

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, AUG. 23

■ **Baker County Commission:** To host a meeting of the Eastern Oregon County Association, 1 p.m., Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St.; officials will work on comments for the new Blue Mountains forest plans.

### FRIDAY, AUG. 24

■ **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroads, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge.

### TUESDAY, AUG. 28

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St.

### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29

■ **Baker City Farmers Market:** 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Fairgrounds, 2600 East St.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 4

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Haines Library.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

■ **Baker City Farmers Market:** 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Fairgrounds, 2600 East St.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 7

■ **First Friday Art Shows:** Baker City art galleries are open late to showcase the month's new artwork.

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald August 23, 1968

HALFWAY — The people of Pine Valley finally have a real life-saving device, an ambulance. They call it their "new" ambulance, even though it's a 1959 model converted hearse.

The VFW Post 7847 of Pine Valley saved more than \$1,500 toward the purchase of the much-needed emergency equipment. George Hansen, Halfway postmaster, said the VFW had to borrow \$800 to make the \$2,300 purchase from a Portland mortuary.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 23, 1993

Small, enthusiastic crowds enjoyed various aspects of the 25th anniversary of filming "Paint Your Wagon" in Baker County during the weekend.

More than 1,000 turned out for a two-performance concert Friday night by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 22, 2008

It's the height of the summer flea season, and male hobo spiders and aggressive house spiders are entering homes in Northeastern Oregon in search of mates, but officials warn against improper use of pesticides which can endanger people and pets.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald August 23, 2017

After years of fundraising efforts, Baker City has received a \$25,000 grant to build a dog park near Sam-O Swim Center.

PetSafe, a pet supply company, awarded the grant to Baker City as part of its Bark for Your Park program.

Baker City has participated in the program since 2013 to try to garner dollars to build a dog park. Until 2016 grants were awarded to those communities that received the most online votes. PetSafe did not award the grant to the city in 2016 nor did it garner enough votes in previous years to win what was then a \$100,000 grant. But that changed this year.

## OREGON LOTTERY

**MEGABUCKS, Aug. 20**  
3 - 8 - 16 - 26 - 31 - 45  
Next jackpot: \$6 million

**PICK 4, Aug. 21**  
• 1 p.m.: 4 - 7 - 8 - 8  
• 4 p.m.: 4 - 7 - 7 - 5  
• 7 p.m.: 0 - 4 - 6 - 7  
• 10 p.m.: 8 - 5 - 1 - 3

**WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 20**  
49 - 53 - 56 - 76

**LUCKY LINES, Aug. 21**  
3-5-10-14-20-23-27-31  
Next jackpot: \$25,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **THURSDAY:** Breaded pork loin, baked potato, mixed vegetables, cottage cheese with fruit, roll, brownie
- **FRIDAY:** Chili cheeseburger, pasta salad, corn, gelatin with fruit, cake

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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# Blitch sentenced to 4 years in prison

A Baker City man will spend the next four years in prison on convictions of coercion and fourth-degree assault, two Class C felonies.

Judge Greg Baxter sentenced James Robert Blitch, 48, of 2240 Fifth St., Tuesday in Baker County Circuit Court.

Baxter convicted Blitch on the coercion and fourth-degree assault charges on Aug. 9 after a day-and-a-half-long bench trial. Baxter found Blitch not guilty of a second count of fourth-degree assault.

Blitch was found guilty of coercion for keeping Tattiana McKenzie in an apartment by threatening her with

physical injury, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff stated in a press release.

Blitch was convicted of assault for punching Jason Hoecker in the head when Hoecker came to help McKenzie leave the apartment, Shirtcliff said.

The fourth-degree assault charge was elevated to a felony based on Blitch having three prior assault-related convictions, Shirtcliff said.

Baxter sentenced Blitch to 31 months in prison for the coercion conviction, to be followed by three years' post-



Blitch

prison supervision.

The judge sentenced Blitch to 30 months in prison for the assault, with 17 months to be served consecutive to (after completion of) the 31-month coercion prison term and 13 months to be served concurrent (at the same time) as the first sentence.

Shirtcliff had sought a fully consecutive prison sentence on the assault conviction.

Blitch will serve a total of 48 months in prison and will be placed on 24 months' post-prison supervision upon release for the assault conviction.

Upon release and while Blitch remains on post-prison supervision, he was ordered to

have no contact with the victims, McKenzie and Hoecker.

Will Thomson, an associate of Robert Rachio's Canyon City law firm, represented Blitch.

Thomson argued that Blitch should receive a downward departure from the state sentencing guidelines and be placed on probation rather than being sentenced to prison, Shirtcliff said.

"We are pleased that Judge Baxter sentenced Mr. Blitch to prison as this case involved domestic violence and he has an extensive criminal history including prior assaults involving domestic violence," Shirtcliff stated.

