

Michael Linscott

Sept. 1987 - April 2016

Michael Linscott, 28, passed away April 18, 2016 at his home with family.

A Celebration of his life was held Saturday, April 23 at the Harvest Church of Baker City, Oregon at 11 a.m. A luncheon followed. Pastor Brad Phillips officiated. Cremation rites were conducted at Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel.

Michael was born on September 6, 1987 at St. Elizabeth Hospital, in Baker City to Delbert and Carol Linscott. He grew up going to the Assembly of God Church with his family.

Michael loved most of his life in Baker City; he attended the Baker City Christian School along with his siblings, cousins, and many friends. The family moved to Idaho for a while, then coming back to Baker City, where he enjoyed fishing with his brothers and family camping trips.

Michael enjoyed Sunday afternoon family days when the family would all load up after church with friends and head to the A&W for lunch, root beer floats and lots of laughter, returning home to watch movies or playing games, while Dad would fall asleep in the chair and Mom watching the kids play.

Michael was very talented at making techno music on his D.J. system on his computer and spent hours making it sound just right. He was hoping to make his music for some new video games. His greatest love was his family and friends. His nieces and nephews were one of his biggest joys!

Through his struggles, he clung to the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23-24 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. NIV

Survivors include his father Delbert Linscott, mother Carol Linscott, siblings Laura Brooke and Kevin Bottger and family of Baker City; Jarrod Linscott and family of Baker City; Sara and James Johnson and family of Baker City; Audra and Leo Arenas and family of Enterprise, Aaron and Julie Linscott and family of Billings, Montana; Jesse and Joni Linscott and family of Baker City; Daniel Linscott of Baker City; a grandmother Helen Cox of Canby and several family and friends who will truly miss his warm smile.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Harvest Church through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR. 97814. To light a candle in memory of Michael, please visit: www.grayswestco.com.



Way Beyond not Passing the Smell Test

Story / photo by Gina Perkins

Legitimate ongoing concerns remain about the finagling of the County Commission agendas, last minute additions to the agenda which require public discussion and approval by a majority of Commissioners, and the circumventing of fellow Commissioners and the public process. This is unacceptable and a clear violation of Oregon's public meeting law.

It's also completely unethical.

During the past year and a half or so, I have on multiple occasions sent emails to the Commissioners, have written articles and an editorial called "Is There an Agenda with the Agenda" about concerns regarding public meeting violations by the Baker County Board of Commissioners. Specifically, these have been in regard to: work sessions which were held without any notification to the public or media; not receiving agendas in a reasonable time frame required by the law; and, topics which have been discussed at Commission meetings of great public interest but not included on the agenda. Another local newspaper has also addressed similar concerns on at least one occasion.

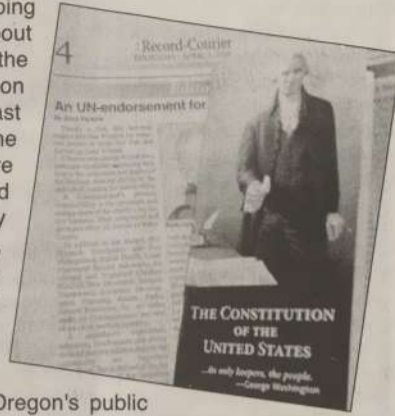
These concerns were taken seriously by District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff who addressed Commissioners at a public Work Session several months ago. He provided clear guidance and clarification to the Commissioners about the public meeting law requirements. As part of that conversation, Commissioners were advised by Shirtcliff that significant topics impacting the general public (including those raised by citizens) could be discussed, but also should be placed on the agenda for the next Regular meeting. They were also reminded that no action could be taken at a Work Session; nor, could any action occur at a Regular meeting unless it was included on the agenda. Different rules apply for notification in the case of Special meetings and in circumstances of Emergency meetings, both of which can only be scheduled if certain, specific conditions exist.

Since the meeting Commissioners had with Shirtcliff, agendas are being sent out in a timely fashion. However, "tweaking" of the agenda is again frequently occurring and becoming more blatant. Agenda items are often moved at the last minute which understandably causes frustration and inconvenience for the public, department heads and other staff members, as well as other scheduled speakers, not to mention the public.

Even worse, when Commissioner Harvey does not get his way, he has, on more than one occasion, gone around the public process, and then announced later private dollars were spent to move the agenda item forward. This is being done outside of the general public's eye and without the knowledge or the required approval of the other members of the Board of Commissioners.

No Commissioner has the right to act unilaterally. Nor can any Commissioner act in the name of, in any way obligate, or give the appearance of representing Baker County without public awareness; or when required, a majority vote by the Board of Commissioners, as a whole, in a public Commission session.

Actions like this must immediately cease. Public meeting law is not optional.



Death and Service Notices

Bill Henry Smith, 74, of Hermiston died Sunday, April 24, 2016 at his home. He was born January 8, 1942 in Hood River and lived in Huntington for several years. Please send condolences at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Ore. is in care of arrangements.

