

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

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, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge.

MONDAY, JAN. 21

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 22

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 1

■ **First Friday Art Shows:** Baker City art galleries are open late to showcase the month's new artwork; opening times vary between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Crossroads, Peterson's Gallery, Broderick's Gallery and others.

MONDAY, FEB. 4

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald January 17, 1969

Delivery of more than 8,000 new Pacific Northwest Bell telephone directories is slated to begin Jan. 22 in the Baker area.

Gary Wilhelms, local manager for the phone company, said that the front cover of the directory features three water color sketches showing the Ashland Shakespearean Theatre, and Warm Springs Indians in full social dance regalia.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 17, 1994

Ed and Patti Fairbank officially opened Crabby's Royal Restaurant and Lounge, 1910 Main St. Friday with a good-sized crowd enjoying the lunch menu.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 16, 2009

The Oregon Department of Transportation is almost ready to put the D Street extension project to bid, and construction should be finished by Oct. 31.

Ken Patterson, ODOT project coordinator, told an open house crowd at the Baker County Library Thursday that the 6 1/2 block project, which will extend D Street across the Powder River east of Main Street, is designed to provide an alternate route for east-west travel.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 17, 2018

A 25-year-old Baker City man who entered two homes on West Campbell Loop early Sunday morning was held at gunpoint by the homeowner at the second residence while he and his wife waited for law enforcement officers to arrive.

Jesse Le Scott Gregory, 25, of 1450 13th St., was cited on two counts of first-degree trespassing and one count of third-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City for treatment of scrapes and cuts on his right arm and further evaluation, said Sheriff Travis Ash.

District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said he will be reviewing Sheriff's Department reports to determine how to proceed with charges.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 14

12 - 15 - 16 - 25 - 31 - 45
Next jackpot: \$6.9 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 15

29 - 52 - 58 - 60 - 62 Mega 7
Next jackpot: \$68 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 14

1 - 33 - 54 - 62

PICK 4, Jan. 15

• 1 p.m.: 4 - 8 - 0 - 6
• 4 p.m.: 4 - 6 - 6 - 4
• 7 p.m.: 1 - 0 - 9 - 4
• 10 p.m.: 5 - 0 - 4 - 8

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 15

15-9-14-19-22-28-30
Next jackpot: \$18,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **THURSDAY:** Ham and beans, potato wedges, Brussels sprouts, cornbread, broccoli-bacon salad, strawberry ice cream
- **FRIDAY:** Potato salad, corn, carrot-raisin salad, cinnamon roll

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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INLAND

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Tufts of pink insulation litter the floor and dangle from the ceiling like macabre decorations.

Ash fouls the grill where, less than a day before, cooks cracked eggs and flipped crispy mounds of hashbrowns. "I'm still shaking," Hensley says of the experience of walking through what was left of the restaurant where she has invested so much time, money and effort.

But as much as she laments the damage to the building, Hensley says she is much more troubled by how the fire will affect her employees and her customers.

"I have the greatest employees in the world," she says of the two dozen or so people who work at the Inland, all of whom arrived Sunday night to try to console her as she shivered in the 26-degree weather and watched smoke billow from the building. "They're like my family. That's the hardest part of this. And we treat our customers like family."

The damage was so extensive that on Monday Hensley wasn't sure it would be possible to rebuild the cafe that has been serving diners since about 1942.

But after talking with her insurance company she decided that she will move ahead with a goal of reopening the Inland.

Hensley said she met with her employees and they plan to return as well. There is no timeline.

Although she opened the Eagle Cap Grill in 2016 in part to handle overflow from the Inland, Hensley says it's not possible to, in effect, move the Inland, even temporarily.

The Eagle Cap Grill isn't open for breakfast, and its kitchen isn't equipped for a full-scale breakfast menu.

"We were set up perfectly at the Inland," she says. "Everything was streamlined."

In any case Hensley says she doesn't believe the ambience at the Inland — the things that made it special — could be moved to a new building as though it were a table or a microwave oven.

