSON JACOBY**  
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 While almost every other part of Oregon basked in springlike temperatures and sunshine for at least a few days during February, Baker County pretty much just shivered.

A winter notable more for chilly temperatures than for prodigious snowfall relented at times in parts of the region both north and south of Baker County. But the frigid weather never relinquished its hold locally. While temperatures rose into the 60s on a few February days at both Pendleton and Burns, the balmy day at the Baker City Airport was 45, on the 11th.

See, **Winter**/Page A3



**TODAY**  
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