

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

■ **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.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

■ **National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Free Fee Day:** In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday; winter hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; call 541-523-1843 for more information; the Center is 5 miles east of Baker City, just off Highway 86.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

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

MONDAY, FEB. 3

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

■ **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, 1970

The Baker College Rams received a standing ovation from an enthusiastic Homecoming celebration crowd Friday night after the Rams overwhelming defeat of the Elko Cowboys by 107-52.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 17, 1995

The Baker City Planning Commission on Wednesday will consider a request from the Elkhorn Family Fellowship for a conditional use permit to build a church in North Baker City near the freeway.

The organization wants to build the church on 6.13 acres between Birch Street and the freeway about 500 feet north of H Street.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 18, 2010

A Richland farmhouse built in 1883, according to county records, was demolished by fire Saturday night.

The house sits on property owned by the Hammond Ranch at 41173 Dry Gulch Road about a mile west of Richland.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 18, 2019

Visitors to Baker City's downtown historic district see landmark buildings such as the Geiser Grand and the Baker Tower, but they also see around 16 empty or under-utilized properties.

City officials hope to address that situation soon.

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said progress hasn't been as fast as some people would like, but he expects the topic will come up during the City Council's goal-setting session later this year.

Baker City Downtown, a group of business and building owners that formed in 2017 to promote the downtown retail district, has contacted owners of vacant property to inquire about their interest in selling or renting properties.

Baker City Downtown's Economic Vitality Committee met Wednesday to discuss the situation.

The organization is working with the city through Robin Nudd, the city's director of community development and liaison with Baker City Downtown.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 15

1 — 8 — 16 — 30 — 32 — 40
Next jackpot: \$1.6 million

POWERBALL, Jan. 15

39 — 41 — 53 — 55 — 68 PB 19
Next jackpot: \$321 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 15

22 — 44 — 61 — 70

PICK 4, Jan. 16

• 1 p.m.: 0 — 3 — 8 — 3
• 4 p.m.: 9 — 7 — 8 — 6
• 7 p.m.: 2 — 6 — 4 — 6
• 10 p.m.: 4 — 1 — 4 — 0

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 16

1-8-9-16-20-21-26-32
Next jackpot: \$16,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **MONDAY:** Closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

■ **TUESDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, biscuit, cottage cheese with fruit, brownie

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
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

Fax: 541-833-6414

Regional publisher
Christopher Rush

crush@eomediagroup.com

Publisher

Karine Brogoitti

kbrogotti@lagrandeobserver.com

Editor

Jayson Jacoby, editor

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email

ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email

classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email

circ@bakercityherald.com

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County commissioners discuss contract to manage reservoir parks

By Samantha O'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Baker County Commissioners met Wednesday to discuss the county's request for proposals for a contractor to manage Hewitt and Holcomb parks near Richland.

Commissioner Bruce Nichols was absent from the work session.

The contract would be a six-month, on-site manager. The county will provide year-round living quarters and pay for utilities.

The county will accept proposals through March 1.

Commissioners hope to

hire a parks manager before the parks open April 1. That would allow the contractor to train to operate the water and sewer systems, fish-cleaning stations and other responsibilities.

Commissioner Mark Bennett said he thinks the county should put a cap on utilities at the average amount charged for them in the past, and add a definition of what the utilities will be.

Bennett also suggested asking members of the county's Parks Advisory Board to have some of their members review proposals the county

receives.

"The old one ran through the parks board and I think that they could either appoint a couple people as a subcommittee to work with you and review them," Bennett said.

Harvey agreed to have Parks Board members available to review proposals.

Commissioners will continue their discussion of the parks management when they meet Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

Commissioners decided earlier this month to eliminate the county's parks coordinator job and instead seek a contract to operate the two parks on the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir about three miles east of Richland.

The commissioners' decision was prompted by declining revenue from the two parks, a trend the county attributes to fluctuating water levels in the reservoir and toxic algae advisories.

Harvey said ending the coordinator position, which Karen Spencer has had since 2007, and hiring a contractor will save the county an estimated \$100,000 annually.

OBITUARIES

Jerry Olmstead

Baker City, 1928-2019

Gerald "Jerry" Olmstead, 91, of Baker City, died Dec. 31, 2019, at Yuma, Arizona.

Jerry's family will have a private memorial service for him in August.

Jerry was born on Dec. 8, 1928, at Chicago to Vernon and Pearl Olmstead.

During the Depression, Vernon moved his family of 5, including Joyce, Jerry and Jane, to Remer, Minnesota, and then to Palmer, Alaska, in 1935 during the government's Matanuska Valley Settlement Project.

Jerry's family left Alaska in 1941, moving many different times during his school years between Oregon, California and Idaho. During these moves Jerry helped provide for the family by raising a big garden and selling produce, raising turkeys, milking cows and running a store where he learned to cut meat with his dad ... a skill that came in handy since Jerry liked to hunt and take care of his own game.

After his high school graduation in Orland, California, the family moved to Lewiston, Idaho, where they had a sporting goods store and built cabins at a lake property.