Although running even a single restaurant, much less

"We have people who come in to share memories and to make new ones. It means something to all of them."

— **Kristi Hensley, owner of the Inland Cafe**

two, is a considerable commitment, Hensley says the loyalty of the Inland's customers, and their obvious love for the place, helps her put her efforts in perspective.

"It definitely makes it worthwhile," she says. "We treat our customers like family."

Hensley says she had only an inkling of her customers' affection for the Inland before she and her husband bought the cafe in November 2007.

She had worked for 15 years for Food Services of America, a company that supplies food to restaurants, and the Inland was one of her clients.

Hensley said Sharron and Don Orr, who had owned the Inland for the previous 12 years, finally "convinced" her to buy the restaurant in 2007.

Hensley isn't entirely unfamiliar with the restaurant business — and not only because of her career with Food Services of America.

Her grandmother, Billee Howard, owned Billee's restaurant in Halfway, known today as Wild Bill's.

"I was peeling potatoes for the restaurant probably before I could walk," she says with a smile.

After buying the Inland, Hensley says, she came to realize that the unassuming little building on the west side of 10th Street was for many people far more than a place to get a burger or an omelette.

She began to understand that for many longtime customers the Inland figures prominently in their life stories.

"Every day there's a story," she says. "I had a customer who proposed to his wife there, someone whose grandpa brought her there for ice cream. We have people who come in to share memories and to make new ones. It means something to all of them."

Dozens of customers, past and present, revisited some

Inland customers share memories

The Herald asked readers to share stories about the Inland Cafe on our Facebook page. Below are excerpts from some posts:

"I love the friends and family atmosphere! Many times I have ran into people who don't live here anymore but they had to go to the Inland to eat because they knew they'd run into people they know."

— Teri F. Miller Osborne

"We have eaten breakfast there with my in-laws almost every Sunday for years now. My mother-in-law often said it was the highlight of her week and it was for us as well. We loved the food and the people there. It was like a small town reunion every week as we ate breakfast and visited with so many others from Baker. So glad we were there yesterday morning. Next Sunday will just not be the same without the Inland."

— Katherine McDermott Bailey

"The first weekend I had ever met my hubby, we went to church and then met my parents at the Inland for brunch. We sat at the big table in the right corner, and so now 12 years later that's where we take our 4 kids."

— Rebecca Barger McBride

"My brother and I have memories of eating lunch with my grandparents at the Inland. We now have continued the memories with our children."

— Kimberley Godes

"I absolutely loved the Inland Cafe I've been going there since I was a little girl. I had so many memories with friends and family there."

— Hannah Koos

"We just moved here year and half ago we love eating there they treat us like next of kin great staff great food this a great mom and pop type restaurant that sadly is vanishing from our country."

— Tim Berg

"Coming back to Baker for the first time since I lived there as a child, I loved our meals and how we were treated at Inland Cafe. It reminded me of what I love about this little city; there is a well of kindness and good intentions there that runs deep. When my husband and I return, I hope we can once again eat at this lovely cafe."

— John Fina Livingstone

"My family ate there when we lived here in the 80s and again when we all started moving back in 2000. It really was just an extension of our families dining room, as it just felt like family and home. We ate at other restaurants, but whenever we had company, it was always at the Inland. My grandfather, a WWII vet, who passed away this last year, always wanted to eat at the Inland when he and Grandma came to visit. He enjoyed a "home cooked meal." Definitely a part of our family."

— Wayne Dyke

"Our unofficial car club has been meeting at The Inland for breakfast on Sundays for many years. The food has always been good and the staff wonderful. We are anxiously waiting for their reopening. Best wishes!"

— Lorna Swiger

of those memories in posting comments on Hensley's personal Facebook page and

on the Inland's "I want to thank everybody for all the feedback," she says.

OBITUARIES

Robert Snyder

Formerly of Baker City, 1954-2019

Robert Dean Snyder, 64, a former Baker City resident, died Jan. 3, 2019, in Portland after a long illness.

