

# Local & State

## BROWN

Continued from Page 1A

Other local residents, as well as Baker County's two representatives in Salem, Rep. Lynn Findley of Vale and Sen. Cliff Bentz of Ontario, both Republicans, contend that the bill, as written, would cost residents in higher fuel and natural gas costs and threaten the future of businesses including Ash Grove Cement's Durkee plant, which employs about 115

people.

But Brown, who supports the bill, also referred to it by its official name, the Clean Energy Jobs bill.

She argues the legislation is necessary to reduce carbon emissions and start to deal with the effects of climate change.

"We are seeing the impacts of climate change in communities around the state," Brown said.

The governor toured the

Ash Grove plant, about 25 miles southeast of Baker City, before speaking at the Baker Heritage Museum.

During Friday's event, Brown answered questions from the audience ranging from health care premium costs to climate change to the carbon emissions bill.

When asked how the bill would affect Baker County, Brown said her goal is to ensure it doesn't make conditions worse for communities that

suffered during the Great Recession. She said the legislation also has the potential to create good-paying jobs in rural areas.

As to the specific concern about Ash Grove's Durkee plant, Brown said state officials are looking at ways to help the plant succeed if the bill becomes law, including either exemptions from the carbon limits or providing the company with allowances to help it buy credits in the market. "We're working hard to get

throughout the state and talk with these businesses, figure out what makes the most sense to their particular sector," Brown said.

Brown also spoke about the importance of education in the state.

"It's also critically important that our students have the tools they need to succeed in a global economy and that every one of our students graduates from high school with a plan for their future," she said.

Brown last visited Baker in April 2018 to tour the Baker Technical Institute.

"I'm very committed to doing what we are doing the Oregon way and that means working across the aisle and around the state to put politics aside and do what is right for Oregonians," Brown said.

After the event, Van Diepen said he was disappointed because in his estimation Brown didn't answer most the questions she was asked.

## ACTOR

Continued from Page 1A

When Jesse was 3 and his family was living in Ontario, the car he was riding in was struck by a dump truck.

He suffered a broken neck and was paralyzed from the waist down for six weeks. After months of rehabilitation he fully recovered.

Jesse's parents divorced not long after and he moved with his mother and his older sister, Camie, to Atascadero, California, in the central part of the state between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Jesse's mother remarried and his stepfather, Steve Pybrum, introduced Jesse, who was unable to play contact sports because of his childhood injury, to golf.

Jesse proved to be something of a prodigy in that solitary sport, although he describes his talent as "random."

He first broke par at age 13, and he was a member of his high school state championship golf team.

Jesse moved back to Baker City for his freshman year of high school, living with his father and attending Baker High School.

He decided to return to California in part because BHS at the time didn't have a golf team.

Jesse went on to earn a golf scholarship at the University of California at

Berkeley, one of the more prestigious public universities in the country. He was a member of Cal's 2004 national championship golf team.

But even as Jesse was pursuing a potential career in golf, he never forgot about acting, and the film that, as he puts it, "light the lightbulb."

It was the original "Batman" movie, the 1989 version starring Michael Keaton as the superhero.

Jesse was about 6. He was spending a weekend at his family's cabin near Granite, and someone had brought a VHS tape of "Batman."

"I must have watched it 10 times that weekend," he said. "I just loved it. I think I was attracted to the idea of good versus evil, or someone saving the day."

Jesse said that as he was growing up he also "idolized" other actors including John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and Sylvester Stallone.

After college he played in several golf pro-ams, where he was teamed with an actor.

These events led to interesting conversations, he said, because invariably "the actors wanted to be golfers, and I was a golfer who wanted to be an actor."

In 2008 Jesse switched his focus from golf to acting. He took acting classes and began to audition for roles. He made his feature film debut later that year in "10-20."

In 2010 he joined the Playhouse West acting school in Los Angeles, where he studied dramatic writing as well as acting. He was cast in multiple plays over the next few years.

Jesse said it took time to adjust to the vast differences between golf and acting — most particularly that in golf, "all that matters is your score."

"If you shoot the lowest score you win," he said. "With acting, it's so subjective. You have a performance and one person loves it and another doesn't."

Jesse said that although his ultimate goal is to land roles in major feature films, he is also entertaining potential work in television.

"I'm very happy with the way I'm working now," he said. "I hope it allows me to continue to play a diverse group of characters."

As he pursues his career, Jesse continues to relish his visits to Baker City.

