

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, MARCH 29

- **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroads, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge.
- **Eagles Past Presidents Club Dinner:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., 2935 H St.; dinner is beef Stroganoff, salad, rolls and dessert for \$7. Eagle members and their guests welcome.

### MONDAY, APRIL 1

- **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 6 p.m. at the Haines Library.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

- **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.
- **"Growing the Food I Want" Gardening Class:** Topic is "You and Your Plant Beds: No Sleeping Allowed," 6 p.m., Oregon Trail Nursery, 600 Elm St.; cost is \$5 per class. Information: Mindy Sherrieb, 541-523-3449 or leave a message at 541-523-6418 or [mastergardener.baker@oregonstate.edu](mailto:mastergardener.baker@oregonstate.edu)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

- **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..

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald March 28, 1969

The Baker branch of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2428 Madison, announces a series of special services March 30 through April 6, culminating Easter Sunday morning.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 28, 1994

The Little Pig Restaurant will celebrate its grand opening Friday through Sunday at 3685 10th St.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 27, 2009

Dani and Kodi Bates scramble up the strings of orange, blue, yellow and green to grab the top as King (or maybe Queen) of the Baling Twine Mountain.

"It's kind of a good play station," their mom, Sara, says as the girls giggle and fall down for a soft landing.

She's collected this pile of twine — 17,000 pounds of it — over the past week and a half to begin her venture of recycling products.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald March 28, 2018

Baker City councilors approved hikes to water and wastewater rates at their regular meeting Tuesday night that will result in a combined increase of \$6.47 per month to city water customers' bills.

In line with a past council's plans to raise rates 10 percent each year two years ago to pay for water system improvements, including the development of a backup well and the replacement of the mountain line that brings water to town from the city's 10,000 acre watershed, the council approved the third 10-percent raise to water rates.

Also approved was a 12.1-percent increase in wastewater rates to pay for a wastewater facility upgrade as required by an agreement the city made with the state Department of Environmental Quality last year to transition from dumping treated sewer effluent into the Powder River. The upgrade will convert the facility to a land application disposal of effluent that will irrigate crops not used for human consumption.

## OREGON LOTTERY

- MEGABUCKS, March 25**  
2-7-10-12-22-47  
Next jackpot: \$9.9 million
- MEGA MILLIONS, March 26**  
4-14-22-43-58  
Next jackpot: \$75 million
- WIN FOR LIFE, March 25**  
52-53-54-58
- PICK 4, March 26**  
• 1 p.m.: 8-4-6-8  
• 4 p.m.: 0-5-3-0  
• 7 p.m.: 9-8-8-4  
• 10 p.m.: 1-7-5-7
- LUCKY LINES, March 26**  
3-5-10-13-19-22-25-30  
Next jackpot: \$22,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **THURSDAY:** Beef Burgundy over fettuccine, mixed vegetables, bread, cottage cheese with fruit, brownies
- **FRIDAY:** Ham and cheese croissant, cup of soup, chips, macaroni salad, cookies

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

1668 Resort St.  
Open Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673  
Fax: 541-523-6426

Karrine Brogoitti, regional publisher  
[kbrogotti@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:kbrogotti@lagrandeobserver.com)  
Jayson Jacoby, editor  
[jjacoby@bakercityherald.com](mailto:jjacoby@bakercityherald.com)  
Advertising email  
[ads@bakercityherald.com](mailto:ads@bakercityherald.com)  
Classified email  
[classified@bakercityherald.com](mailto:classified@bakercityherald.com)  
Circulation email  
[circ@bakercityherald.com](mailto:circ@bakercityherald.com)

Copyright © 2019  
**Baker City Herald**  
ISSN-8756-6419  
Serving Baker County since 1870  
Published Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of Western Communications Inc., at 1668 Auburn Ave. (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.  
Subscription rates per month are: \$10.80; by mail \$12.50.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Baker City, Oregon 97814

## OBITUARIES

### Walter McLean

Baker City, 1946-2019  
Walter McLean, 73, of Baker City, died March 19, 2019, at his home.



Walter McLean

His graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

Walter James McLean was born on Jan. 16, 1946, at Ontario to John and Lucille McLean. He was raised and educated at Huntington, graduating high school in 1963.