He married Joanne Clark and they had two sons, Mike and Brad.

Jerry started a cabinet shop in Lewiston before serving in the Army during the Korean conflict. Upon his return he and his friend, Duane Gage, started building fiberglass catamaran boats, which he raced on the Snake River.

Duane continued building boats while Jerry started making survey stakes for road crews, boxes for fruit growers and stretcher bars for artists to stretch canvas on. He called his shop Orchards Wood Products because it was located in the Lewiston orchards. He actually used pine scrap wood from mills for his raw material.

After marrying Linda Abbott in 1960 and having two sons, Paul and Mark, Jerry moved his family to Baker in 1963, where Jack Nash assured him of all the pine scrap wood he would need. Baker Industries and Resources rented and later sold him a mill building in South Baker.

Jerry and Linda had a third son, David, and a daughter, RaNae, and they enjoyed boating, fishing and camping with friends and family.

After retiring and selling Orchard Wood Products to Steve and Leanne Haberle, Jerry and Linda sold their dream home and became full-time RVers until 2014. Despite his pulmonary fibrosis, Jerry and Linda were able to spend time traveling and spent winter months in Yuma and summers in Baker City.

Survivors include his wife, Linda; his children, Paul (Pat), Mark (Lori Rising), David (Christina), RaNae Huntting (Dennis); as well as 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Contributions in Jerry's memory will be made to a charity of one's choice.

Please share your thoughts and memories with the family by going online to <https://www.yumamortuary.com/notices/Gerald-Olmstead>, and clicking on the "Share a Memory" button located

at the left below Jerry's picture.

Betty Swensen

Baker City, 1928-2019

Beatrice Pauline "Betty" Swensen, 91, of Baker City, died on Jan. 11, 2020, at her residence at Meadowbrook Place.

A memorial service will take place at 1 p.m. on Feb. 19 at Santa Rosa, California.

Betty was born on July 13, 1928, at Park River, North Dakota, to Ivan and Thordyce (Thomason) Spornitz. She obtained a music degree from the University of North Dakota and worked as a music teacher. Betty married Alan Swensen in Park River.

She was a music lover, gourmet cook and enjoyed quilting, waterskiing and snow skiing. She was past president of the Women's Medical Auxiliary and was a member of the Sonoma County Chorus. Her greatest accomplishments include serving on the Santa Rosa Opera Board, San Diego Opera Board and being president of the Women's Medical Auxiliary in Santa Rosa.

Survivors include her children, Allison Swensen Mitchell of Baker City, Elizabeth Swensen of Oceanside, California, Paul Swensen of Santa Rosa, California, Bob Swensen of Penfield, New York, and John Swensen of Dublin. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

To light a candle in memory of Betty, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com



Jerry Olmstead



Betty Swensen

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Walt Forsea: 95, a longtime Eagle Valley resident, died Jan. 16, 2020, at his home, surrounded by family and friends. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Betty Rouse: 83, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2020, at Settler's Park Assisted Living Community. Visitations will be Friday, Jan. 24 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Recitation of the rosary will be Saturday, Jan. 25 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, followed by mass of Christian burial at

10 a.m. Father Suresh Kumar Telagani will officiate. Interment will be at Mount Hope Cemetery following the service. Friends are invited to return to the church after the interment for a reception in the parish hall. Contributions in Betty's memory can be made to the Catholic Church General Fund through Gray's West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Betty's memory, go to www.grayswestco.com

Danny Peters: 89, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2020, at Ashley Manor Assisted Living Facility with his family at his side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Alan King: 80, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2020, at Saint

Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise with his family at his side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
THEFT II (Baker County warrant): Juanita Marie Kasinger, 53, of 2627 12th St., 12:30 p.m. Thursday, at 12th and B streets; cited and released.

Baker County Parole and Probation

Arrests, citations
POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION: Jace Prowell, 29, of Baker City, 8:53 a.m. Thursday, at 3320 K St.; jailed.

The family of Jerry Duncan would like to thank you for each and every kindness shown us during this time; whether a card, phone call, food, prayers or a hug, each one did not go unnoticed.



Welcome, Dr. Brandon Snow

Baker Dental Group would like to welcome Dr. Brandon Snow to their General Dental practice. Dr. Todd Chandler will be retiring in February and Dr. Brandon Snow will be the new partner with Dr. Justin Bingham. Dr. Chandler would like to sincerely thank all of his patients, staff and friends for many years of enjoyable association. All of us at Baker Dental Group have every confidence in Dr. Snow and are excited to welcome him to the practice.

Brandon was born and raised in Boulder City, Nevada, a small town outside of Las Vegas. After graduating high school, he attended Brigham Young University where he met and married Jill Richards of Baker City. The couple moved to Las Vegas where Brandon completed his formal education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine in 2016. For the past 3 1/2 years they have been in Fruitland, Idaho while Brandon has worked for Valley Family Health Care in Ontario and Nyssa. They are excited to be moving to Baker City with their family to a community that they love.