He said he generally returns at least twice a year, usually during Miners Jubilee in July and around Christmas.

Relatives who live here include his mother and stepfather, Belinda and Bill Tiedemann, his father and stepmother, Benny and Judy Ruda, and his sister, Camie Painter.

He said he talks with his dad at least once a week.

"Baker has always been home," he said.

## SEARCH

Continued from Page 1A

The incident started Friday night when Weaver's son, Cameron, arrived in Halfway intended to join his father and Webb for a weekend of snowmobile riding, Ash said.

When Cameron Weaver got to Halfway he sent a text message to his father, who responded.

Although Scott Weaver texted that he and Webb were safe, he also wrote that they needed help, Ash said.

Around 9:49 p.m. Ash called Taylor Kerns, an experienced Baker City snowmobiler, who in turn called another veteran rider, Clay McCarty.

They traveled to Halfway along with Ash and Undersheriff Jef Van Arsdall.

Kerns and McCarty rode their snowmobiles to the Trail Creek area, near Schneider Meadows, based on GPS coordinates the stuck snowmobilers had texted, Ash said.

Kerns and McCarty didn't find the pair, and they returned to a staging area about 4 a.m. Saturday.

After sleeping for about two hours the pair rode back into the mountains. Meanwhile Ash had talked with the Pine Valley Snowmobile club and arranged for about 10 other volunteers to participate in the rescue effort.

Kerns and McCarty were able to contact Scott Weaver and Webb by way of a two-way radio.

The searchers found the pair in a canyon that local snowmobilers avoid because it's difficult to get out of in deep snow.

An automated snow-measuring station nearby recorded a snow depth of 117 inches.

Scott Weaver said he has ridden snowmobiles in the area several times before.

He and Webb had been riding near Mehlhorn Reservoir when the snow started to get "a little soggy" around 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Weaver said they started riding back toward Halfway but they couldn't find their tracks from earlier in the day.

Dusk fell and the pair could only ride very slowly, stopping every 100 feet or so to check the terrain, he said.

They came to a dropoff that Weaver estimated was 10 to 15 feet high — possibly a waterfall on Trail Creek.

He said he and Webb decided that, because they were already tired, trying to either negotiate the dropoff or turn their machines around in the deep snow would worsen rather than improve their situation.

"We were still in good shape and we decided to stay where we were," Weaver said.

The pair hunkered beneath a tree and cut pine boughs so they didn't have to sit on the snow.

It was not a pleasant night, Weaver said, although the pair did have food and water.

"We got up every hour or so to warm our fingers and toes (from the snowmobiles' exhaust)," he said. "It was no fun, but we didn't get any worse."

The temperature at the snow-measuring station dipped to 5 degrees early Saturday.

Weaver said he and Webb were ecstatic when the rescuers arrived.

"It was awesome," he said. "Those guys are good."

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Wanda Elmyra Mitchell:** 90, formerly of Boise, died March 2, 2019, at Richland with her family at her side. A traditional graveside service will take place Saturday, March 16 at 1 p.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family for a potluck reception immediately following at the Richland Christian Church. For those who would like to make a donation in Wanda's memory, the family suggests the Eagle Valley Ambulance Defibrillator Fund through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

**LaRue Brooks:** 88, a long-time Richland resident, died March 3, 2019, at Ashley Manor in Baker City with her family by her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

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### FUNERALS PENDING

**Frances June "Nan" Martin:** There will be a celebration of Nan's life from noon to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at the Eagles Club, 2935 H St. Memorial contributions may be made to Heart 'n' Home Hospice through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Nan, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

**Andrew "Andy" Pinard:** There will be a social hour Friday, March 15 beginning at 5 p.m. at Wild Bill's in Halfway with a celebration of Andy's life afterward at the same location. Those who would like to make a memorial donation may do so to help defray service expense through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

[lefyfuneralhome.com](http://lefyfuneralhome.com)

**Andy Anderson:** There will be a graveside service with military honors at 1 p.m. Friday, March 22, at Mount Hope Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family at 2 p.m. for a reception at the Eagles Club, 2935 H St. Memorial contributions may be made to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Fisher House at Aurora, Colorado, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County warrants): Arron Ray Hansen, 43, Baker City, 5:56 p.m. Sunday at Chestnut and Madison streets; jailed.  
FUGITIVE, GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO A PEACE OFFICER (out of county warrants): Austin Lakota Reese, 23, 2705

Cedar St., 1:40 p.m. Sunday at Baker and Fourth streets; jailed.