It was while he was still in high school that he met his first wife, Carol Elaine Thurston. Together they had three sons. They later divorced.

Walter tried his hand at marriage four additional times, each ending in divorce, but he gained new stepchildren and extended families that enriched his life and who he loved dearly.

Walter spent his career working as a carman and as a switchman for the Union Pacific Railroad, from which he later retired. This career path led him to live in many different places, including Pocatello, Idaho, and North

Little Rock, Arkansas, but he always found his way home to either Huntington or Baker City.

Walter enjoyed the outdoors, hunting and fishing. He also liked trading collectibles. He will be remembered for being a kind man with a big heart.

Walter was preceded in death by his sons, William and Brian McLean; and brothers, John and Ed McLean.

Survivors include his son, Brett McLean; daughter, Victoria McLean; brother, Kenneth; sisters, Cody Simpson, Nancy Garhart and Barbara Carpenter; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the All Inclusive Playground (checks should be made payable to Baker City) 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](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

### Sandra Osborne

Baker City, 1942-2019

Sandra Alberta Osborne,

76, of Baker City, died March 21, 2019, at her residence.



Sandra Osborne

Her memorial service took place Tuesday, with a reception immediately following, all at Coles Tribute Center in Baker City. Pastor John Goodyear officiated.

Sandra was born on July 31, 1942, in Wasco County, to Forrest Albert Lutz and Winifred Louise (Graves) Lutz. She graduated from Baker High School in 1961 and then went on to attend Link's Business School, graduating in 1963.

Sandra married Ronald Osborne on Dec. 5, 1992, at Baker City. She worked as a caregiver until her retirement from Step Forward Activities in 2017.

Sandra was a rescuer of animals, puzzle master, gardener, and voracious reader. She loved cooking with new recipes, card games and travelling.

She was a member of the Church of Christ, Elks Lodge, Best Friends of Baker, and the Baker Food Co-Op. Her many accomplishments include raising four beautiful

children, owning and operating Buddy's Dog Wash, being a devoted member of the PT Cruiser Club and being highly involved in Best Friends of Baker City.

Survivors include her sister, Judith Lutz of Baker City; daughters, Anne Marie Roberts of Baker City and Robin Black of McKinley, Texas; sons, Jerry Highley (Tawny) of San Diego and Joe Highley; daughter-in-law, Rachael Nickens of Baker City; and grandchildren: Caeley Black, Brennan Black, Elizabeth Highley, Taylor Highley and Emma Highley.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Winifred and Bert Lutz; husband, Ronald Osborne; granddaughter, Elizabeth Highley; brother, Charles Lutz; and sisters, Patricia Lutz-Catterall and Margret Lutz-Morby.

Memorial contributions may be made to Best Friends of Baker City through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Sandra, or to leave a condolence for the family, go to [www.colestributecenter.com](http://www.colestributecenter.com)

## COACH

Continued from Page 1A

Oregon law requires that all details must remain confidential unless or until TSPC decides to sanction the person under investigation, he said.

Witty's decision to fire Wilson was appealed to the Board and a special meeting was called for March 19 to consider the coach's termination.

Directors Chris Hawkins, board chair, and Andrew Bryan, Kevin Cassidy, Katie Lamb and Julie Huntington considered information about the complaint and advice about how to handle the issue in an executive (closed to the public) session.

Afterward, the Board moved to open session where directors heard comments from three people in a crowd of about two dozen who came to show support for Wilson, including members of his volleyball team.

After hearing from parent Gary Carter, whose daughter played for Wilson; Molly Smith, the mother of a baseball player whose husband is Tim Smith, the BHS athletic director and head baseball coach; and from volleyball player Averi Elms, the board voted unanimously to uphold Witty's decision to fire Wilson, who was not a teacher in the district, from both coaching jobs.

In speaking to the Board, Carter and Smith focused on the process used to determine whether complaints made against the coach were valid. They alleged that neither Witty nor the Board followed District policies and procedures

before firing Wilson and damaging his reputation.

Carter referred to complaints of "sexual harassment" made against Wilson although the Board did not discuss details of the complaint in open session.

Smith said it was improper to have fired Wilson from his baseball coaching assignment after the season had started.

Wilson is also the head boys basketball coach at North Powder where Smith serves as the school principal.