Merle Hogg, 91, of Halfway, died Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Veterans Administration's Palliative Care/ Hospice Unit in Vancouver, Washington. Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Geralean Sneddon, 80, of Florence, and a former resident of Cornucopia and Halfway, died April 22, 2016, at Avamere Junction City Rehabilitation Center. Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Darlene Ballard, 93, of Baker City, died April 21, 2016, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Paul Vincent Thomason, A Graveside Service with Military Honors was held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 1 p.m. at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City. A reception followed at the home of LaVelle Woodcock following the service. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Paul, the family suggests either C.A.T.S at www.catsabouttown.org/about/ or any veterans program or charity of your choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & CS- PO Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. On line condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Andrew "Andy" H. Johnson, 78, a resident of Baker City died January 1, 2016 at his home. Graveside memorial services will be held Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 1 p.m. at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Baker City. Donations may be made to Heart'N'Home Hospice or the Baker FFA, this can be done through Coles Tribute Center 1950 Place St. Baker City, OR 97814. If you wish to light a candle in memory of Andy, Please visit: www.colestribute-center.com.

Lutz Juergen Kethler

Jan. 1936 - April 2016

Lutz Juergen Kethler of Baker City was born on January 13, 1936 and raised in the town of Braunlage - which lies within the Harz mountain range in Lower Saxony, Germany. During this period of his life, Lutz honed his athletic ability and competitive personality to become a champion ski jumper and tennis player. He passed away on April 7, 2016.

In 1955, Lutz made the journey to Ellis Island to pursue his life-long dream of becoming a U.S. Citizen. During his lifetime, he served in both the U.S. Air Force as well as Army National Guard. In 1962, he was accepted to UC Davis, where he played tennis and in 1966 earned his Bachelors of Science degree - Majoring in Biology. After teaching high school science for nearly a decade, he changed careers and in 1977 earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from WSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Always up for an adventure, Lutz's enthusiasm for volunteering, exotic animals, veterinary medicine and travel took him to multiple continents for various wildlife research projects.

Lutz's passions included: his trees, watching movies, the opera, pastries and always being on-the-go. The happiest times were when he was with his daughters and many friends he made throughout his very full life. DaDa, your love will be in our hearts and minds forever.

He had a heart of gold and will live on through all that knew him. Those who would like to send condolences, please feel free to contact Paula at phoyt@mettel.net or 415-342-8460.

Friends and family are invited to join a 'Celebration of Lutz's Life' ceremony to be held at the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center 2020 Auburn Ave, Baker City, OR 97814 at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 14.



See **SMELL TEST** on page 6

BTI to offer Nursing Assistant Training

Baker Technical Institute will be offering Nursing Assistant training beginning with orientation (mandatory) on June 27, 2016. Class will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8- 4:30 (8 hours) beginning June 29, 2016. Class will be held at Baker Technical Institute. Clinical Lab times and place to be announced. There is a six student limit. Cost is \$750.

To register, call 541-524-2260 or visit Baker School District 5J 2090 4th Street, Baker City

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Janet (Larkin) Sullivan

Aug. 1942 - March 2016

Janet (Larkin) Sullivan of Raymond, New Hampshire who grew up in Baker and graduated from Baker High School in 1960, passed away on March 5, 2016 after a brief period of declining health. She was the beloved wife of James F. Sullivan.

Janet was born on August 12, 1942, the daughter of the late Benjamin Dale Larkin and late Phyllis Rasmussen Larkin Morrow. Baker was always "home" to her. She lived in Warwick, Rhode Island for over 25 years where she raised her family before moving to Raymond.

Besides her husband, Janet is survived by a son, James M. Sullivan of Warwick, and a daughter Karen Bianchi and her husband Robert of Nashua, Rhode Island; three grandchildren, Alexis Sullivan of Warwick, Cody Sullivan of Warwick and Jonathon Bianchi of Nashua; a sister, Geraldine Walton of Modesto, California; many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law in Rhode Island; and many nieces and nephews across the country.

One of her many jobs during her career was as a human resource specialist. It was the job she spoke of most often, reminiscing how she was able to help those who worked there. The highlights of every job she had always resolved around people.

Janet made friends everywhere she went, and was always kind and accepting of others. She inspired three generations of her family through her acts of kindness. She was talented with arts and crafts, and over the years made beautiful items, always with her special touch. Janet is also remembered for her sewing and as well as an accomplished seamstress for her family.

She will be remembered as the best wife, mother, grandmother, and aunt. She will be greatly missed. She will be remembered for her special one-on-one bonds with each of her beloved grandchildren.

A service was held on March 11, 2016 in Nashua, New Hampshire.

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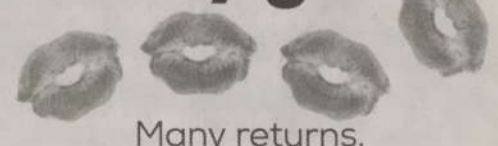
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Thursday, April 28, 2016

One Mother's Day gift



Many returns.

J. TABOR
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