

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

MONDAY, JAN. 14

- **Baker City Airport Commission:** Regular meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St.
- **Medical Springs Rural Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Pondosa Station.

TUESDAY, JAN. 15

- **Elkhorn Community Preparedness:** 5:30 p.m. supper; 6:30 p.m. meeting; at the Sunridge Inn Restaurant, 1 Sunridge Lane.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16

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

THURSDAY, JAN. 17

- **Baker Rural Fire Protection District Board:** 5:30 p.m. at the Pocahontas Fire Station.
- **Baker School Board:** 6 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18

- **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge; continues most Fridays.

MONDAY, JAN. 21

- **Baker County Red Cross Volunteers:** 6 p.m., in the Red Cross Office at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald January 14, 1969

School District 5J's School Board decided at its meeting Monday evening that the opening of the Sumpter School was not warranted at this time.

The board agreed to further study the matter before next September to see if it should be opened at that time.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 14, 1994

Baker County teens no longer will have the option of taking their first-time traffic offenses before a court of their peers.

The Baker City Justice Court Teen Court jury option has been discontinued by Justice of the Peace Larry Cole.

Cole said the program was dropped because of a lack of participation by the teens.

"It's the young people's program," he said. "We can't do it for them."

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 14, 2009

Dennis Dorrah won a two-year term as Baker City mayor Tuesday, gaining the unanimous approval of his six fellow councilors.

Dorrah was the only nominee for mayor.

Councilor Sam Bass, who won re-election to the City Council last November, will be vice mayor.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 15, 2018

A single snowy day wasn't enough to make up for almost three mainly dry weeks.

But it helped.

The Thursday storm that drenched Baker City and other lower-elevation places with rain yielded heavy snow in the mountains, where the snowpack has been scanty.

And although the water content in the snow remains below average across Northeastern Oregon, the forecast calls for damp and increasingly chilly weather over the next week or so.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 12
4-8-15-23-33-46
Next jackpot: \$6.8 million

POWERBALL, Jan. 12
7-36-48-57-58 PB 24
Next jackpot: \$112 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 11
X-X-X-X-X Mega 20
Next jackpot: \$55 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 12
11-28-46-69

PICK 4, Jan. 13
• 1 p.m.: 8-0-1-2
• 4 p.m.: 6-4-1-1
• 7 p.m.: 6-2-8-0
• 10 p.m.: 2-6-0-5

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 13
2-6-11-14-17-22-27-32
Next jackpot: \$16,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **TUESDAY:** Spaghetti with meat sauce, cauliflower, garlic breadsticks, green salad, cheesecake
- **WEDNESDAY:** Barbecued chicken, parsleyed red potatoes, tomato-green beans, coleslaw, bread pudding

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.

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Small fire prompted evacuation at Geiser Grand

By Casey Crowley
ccrowley@bakercityherald.com

A small fire caused by a failed electric motor prompted guests and employees to evacuate the Geiser Grand Hotel for about one hour early Friday.

No one was hurt, and the fire, which Geiser Grand owner Barbara Sidway was about the size of a person's fist,

caused a few thousand dollars in damage.

The motor powers a fan that circulates air in the basement of the historic 1889 hotel.

The Geiser Grand's alarm system automatically notified the Baker City Police, and an officer then summoned the Baker City Fire Department. The Baker

Rural Fire District also responded.

Crews extinguished the fire in about 20 minutes. There was some smoke on the first floor of the hotel.

Sidway commended the efforts of firefighters and police officers.

She said damage was so minimal she doesn't intend to file an insurance claim.

CLEAN UP

Continued from Page 1A

Gwin was also cited for property maintenance violations on March 13, 2018, April 9, 2018, July 3, 2018 and Aug. 6, 2018.

On Oct. 29, 2018, the Baker County Justice Court issued an order allowing the city to clean up the property and then bill the owner for the cost.

The city had a \$5,600 bid from a contractor to do the work, but city officials decided to have a public works employee use a front end loader to gather the refuse.

The city sets aside about \$6,000 each year to clean up properties that violate the maintenance ordinance.

Police Chief Dustin Newman, who was at the property Friday morning, estimated there was enough debris in the yard to fill five dumpsters.

