

Local

McLay named superintendent of Powder River Correctional Facility

Tom McLay, who has worked as acting superintendent of the Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City since December 2018, was named superintendent of the minimum-security facility effective Oct. 1.

McLay started his career with the Oregon Department of

Corrections in 2001 as a correctional officer at the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario. In July 2017 McLay was promoted to institution security manager at Powder River.

"Tom brings a vast knowledge of solid security practices and works collectively with all institution partners and community stakeholders to ensure processes are followed and that PRCF contin-

ues to be recognized as Oregon's largest drug and alcohol treatment provider for adults in custody," Colette S. Peters, director of the Oregon Department of Corrections, said in a press release.

Powder River houses about 366 inmates who are within four years of release. It includes the 128-bed New Directions drug and alcohol treatment program.



McLay

OBITUARIES

Thomas Nichols

Formerly of Baker City, 1930-2019

Thomas G. Nichols, 88, a former Baker City resident, died Aug. 27, 2019, at his home in Springfield, Oregon, after an extended illness.

His memorial service will take place Saturday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7, followed by a short graveside service at Haines.

Tom was born on Dec. 3, 1930, to Ulwin and Elsie Nichols. Tom grew up in Baker and loved the surrounding mountains where he spent years fishing, hunting, hiking and camping.

In 1948, he married his wife, Bernadine, and they were blessed with four children, Doug, Dan, Terry and Cindi. He was employed by Safeway for 13 years at which time he resigned his assistant manager position and moved his family back to Baker where he finished his working career as a union carpenter.

Tom is survived by his wife of 70 years, Bernadine; his sons, Doug and his wife, Mary, of Hillsboro, and Terry of Springfield; his son-in-law, Rick Spriet of Springfield; his brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Kitty Nichols of Vancouver, Washington, and sisters-in-law, Mildred Peterson of Baker City and Fern Beck of Portland; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Tom was preceded in death by his mother and father, and his daughter, Cindi Spriet.

'Bill' Knight

La Grande, 1934-2019

William "Bill" LeRoy

Knight, 85, of La Grande, died Oct. 1, 2019, at a local care facility.

His funeral will be Saturday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. at Loveland Funeral Chapel, 1508 Fourth St. in La Grande. A lunch reception will follow at Island City Hall. Friends and family are welcome to gather at Wendy and Kelly's home in North Powder any time following the reception.

Bill was born May 12, 1934, in Wallowa County to George and Vera (Smith) Knight. The family homesteaded on Eden Bench at Troy. George was a farmer along with his father, William Joseph Knight. The family moved to La Grande in 1944 when Bill was 10 to a farm his parents bought in the Grande Ronde Valley. One of his fondest memories was riding out of Troy on horseback with his grandfather. Since they had no way to truck the three horses, they saddled up two of them, put a pack on the third and went by the way of Lookout Mountain, Elgin and Summerville in three days. W. J. was about 83 years old at that time. He lived to be 107.

Bill attended school at La Grande from fifth grade until he graduated in 1952. He rode the school bus until he learned to drive and got his car. High school students didn't have cars except for a few farm kids. Since Bill was a farm boy, he had a little 1930 Model coupe which he later traded for a 1948 Studebaker coupe.

His first job for someone else was on top of Ladd Canyon in a house, doing miscel-



Bill Knight

laneous ranch duties at age 14. Bill worked for his father during high school in the Knight's tire shop which was located on Adams Avenue at the time (where the Chevron station is now.) He would work until after dark, recapping tires. The tire shop later moved out to Island City, eventually becoming Larry's Tire Service. He continued to work there until he was laid off during a recession in 1962.

Bill was a member of the National Guard from shortly after high school until 1961.

Bill married Dolores Jean Humlicek on Aug. 30, 1953, at Milton-Freewater, and they made their home in La Grande. They had three children, Brian, Kemit and Lisa. Brian Merrill passed away in 1956. Bill and Dolores divorced in 1981.

Bill became interested in learning to fly a helicopter and have his own business after his father laid him off in '62. He helped with the local forest firefighting crews while with the National Guard and got the idea of the helicopter being used for agriculture here in the valley. He went to Yakima, Washington, and bought his first helicopter, a Bell 47-D1 bubble nose, in 1963 where he began his training. While learning to fly, Bill worked in south central Washington for a few months, learning how to mix farm chemicals and other aspects of Ag spraying. He started Rambling Rotors, Inc. in 1963 at the age of 28.

By 1985, Rambling Rotors Inc. had seven Helicopters and 16 employees. He was the FBO for the Union County Airport for one year. Bill also founded the Lifeguard III Air Ambulance at the Pendleton Fire Department. Bill was well-known as an outstanding pilot and his abilities were not just limited to only agricultural flying. He flew many jobs with OTEC, ODF&W, BLM, Forest Service, many rescue missions and countless others.

His helicopters were contracted to fly camera crews on the movie sets of "Paint Your Wagon", "Samson and Delilah" and the "Incredible Journey 2."

He married Hilda (Vanderwall) Haufle on Jan. 7, 1986, at Stateline, Nevada. He became a great fatherly influence to Hilda's daughters, Wendy and Amanda. He and Hilda made their home in North Powder, where they owned a farm and raised Belted Galloway cattle. Bill loved hunting, fishing and boating.

In 1991, Bill experienced some heart complications and was concerned about continuing his medical certification to fly. This was when he had his first thoughts of retirement or other options.

In 2008, Bill had a ruptured brain aneurism that changed his and everyone's lives tremendously.