## TEACHERS

Continued from Page 1A

The deadline for teachers to submit proposals will be Sept. 7, the first Friday after the startup of classes.

Grants will be awarded by Oct. 1, Mosier said.

"We've asked teachers to come up with specifics about what they want to do with the funds," she said.

Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer serves as liaison between the nonprofit organization and the Baker School District. Director Julie

Huntington volunteered to serve as the 5J Board's representative on the Foundation Board. Other directors are Stephani Rasmussen, Angela Willison, Lindy Petrik, Jamie Ratliff, Heidi Quintela and Rick Ritter.

"We will seek to have a certain number of parents, teachers and a school board member on our board," Mosier said.

The group meets once a month.

Fundraising efforts have included suggesting people make contributions during

"Giving Tuesday," a designated giving day on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The YMCA also helped sponsor a spin-a-thon in which money was raised by people riding stationary bicycles at the Y. And contributions are gathered during a spring open house and art sale.

"It's gaining some momentum," Mosier said. "Our hope was that teachers would feel supported."

Last year the foundation gave \$4,759 to teachers who used the money to help fund hands-on science activities

at the primary level, scholarships to send Baker High School students on choral trip to New York City, and to purchase items to help establish computer coding programs at the fifth-grade level.

Mosier said a STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) cart funded for one first-grade classroom was shared with the entire first-grade team.

"All first-graders go to do STEM projects," she said. "And the cart also made it to third grade."

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Alberta June Gaub:** 90, of Baker City died Aug. 20, 2018, at Meadowbrook Place in Baker City. Her graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City. Pastor Garth Johnson of the Agape Christian Fellowship Church will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to

Doernbecher Children's Hospital through ColesTribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in honor of Alberta or to offer condolences to her family, go to www.colestributecenter.com

**Douglas Orel Shaver:** 87, of Baker City, died Aug. 21, 2018, at Settler's Park Assisted Living Community in Baker City. Service information will be announced later.

To light a candle in honor of Douglas or to offer condolences to his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

### FUNERALS PENDING

**Marcus Brown:** There will be a Celebration of Life at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at Eagle Fern Park in Estacada by the volleyball court and horseshoe pits. Those who would like to make a donation in memory of Marcus may do so to help defray service expenses through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Service, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. The family would like memories and pictures to be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

**Irene Carlile:** There will be a Celebration of Life at noon Saturday, Sept. 8, at the home of Benny and Judy Ruda, 18070 West Campbell St. in Baker City. Memorial contributions may be made to any Alzheimer's Foundation through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

40, of 1011 Walnut St., 10:22 a.m. Tuesday, at his home; jailed.

**THEFT II:** Jeffery Dean Buxton, 48, of 1510 Church St., 10:58 a.m. Monday, at his home; jailed and later released. Sgt. Mike Regan said Buxton is accused of taking more than \$100 from a wallet that had been turned in at the Baker Truck Corral where he was an employee at the time. The theft happened between 9 p.m. and 9:40 p.m. Sunday, Regan said.

**THEFT II:** Daniel Jason Blood, 34, and Austin Mikel Coble, 22, both of Baker City, about 3:30 p.m. Monday as they were walking down Campbell Street; jailed and later released. Sgt. Mike Regan said the two reportedly went out the door at Albertsons pushing a shopping cart filled with miscellaneous groceries valued at more than \$100 without paying for the merchandise.

### Baker County Sheriff's Office

**PROBATION VIOLATION** (Baker County Parole and Probation detainer): Lacey Dawn Kolb, 37, of Huntington, 7:13 p.m. Tuesday, at Huntington; jailed.

### OREGON STATE POLICE

**FAILURE TO APPEAR** (Baker County warrant): Cassandra Lee Ann Lopez, 36, of Baker City, 5:29 p.m. Saturday, on Highway 86, about 25 miles east of Baker City; cited and released.

**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING AND FAILURE TO APPEAR** (Bench warrant): William Lloyd Delepierre, 48, of Union, 6:22 p.m. Aug. 12, on Highway 237 near North Powder; transported to the Union County Jail where he was lodged and later released.

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police**  
POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION: Andrew Levi Myers,

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happy BIRTHDAY

**Come help celebrate Lyle Laeger's 90th Birthday!**

**Sunday, August 26th • 2-5 PM**  
**Catholic Church Basement**

**Annual Durkee Steak Feed**  
**Saturday August 25th • 4:30 - 8PM**  
**Quail Ridge Golf Course, Baker City**

Menu: Certified Angus Rib Steak, Pan Bread, Corn on the Cob, Taters, Fresh Veggies & Dessert

**Music by Frank Carlson**  
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