The clean up continued on Saturday.

A few of Gwin's neighbors watched from their yards, while others drove by, honked and waved as they watched the clean up.

Several nearby residents attended the Baker City Council's Dec. 11 meeting

to tell councilors about the conditions at Gwin's property and to ask the city to do something about the potential health hazards, including an infestation of mice.

Neighbor Mindy Grimer said she hopes that the city will do something more permanent about the issue. Grimer said that since she moved to the area she has seen all sorts of filth at the house, including jars of human urine. She also believes there has been drug activity at the property.

Though she is happy to see the property cleaned up, Grimer thinks the trash will

start to pile up again.

"It's sad to see the taxpayers continue to pay and pay and pay for the clean up," she said.

In addition to the citations for violating the property maintenance ordinance, Gwin had been charged with criminal trespassing, theft and contempt of court, but none of those resulted in a conviction.

The situation with Gwin's property prompted City Manager Fred Warner Jr. to propose tougher language in the city's property maintenance ordinance (see related story on Page 1A).

OBITUARIES

Steven Valentine

Richland, 1948-2019

Steven Glenn Valentine, 70, of Richland, died Jan. 1, 2019, with his family and four-legged friends by his side.

There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Baker City VFW Hall, 2005 Valley Ave. A graveside service with military honors will take place this spring at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City.



Steven Valentine

Steven was born on Jan. 19, 1948, at Baker to Darel and Lorraine Valentine. He was the oldest of four children and his siblings have said "you couldn't ask for a better big brother." He was raised on the "Old County Poor Farm" a short distance outside of Baker. His mother said he "rarely asked for anything" but "never moving from Baker" and his "first real gun" were among the things which were important to him. He was later able to purchase his family home and raise his own children there.

At the age of 19, Steven was drafted into Vietnam. He spent six months at Fort Lewis for basic training before being deployed to the jungles of Vietnam; he served as squad leader, First Air Cavalry. One of his responsibilities as squad leader was to delegate who would walk point on their missions, the most dangerous post to have. True to his character, Steven refused to put another man in that position; rather, he shouldered the responsibility himself. His mother gave him a pocket size Bible before leaving home, which he carried with him through his entire service. She asked that he read the 23rd Psalm every day, and she would do the same. This, the love of his family and the friendships he made while deployed helped get him through the darkness that was Vietnam. He proudly handed that Bible on to his son years later. After a year-long tour, he returned stateside and finished out his military service at Fort Ord before returning to Baker.

Once back, Steven was reacquainted with Regenia, whom he had known since junior high. Sparks flew, and as they both liked to joke, "She chased him until he caught her." They were married on May 17, 1970. Shortly after, he adopted Regenia's daughter, Donna, and they had a son, Colby, together, completing their family. Steven and Regenia's home was a well-known gathering place for family and friends. It was where to go for a meal, a laugh and, of course, a Heidelberg beer or two.

Throughout the years, Steven worked jobs in construction, heavy equipment operation and gold mining. His greatest passion, however, was ranching. He was most at peace being outdoors,

on horseback and mingling with cows. Every calving season Steven could be found out in a pasture, idling in his pickup, watching the new babies run and play and laughing at the "cute little farts." One of his biggest joys was taking his first-born grandson, Chris, to work every chance he could. He loved having his "sidekick" with him, teaching him the ranching life and how to always take time to appreciate a beautiful sunset. Steven loved this way of life so much that even in his final days, when he could no longer walk, he asked his kids to help him to the pickup so he could go on what would be his last cattle drive.

Steven was a passionate hunter from the time he could walk and carry a gun. He was a natural at the sport and passed that on to his son, Colby, who was his favorite hunting partner of all. He enjoyed fishing and spent the last few years taking his youngest grandson, Wyatt, to the rivers and lakes around Richland to catch some brook and rainbow trout, while also teaching him to always appreciate a beautiful sunset. He was most at peace in the outdoors and often said he didn't need to go to church because "I go to church every time I walk outside."