**THIRD-DEGREE THEFT:** James Robert Hensen, 32, 3440 Ninth Drive, 4:32 p.m. Friday on Oak Street near Auburn Avenue.

**PROBATION VIOLATION:** Michael Steven Myers-Gabiola, 27, 940 Walnut St., 5:03 p.m. Friday at Dewey and Estes; jailed.

**FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT IN THE PRESENCE OF A MINOR:** Devon Wayne Baldwin, 25, 430 Spring Garden Avenue, 12:39 a.m. Saturday at his home; jailed.

### Baker County Sheriff's Office

**Arrests, citations**  
FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT, HARASSMENT, STRANGULATION: Matt Scott McLellan, 51, 184 Claude St., Halfway, 9:22 p.m. Sunday at his home; jailed.  
PAROLE VIOLATION: Joshua Cameron Wooden, 28, address unknown, 10:31 a.m. Friday at the Baker County Jail, where he was in custody on other charges.

## OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 2A

### Gerald Howard

Baker City, 1935-2019

He was transported by an ambulance which unfortunately broke down on the way to the Baker hospital. It was hours before he was brought to hospital and was transferred to Boise, where he remained in a coma for 21 days. Later, after some recuperation, he recalled being lead to "Lord Jesus" by Charlie Wright of Calvary Baptist Church. He always shared that he knew that was why he came through the car wreck. He also said, it was so that I could find you, love (Viola).

He later went to Oakland, California, and worked at the Fred Finch home for boys and Mission work. After a few years, he moved back to Baker and worked for the U.S. Forest Service, and Dick Culley was his crew boss in 1997.

Jerry attended Oregon Tech, graduating in 1958 in auto and diesel technology. In 2018 he attended the Golden Owl Reunion when some 40 alumni attended dressed in golden gowns and caps and symbol of the Owl. This

tradition of pride was shared among the alumni.

Jerry met Viola in Smith River, California. They were married in his parents' home on June 5, 1970, and made their first home in Brookings, where he worked for schools from 1970-1981.

He started his own janitorial and maintenance business. He had a large number of businesses he maintained including UPS, the Post Office and many shopping centers. They bought property in Harbor, Oregon, and attended the First Baptist Community Church for 35 years where he served as a Deacon and an Elder on nominating committees. Jerry also did janitorial work, but most important he

sang in the church choir. Both he and Viola were baptized in the Chetco River with their church family attending. There are always trials, struggles in life, and Jerry overcame them with the guidance of the Lord.

They moved back to Baker City on Sept. 5, 2005. Jerry became the president of Dredge in Sumpter where he contributed many volunteer hours to both the Dredge and Cracker Creek Museum.

"He was the best husband," Viola said. "Never a day went by that he told me he loved me and I was beautiful. We were planning our golden 50th anniversary, but the Lord Jesus Christ called him home. He will forever be in my heart."

Jerry is survived by his wife, Viola; his brother, Buzz Howard; his niece, Debbie De-

Mastus; many grandchildren and great-grands; numerous nephews, nieces, cousins; bonus family, Mark Jr., Debbie and her husband, Wright, and Randy and his wife, Michelle.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Stub and

Ruth; his sister, Mary Morin; and his brothers, Robert Howard and Ken Howard.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Bubba, the family suggests the Blue Mountain Baptist Church or Communi-

ty Connections Senior Center through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)



The family of Grover Mann wants to thank all our friends for the flowers, food, support, and condolences. We appreciate everything you've done and all the love you've shown for us during this difficult time.

*With love to all, Mary Mann and Family*

Thanks to each of you for your many acts of kindness during this difficult time. The telephone calls, visits, beautiful cards, letters, notes, flowers and plants were very much appreciated. The candles lit in Phil's honor were a wonderful tribute to my beloved husband and best friend. Many thanks to the staff and residents at Meadowbrook for the many acts of friendship, kindness, and concern showered on both of us during Phil's stay. Everyone was absolutely wonderful and tried to make Meadowbrook "our home away from home." A special thank you to Heart & Home for their compassion and assistance, and to Dr. Lamb for his welcome surprise visits. Our gratitude also to Pastor Lennie and Roger Coles for their honor and tribute to Phil during such adverse weather conditions. I know Phil was smiling from above in appreciation.

*Thank you and God bless each of you,  
Bev Stevenson & Family*