And Averi Elms asked the board not to base their decision on reports made by volleyball players who were disgruntled with Wilson because he did not give them enough playing time during the season.

But Witty says the decision to fire Wilson was not made in haste and without consultation with advisers, including representatives of the Oregon School Boards Association's Human Resources department and legal team.

Speaking in general terms, Witty said staff discipline is generally conducted in a progressive manner.

That was the case in Wilson's tenure with the district. Wilson moved to Baker City after retiring from a longtime teaching and coaching career at Walla. Wilson started out with Baker in 2014 as girls junior varsity basketball coach.

The TSPC received a report from the District on Aug. 31, 2015, alleging that Wilson might have violated professional standards in his conduct with girls on the basketball team.

Wilson was accused of displaying in-

appropriate teacher/student boundaries, according to the TSPC's public report of the investigation and disciplinary action.

Wilson came to the Baker School District as a licensed teacher and did some substitute teaching in the beginning, Witty said. As a result of the TSPC investigation, Wilson's license was suspended for 60 days and he was placed on two years' probation. His license has not been renewed and he has not worked as a substitute teacher in the district since.

The TSPC found — and Wilson agreed to — certain facts that constituted gross neglect of duty in violation of Oregon law for lack of professional judgment, failing to follow district rules and regulations and failing to honor appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times.

Wilson signed the agreement on Sept. 23, 2017.

It included a written directive from the Baker School District regarding his conduct and the requirement that he complete Safe Schools training and training on the Coaching Handbook. The TSPC required him to complete approved training related to student/teacher boundaries within the first year of probation.

Witty declined to address the specifics of the TSPC report.

"It speaks for itself," he said, noting that anyone can go to the TSPC website and read it.

The report can be found at this address: [http://www.tspc.state.or.us/temp\\_images/T00077729PR01906784.pdf](http://www.tspc.state.or.us/temp_images/T00077729PR01906784.pdf)

See Coach / Page 3A

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Betty Proffitt:** 82, died March 25, 2019, at Baker City. There will be a visitation from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday, April 1, at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Her funeral will follow the visitation, beginning at 10 a.m., also at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer

Chapel. There will be a reception after the funeral at the Mespelt residence. To light a candle or to leave a condolence for the family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

### FUNERALS PENDING

**Larry Speelman:** His funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Christian Church in

Richland. Interment with military honors will take place afterward at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Friends are invited to join the family for a potluck reception after the interment at the New Bridge Grange. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eagle Valley Ambulance Defibrillator Fund 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)

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
PROBATION VIOLATION (Warrant): Larry Gail Larkin, 51, of 2614 12th St., 3:08 p.m. Monday, a his home; jailed and later released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker Justice Court warrant): Timothy Gregg Lovell, 53, transient, 11:13 p.m. Monday, in the 900 block of Elm Street; jailed and later released.

**Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations**  
POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION (Baker County Probation and Probation violator): Joseph Jeffrey Eckstein, 26, transient, 1:10 a.m. today, at the sheriff's office; jailed.

**Oregon State Police Arrests, citations**  
OFFENSIVE LITTERING: Kevin Glen Harlow, 54 of Baker City, 9:05 a.m. Monday, on Marble Creek Road; cited and released; police said Harlow dumped an elk carcass on the road.

**ELTRYM THEATER**  
MOVIE SHOWTIMES MARCH 22-28

**US<sub>R</sub>**  
FRI-THURS: (4:10) 7:00, 9:35

**WONDER PARK PG**  
FRI-THURS: (4:20) 7:10, 9:40

**CAPTAIN MARVEL PG-13**  
FRI-THURS: (4:00) 6:45, 9:30

1809 First, Baker City • 541-523-2522 • [eltrym.com](http://eltrym.com)

**It's Spring Break, watch out for kids!**

**Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.**  
2390 Broadway, Baker City  
541-523-5223

**Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations**  
POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION (Baker County Probation and Probation violator): Joseph Jeffrey Eckstein, 26, transient, 1:10 a.m. today, at the sheriff's office; jailed.

**Oregon State Police Arrests, citations**  
OFFENSIVE LITTERING: Kevin Glen Harlow, 54 of Baker City, 9:05 a.m. Monday, on Marble Creek Road; cited and released; police said Harlow dumped an elk carcass on the road.