A memorial for Bob will be held at a later date, and any contributions in his name and honor should go to the Shriners Hospital that is closest to you.

Bob was born on July 28, 1954, at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, and he lived in Elgin until November 1959 when the family moved to Baker.

Bob's childhood and life were changed forever in June 1958 when he lost his left leg as the result of lawnmower accident. Bob spent a lot of his early childhood and elementary school years at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Portland where he learned to cope with and overcome his disability.

Bob moved to Astoria not long after graduating high school, and he worked for Crown Zellerbach Corporation in Astoria until moving to Portland in the early 1980s where he stayed for the remainder of his life.

He will be missed by those who grew up with him and knew him best.

He is survived by his daughter, Sareena Nunez, and her children, Ava and Miles, of New Orleans; his brother, Lonny, of Hayden, Idaho; his nephews, Rick Snyder of La Grande, and Ryan and Nick Snyder of Hayden, Idaho.

Bob was preceded in death by both of his parents and his brother, Rick Snyder of La Grande.

Sharlene Cole

Baker City, 1932-2019

Sharlene Ann (Neumann, Valeen, Montgomery) Cole, 86, of Baker City, died Jan. 11, 2019, at her home.

A memorial service will take place later, with the time and date to be an-

nounced.

Sharlene Ann Cole was born on Aug. 7, 1932, at Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Dorothy Ollie Neumann.

Sharlene did a lot of traveling as a child. She moved to Oregon from California when she was eight years old and has lived in Oregon ever since. She attended school at Pilot Rock, a small community outside of Pendleton.

It was there that she met her first husband, Vernon E. Montgomery, in 1947, with whom she had two children: Robert V. Montgomery of Harpster, Idaho, and Brenda Lee Montgomery-Dickison of Baker City.

After the marriage with Mr. Montgomery was dissolved, Sharlene met her second husband, Raymond George Cole, in a logging camp where she was staying with her two children at the time. They fell in love and were married on April 3, 1953, at Pendleton.

They went on to have four children from that marriage which lasted a good long 46 years, with son Randy R. Cole, son Rance Everett Cole, who died of complications shortly after birth, son Richard Andrew Cole, and Elizabeth Ollie Cole-Thompson, who lived with Sharlene for these last five years at her home in Baker City, serving also in the last two years as her loving caretaker.

Sharlene was a born-again Christian and loved the Lord with all her heart. As a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Baker City for many years, she and Jack supported both individual missionaries as well as mission work in general. She and Jack Cole were also very involved in visiting the New Tribes missionary group stationed north of Baker City, when they came to her town, and supporting them in their world mission vision.

Sharlene greatly enjoyed and excelled at creating a loving home for her family.



Sharlene Cole

This included extensive yard work, planting and maintaining a large garden each year, hunting with her husband during deer and elk season, as well as mining gold on the 20-acre patented family gold mine on Elk Creek, south of Baker City, which her parents had acquired.

Speaking of Elks, she and her husband were members of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Elks clubs in Baker City. She kept in shape by being a member of TOPS, a popular weight loss program, where she also rose through the years in awarded recognition.

As a mother who spent hours in the kitchen cooking and baking — sometimes up to 40 loaves of bread, rolls, doughnuts, pies and cakes and more, a large portion of which landed in the freezer for the family to draw from as needed — Sharlene also added another recipient to her baking regimen... the Baker City Fire Department.

After a fire in an adjoining shop threatened to destroy part of the Coles' renovated and rebuilt home, the fire department responded to the emergency and was able to put it out just in time. This happened twice. In overwhelming gratitude, Sharlene then took it upon herself to deliver fresh baked bread, pies and other goods to the firehouse after every baking session.

As if that did not keep her busy enough, she was also an Avon representative for 18 years, which allowed her to find and keep friendships and acquaintances throughout the community. She also owned and ran the Paper Book Exchange for five years — which her family believes was just a way to feed her voracious reading habits.

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