



INSIDE
Go! Magazine
 Arts and entertainment magazine



SPORTS A5
Baker claims league's top coach and player

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Valerie Omann of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Crossroads to celebrate International Women's Day

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave. in Baker City, will celebrate International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8, with special events.

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., local lacemakers from Charmed Needles in Ontario will give demonstrations, and the "Habitat" Studio Art Quilt Associates traveling exhibit is on display.

The art center will also accept donations to support women artists in Peru who were featured during the July 2021 "Picturing Paradise" exhibit sponsored by ConVida.

Crossroads is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Information is also available online at www.crossroads-arts.org and Facebook.

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).

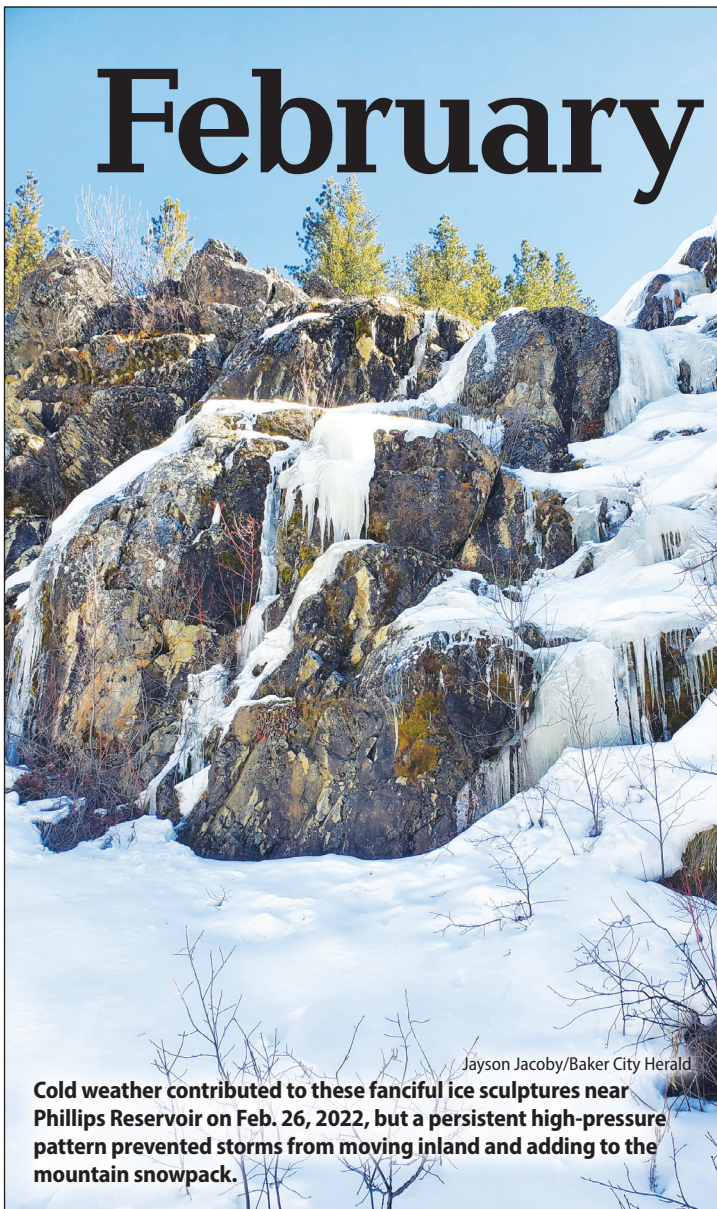
The event is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the museum, 2480 Grove St.

WEATHER

Today
 54/29
 Rain or snow late

Wednesday
 42/30
 Partly sunny

Full forecast on the back of the B section.



February Failure

Snowpack stalled during driest February on record

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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In a county plagued by drought, the phrase "driest February on record" sounds about as pleasant as a fork screeching across a chalkboard.

"Below average snowpack" isn't exactly melodic, either.

That February was particularly parched might seem implausible considering the soggy piles of slush soaking Baker City this week.

But those rapidly melting bergs are largely the products of snow that fell in late December and early January.

Since then — and particularly during February — a persistent high pressure pattern has shunted away most of the Pacific storms that typically bring precipitation to our region during winter.

"A bubble, or dome, or whatever you want to call it," is how Mark Ward, a frustrated Baker Valley farmer, describes it.

"All the storms go around us," Ward said in a phone interview on Wednesday morning, March 2.

Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Cold weather contributed to these fanciful ice sculptures near Phillips Reservoir on Feb. 26, 2022, but a persistent high-pressure pattern prevented storms from moving inland and adding to the mountain snowpack.

See, **Snowpack**/Page A3

March Madness: Books, not hoops

Younger readers will choose the winning books in event at Baker County Public Library

BY LISA BRITTON
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March Madness has hit the library, but it's all about books, not basketball.

Middle Grade March Madness started this week at the Baker County Public Library. Missy Grammon, youth services specialist, has created a bracket pitting books against each other.

The genre of "middle grade" is geared toward readers who are ages 8 to 12.

Readers can vote for their favorite book each week, and on each Tuesday Grammon will announce the winners that moved to the next round.

Voting will be held through the library's Facebook page as well as in person — simply ask to vote at the front desk at the library, 2400 Resort St., and then drop the tokens in the container near the book you want to win.

Extra tokens are given to those who check out books during the program.

Here's the lineup for the Sweet Sixteen:

- "A Wolf for a Spell" by Karah Sutton vs. "Root Magic" by Eden Royce
- "Manañaland" by Pam Muñoz Ryan vs. "King and the Dragonflies" by Kacen Callender
- "When You Trap a Tiger" by Tae Keller vs. "Class Act" by Jerry Craft
- "Echo Mountain" by Lauren Wolk vs. "Alone" by Megan E. Freeman
- "City of Ghosts" by Victoria Schwab vs. "Small Spaces" by Katherine Arden
- "City of the Plague God" by Sarwat Chadda vs. "Armari and the Night Brothers" by B.B. Alston
- "Too Bright to See" by Kyle Lukoff vs. "The Beatrice Prophecy" by Kate DiCamillo
- "Song for a Whale" by Lynne Kelly vs. "The Blackbird Girls" by Anne Blankman

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American Freedom Convoy Rolls Through Baker City



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Several dozen vehicles parked on the sides of the Exit 302 overpass above Interstate 84 on Wednesday morning, March 2, and along the shoulders on both sides of the overpass, and people congregated along the guard rails to greet the American Freedom Convoy, a group of several vehicles traveling to Washington, D.C., to join other convoys protesting vaccine and mask mandates. A couple of airplanes also flew over, one decorated with an American flag.

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

Sumpter RV park owner angry about graffiti

Jon Patterson believes his tussles with the Sumpter City Council are connected to the damage

BY JAYSON JACOBY
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The owner of a new RV park slated to open this spring in Sumpter believes recent graffiti painted on signs at his business is connected to his tussles with the Sumpter City Council over permitting and utility charges.

Jon Patterson said he and his wife, Rebecca, are offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever painted a diagonal line across the sign for their park and the words "Pig Boy" on a concrete barrier below the sign.

The couple, who moved to Sumpter from the Echo area in 2019, own Whistle Stop RV Park and Powder River

Convention Center. Patterson said they found the graffiti when they returned to Sumpter Feb. 20 after traveling to Idaho to pick up siding for their business office.

"It was a childish disgusting act and many Sumpter residents are as sick about it as we are," Jon Patterson wrote on the Whistle Stop Facebook page. "I truly hope this act of hatred & vandalism doesn't discourage anyone from coming to Sumpter to enjoy the outdoors whichever manner they choose."

Patterson said he plans to open the 50-space RV park May 1. The park, which would be a "dry camp" — no water or sewer connections at each site — would remain



Jon Patterson/Contributed Photo

Jon Patterson, owner of the Whistle Stop RV Park in Sumpter, found this graffiti on his sign in late February.

open through about Nov. 1, depending on the onset of winter weather.

Patterson said the con-

ference center, which could also host weddings and other events, would open later and be available year-round.

Both the park and conference center are on a 20-acre parcel the Pattersons own at the south end of Sumpter, at the junction of the Sumpter-Granite Highway and Sawmill Gulch Road. The Powder River runs through the property, as do the Sumpter Valley Railroad tracks.

Patterson believes there is a need for another RV park in Sumpter, in addition to the existing Sumpter and Gold Rush parks.

He said his park has larger spaces, at 1,500 square feet, and offers a different sort of experience given the lack of hookups for trailers.

"It's like camping out in the mountains," Patterson said.

He said the Whistle Stop RV park is a dry camp because he doesn't want to increase the burden on Sumpter's water and sewer system.

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