Bill was a son, dad, mentor, grandfather, great-grandfather and more... Often referred to as "one of the best pilots many have known." He will be missed, but he WILL be remembered.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda; his children: Kemit and his wife, Linda Knight of Starkey, Lisa and her husband, Leigh Wright of Island City, Wendy and her husband, Kelly Secl, of North Powder and Amanda and her husband, Travis Bowman of La Grande; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; his siblings, Georgia Danly of Walla Walla, Barbara Waliser of La Grande, Gary Knight of Milton-Freewater, Marilyn and Duane Staat of Woodburn, and Linda and Corky Walker of Hermiston.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Vera (Smith) Knight; his son, Brian; and his brothers-in-law, Harry Danly and Larry Waliser.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com

BAXTER

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He has served as a deputy district attorney in Union and Wallowa counties for the past seven years. During that time he has developed a close relationship with law enforcement officers throughout Eastern Oregon, he said.

"I have been encouraged by law enforcement officers, lawyers, public officials and citizens to run for this position," Baxter stated in the press release. "I have spoken with the district attorney about his office and I am gathering input from as many sources as possible so that I can continue the good work being done by law enforcement. "I actively welcome information that will allow us to do an even better job of protecting the citizens of Baker County in the future," he said.

Baxter's father was sworn in as the Baker County district attorney on his seventh birthday, he recalls.

"I grew up around the law and gained an appreciation for it. I understand the im-

"I grew up around the law and gained an appreciation for it. I understand the importance of the fair application of the law for all people."

— Greg Baxter

portance of the fair application of the law for all people," he said. "I strive to handle my criminal cases with common sense and dignity. I look forward to the election in May 2020."

Baxter served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brazil from 2004 to 2006. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 2008. He attended and graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2012.

Greg Baxter and his wife, Kacey, have four children, ages 11, 7, 5, and 2. He is an active member of the Rotary Club, coaches his children in sports, and serves in his church.

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16

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

■ **Baker City Farmers Market:** 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Downtown at the Court Avenue Plaza.

FRIDAY, OCT. 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, OCT. 21

■ **Baker School Board:** 6 p.m., Council chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.; date moved from usual third Thursday.

TUESDAY, OCT. 22

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

FRIDAY, NOV. 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 Carnegie Art Center, Peterson's Gallery and others.

MONDAY, NOV. 4

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 6 p.m. at the Haines Library. (New time begins this month.)

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
October 9, 1969

A winning touch was added to homecoming weekend at Pine-Eagle High School Friday afternoon as the Pine-Eagle Spartans skinned the Union Bobcats by a score of 27-18 in Halfway.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
October 10, 1994

Orville Rohner, a Baker City dairy producer who died Friday, will be among those honored as 1994 Diamond Pioneers by the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences Oct. 19 in Corvallis.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
October 9, 2009

Opponents of what's been called a "rural lights out" or "dark sky" ordinance packed Thursday night's County Planning Commission meeting to testify and urge the commission to drop it from a proposed revision of the county's subdivision ordinance.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
October 10, 2018

Baker County is over nine months late in submitting its 2016-2017 fiscal year financial audit to the state, and the 2017-18 audit won't be finished by the Dec. 31, 2018, deadline either.

County officials say the delay has to do with the county contracting with a different accounting firm to do the audit.

The county's tardiness has triggered a three-year-old state law that allows the state to withhold 10 percent of some revenue, such as cigarette and liquor taxes, that is distributed to counties and cities.

The county receives about \$81,500 per year in liquor taxes and about \$15,000 in cigarette taxes.

Amy Dale, the municipal audit manager for the Oregon Secretary of State's audit division, said Baker County has been subject to the 10-percent revenue sharing withholding law since Sept. 1 of this year.

She did not know how much money, if any, has been withheld. Dale said some agencies distribute revenue sharing monthly, while others do so four times per year.

The county operates on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Oct. 7

5-20-25-27-36-37

Next jackpot: \$3.6 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Oct. 8

5-8-10-17-48 Mega 23

Next jackpot: \$60 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Oct. 7

9-11-21-34

PICK 4, Oct. 8

• 1 p.m.: 6-1-9-9

• 4 p.m.: 1-8-1-1

• 7 p.m.: 7-8-8-6

• 10 p.m.: 7-9-4-6

LUCKY LINES, Oct. 8

4-5-10-13-18-24-25-29

Next jackpot: \$13,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **THURSDAY:** Beef tacos, Spanish rice, refried beans, fruit cup, spice cake

■ **FRIDAY:** Barbecued ribs, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, carrot-raisin salad, apple crisp

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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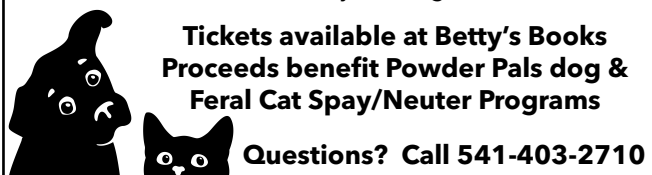
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New Hope for Eastern Oregon Animals
Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, October 26th
Community Connection
2810 Cedar Street, Baker City

Spaghetti Dinner at 6 PM, followed by Auction
Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 youth age 12 & under



Tickets available at Betty's Books
Proceeds benefit Powder Pals dog &
Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Programs

Questions? Call 541-403-2710



Week of October 2nd

William Hanks

Missed 2

Wins \$25

Scott Martin

Missed 5, beat tiebreaker

Wins \$15

Pat Guymon

Missed 5, missed tiebreaker

Wins \$10

Tie-Breaker:

La Grande 34 @ Baker 21

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