



**INSIDE**  
**Go! Magazine**  
 Arts and entertainment magazine



**SPORTS A5**  
**Baker baseball returns to Arizona after two-year hiatus**

# Baker City Herald

IN THIS EDITION: LOCAL • BUSINESS & AG LIFE • SPORTS Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 • \$1.50

**QUICK HITS**

**Good Day Wish To A Subscriber**

A special good day to Herald subscriber Charlotte Landers of Baker City.

**BRIEFING**

**Baker County Library plans spring break events**

The Baker County Library is planning several special events for spring break.

On Friday, March 18, youth ages 3 and older are invited to a Lego Build-Along from 10 a.m. to noon. Kids can build with Legos while watching "The Lego Movie." In the afternoon is Kids Game Day from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for grades 5-8.

Tuesday, March 22, is a special spring-themed story-time at 10 a.m., and Friday, March 25, is Teen Game Day from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The library is at 2400 Resort St. in Baker City.

**Past presidents club dinner Friday at Eagles Lodge**

The past presidents club at the Baker Eagles Lodge is having a dinner Friday, March 18, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 2935 H St. in Baker City. Dinner is a potato bar with all the toppings, for \$10. Eagles members and their guests are welcome.

**YMCA preschool fundraiser set for March 31**

The Baker County Family YMCA's annual preschool fundraiser is set for March 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Baker County Events Center, 2600 East St.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
 48/30  
 Mostly sunny

**Friday**  
 54/34  
 Mostly cloudy

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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

## 'Constitutional county' resolution undecided

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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Two of the three Baker County commissioners are still interested in possibly adopting a resolution, promoted by the local group Baker County United, that states, among other things, that "all actions by the federal government and its agents will conform strictly and implicitly with the principles expressed within the United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights."

Baker County United submitted the proposed resolution to com-



Nichols



Bennett



Harvey

missioners in December 2021, with proponents claiming the resolution would stand as a bulwark against what they consider government overreach, notably Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's executive orders setting mask and vaccine mandates.

The resolution also prohibits the use "of vaccine passports by any Baker County office, board or agent."

During their regular meeting on Wednesday morning, March 16, Commission Chairman Bill Harvey and Commissioner Mark Bennett voted to have county counsel Kim Mosier review the resolution.

The commission would then schedule a public hearing to solicit comments about the resolution before deciding whether or not to approve it. Commissioner Bruce Nichols voted

against the motion Wednesday, saying he believes the language in the resolution is redundant.

He said he has taken an oath of office multiple times and that the resolution basically reiterates the oath.

"I don't disagree with the things that are said, I just disagree with the way we are doing this," Nichols said. "I feel this is redundant and not really necessary. We have law enforcement in this county and we also have a court system, so does the state and so does the federal government."

See, **Commission**/Page A3

## WATER WORRIES

Baker City likely to ask residents to cut back this summer



Baker City Public Works/Contributed Photo

Goodrich Reservoir, which sits at the base of Elkhorn Peak west of Baker City, is one of the city's sources of water. The city typically begins tapping the reservoir in mid to late summer.

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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The Elkhorn Mountains rising west of Baker City remain a nearly solid wall of white as the spring equinox nears, but Michelle Owen is thinking about a couple of other colors, and another season.

Green and brown. Also, summer. Owen is Baker City's public works director. What she's thinking about — and worrying over — is water.

Both the liquid form and — those white slopes of the Elkhorns — the frozen version.

See, **Water**/Page A3



Baker City Public Works/Contributed Photo

Nate Miller of the Baker City Public Works department adjusts the flow of water from Goodrich Reservoir, high in the Elkhorn Mountains west of Baker City.

## 5 sustain minor injuries in crash

Baker City Herald

Five people suffered minor injuries late Monday, March 14, when a commercial truck struck their vehicle from behind on Interstate 84 near Durkee.

According to a report from Oregon State Police Trooper Jason Henry, eight people were in the Ford Econoline van, which was hauling a utility trailer and traveling eastbound at about 55 mph near Milepost 328, about 24 miles southeast of Baker City. Around 11:17 p.m., a commercial truck pulling a box trailer crashed into the trailer being hauled by the van. The van went off the freeway, rolled and landed about 30 yards off the road, according to the report.

The commercial truck, driven by Dimitry Olejnic, 39, of Sedalia, Missouri, came to a stop on the shoulder of the freeway about 60 yards from the van.

Olejnic was cited for following too closely, according to the OSP report.

Five of the eight occupants of the van were taken by ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City, where they were treated and released.

The van's driver was Kristopher Langton, 39, of Ellensburg, Washington. All seven passengers are also from Ellensburg. The OSP report lists Lonna Newlyn Langton, 38; Elijah Langton, 19; and Patricia Magruder, 27.

The four other passengers are all juveniles, and their names were not listed on the report. Their ages are 3, 12, 13 and 19.

According to the OSP report, the three occupants who didn't need hospital treatment were taken, along with two dogs and one parrot, to a local motel by Baker County Sheriff's Office deputies.

## City to start cemetery clean up

Baker City Herald

Baker City's cemetery and parks contractor, HnT Lawn Care Inc., will soon be doing the spring clean up at Mount Hope Cemetery.

That includes removing deteriorated decorations, flowers and floral designs, as well as thatching, edging, fertilizing, and weed spraying, weather permitting. This work is scheduled for April 1-15.

The city is asking residents to remove decorative items from graves and headstones prior to April 1. Items that aren't removed will be collected by the contractor and stored until Nov. 1, 2022. Items that conform to the city's cemetery rules can be placed on graves starting April 16. A copy of the rules is available on the city's website, www.bakercity.com.

More information is available by calling the city at 541-524-2047.

## OTEC resumes youth tour of D.C.

**Two local high school juniors selected**

Baker City Herald

After being canceled the past two years due to the pandemic, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour returns in 2022. Four high school ju-



Lane



Baker



Beckner



Flanagan

niors will represent the cooperative on a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., this June.

This year's delegates are: • Makenzie Flanagan, Baker High School • Tayleur Baker, Crane

Union High School • Isabella Beckner, Eagle Cap Innovative High School in Baker City

• Marissa Lane, La Grande High School

The foursome will represent Oregon and the Northwest and will join more than 1,500

See, **OTEC**/Page A3

## Cribbage tourney returns to Baker

**Tournament canceled past 2 years due to pandemic**

Baker City Herald

Competitive cribbage is coming to Baker City this weekend.

The American Cribbage Congress has scheduled the Gene Sissel Memorial Northwest Open regional tournament at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St., Friday,

March 18 through Sunday, March 20.

The event, a fixture in Baker City, returns after a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The early bird, newcomer-friendly session, with seven games, starts at 3 p.m. on Friday, said Kim Corn, who's organizing the tournament along with Rob Palmer and Pat Reynolds.

Canadian doubles, with nine games and also newcomer-friendly, starts at 7 p.m. Friday.

The main event starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, with 22 games. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Consolation, with nine games, starts at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Registration and seating starts at 8:30 a.m.

Both the main and consolation events are sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress (ACC), and ACC membership is required for those events. More information is available at www.cribbage.org.

Fees are \$20 for early bird, \$50 per team for Ca-

nadian doubles, \$65 for the main event and \$25 for consolation.

Walk-ins are welcome. Corn said organizers are expecting around 45 to 50 players.

In addition to this weekend's tournament, the local Grassroots Club 38 has weekly cribbage events each Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the VFW Club, 2005 Valley Ave. New players are always welcome at the weekly events, which average around 15 players, Corn said.



**TODAY**  
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