Steven had an unmatched compassion for people and animals alike. His capacity to comfort was unsurpassed. As long he was able, no animal in his family, whether it be a dog, cat, cow or horse, ever passed on without him by their side. He was a strong, gentle shoulder for anyone who needed it. He told hilarious stories, had a quick and smart wit and always had the most infectious laugh in the room. To know him was to love him, and he was loved by many. Steven's passing is a huge loss for us all, but it helps knowing that he loved his life and he never took one day with his family and friends for granted, they said.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Regenia; his daughter, Donna, and her husband, Carl Carpenter of Baker City; his son, Colby, and his girlfriend, Heather English of Richland; his sister, Linda Tipton of Baker City; his brother, Craig, of Baker City; and sister-in-law, Sheila, of Haines; his mother-in-law, Colleen Anderson of Baker City; his grandchildren include Christopher Rowe (Winnie Huang), Corey Carpenter, Elisha (Matt) Schlett, Wyatt Valentine, Brooke Anderson and Derick Anderson; great-grandchildren include Riley Jo and LC Renae Rowe, Kaden Cinch Carpenter, and Daisie Ranae and Lillie Jane Schlett; longtime family friends, Charlie Brown, Maelene Briscoe and Mindy Caviness.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Darel and Lorraine Valentine; his brother, Bruce; his father-in-law, Fred

Fuge; his brother-in-law, Brian Fuge; and his sister-in-law Rene Fuge.

Memorial contributions may be made to Best Friends of Baker through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Kathryn Bulinski

Baker City, 1949-2019

Kathryn Ann (Kata) Bulinski, 69, of Baker City, died unexpectedly at home in the early hours of Jan. 7, 2019.

She was born on Oct. 4, 1949.

She attended Humboldt State University at Arcata, California, where she studied forestry and biology, then graduated in range conservation science from the University of California at Davis. She worked summer jobs to pay her own way through college as a firefighter (light tanker crew), lookout tower fire spotter, timber cruiser, and range technician. She also joined her lifelong friend, Rebecca Ward, as the first women's trail crew serving on the Gallatin National Forest just north of Yellowstone and was proud to say they outworked and cleared more miles of trails better than any of the male crews. When she discovered that some of her fire crew compatriots had abandoned their axes and pulaskis as "fire loss" after a fire was out, she walked back on her own to carry the tools out. She could not abide laziness or dishonesty.

Her first federal career job was with the Minerals Management Service, inspecting offshore oil platforms. She soon transferred to the Bureau of Land Management in Redding, California, as a realty specialist. She later moved to Durango, Colorado, and specialized in oil and gas pipeline development. In 1996 she moved to Baker City, working in a combination of rights-of-way permitting and mining compliance and reclamation.

She loved theater and music, was lead singer in a Celtic band, played flute, piccolo, and woodwind instruments. She volunteered at local schools and community theater arts productions. An avid reader, she volunteered for many years at the Baker County Library. She was a strong supporter of the Baker Food Co-op, and every other public service charity organization in the community. She set a living example of giving love, humor, welcoming acceptance, and support to people wherever she went.

She is survived by her husband, Clair Button; her son, Maximilian Bulinski; her daughter-in-law, Erin Bulinski; her brother, Lawrence Bulinski; and her sister, Jeanette Bulinski.

Her family thanks all her friends and the community for the support and kindness you have reflected back upon us in her memory.

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Sale Municipal Court warrant): Andrew Jay Culley, 30, 1519 10th St., 3:31 p.m. Sunday at Resort Street and Auburn Avenue; jailed.

PAROLE VIOLATION: Devon Joseph Ricci, 30, transient, 5:22 p.m. Saturday in the 2600 block of Seventh St.

PROBATION VIOLATION: Ryan Alexander Bravo, 31, Richland, Washington, 11:54 a.m. Friday at 1 Sunridge Lane; jailed.
INTERFERING WITH A POLICE

OFFICE, SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Brandon Douglas Culbertson, 30, 3260 Court Ave., 1:31 p.m. Friday at the Sheriff's Office.
VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT (Baker County warrant): Johnathon Dale Fields,

31, Baker City, 11:08 p.m. Friday on Madison; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION: Austin Mikel Coble, 22, transient, 9:58 a.m. Friday at the Parole and Probation Office; jailed.