

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

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

■ **Baker City Council:** Special meeting to hear the Verizon appeal, 6 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall, 1655 First St.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

■ **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.

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.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

■ **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*
January 20, 1970

NEWYORK — The sound of wedding bells will be heard more often in Baker County from now on. This is evident in the sharp increase in the number of young people who will be in the age bracket in which most marriages take place.

25 YEARS AGO

from the *Baker City Herald*
January 20, 1995

SUMPTER — The Elkhorn Crest Sled Dog Races are planned Saturday and Sunday.

"Mushers" from throughout the West will compete in the event sponsored by the Sumpter Merchants Association, Sumpter Valley Days Association and Sumpter Snowmobile Club.

10 YEARS AGO

from the *Baker City Herald*
January 20, 2010

State wildlife officials shot and killed an emaciated adult cougar earlier this month after the cougar killed a dog in the yard of a home near Durkee.

The female cougar weighed 60 pounds.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the *Baker City Herald*
January 21, 2019

The campaign to aid Baker County's struggling sage grouse population has received a nearly \$2 million boost.

And that might just be the start of a multimillion-dollar effort to not only protect the chicken-size bird but also to improve the condition of rangeland, much of it privately owned, across the county.

The \$1.7 million award from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, approved last week, is the first installment in a planned \$6.2 million from the Board, which receives its money from the Oregon Lottery, over the next six years.

Local officials also hope to use the state money to leverage federal grants and other sources that could make available several million dollars more to combat invasive weeds, deal with predators and do other work to aid sage grouse recovery, said Mark Bennett, a Baker County commissioner and a member of the governor's sage grouse council.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 18

11 — 17 — 34 — 39 — 42 — 46
Next jackpot: \$1.8 million

POWERBALL, Jan. 18

20 — 24 — 38 — 56 — 68 PB 18
Next jackpot: \$343 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 17

3 — 25 — 30 — 54 — 70 Mega 9
Next jackpot: \$116 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 18

11 — 48 — 55 — 62

PICK 4, Jan. 19

• 1 p.m.: 9 — 7 — 7 — 4

• 4 p.m.: 0 — 9 — 7 — 4

• 7 p.m.: 9 — 7 — 5 — 5

• 10 p.m.: 1 — 6 — 6 — 6

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 19

4-5-10-14-17-23-27-31

Next jackpot: \$19,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Pork filet mignon, parslid red potatoes, succotash, roll, coleslaw, peach 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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OBITUARIES

Betty Rouse

Baker City, 1936-2020

Elizabeth Marian "Betty" Rouse, 83, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2020, at Settler's Park Assisted Living Community.

A visitation will be Friday, Jan. 24, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Recitation of the rosary will be Friday at 6 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, First and Church streets. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral. Father Suresh Kumar Telagani will officiate. Interment will be at Mount Hope Cemetery after the service. Friends are invited to a reception in the Parish Hall at the church after the interment. All are welcome.

Betty was born on Aug. 17, 1936, at Baker, the second of three children to Lloyd and Elizabeth (Holland) Izatt. She, her older brother, Mariner, and younger sister, Eleanor "Ellie," were raised on a ranch in the McEwen Valley, near the ranch of Lloyd's sister Ellen (Izatt) Defrees and her husband, Albert Defrees. She had many fond memories of riding horseback during World War II to the McEwen School and all over the ranch as a child. She also used to talk about all the practical jokes she and her siblings would play on the hired hands that worked on the ranch.

Her father, Lloyd, died unexpectedly in 1942 and her mother ran the ranch through the end of the war. It was tough for a young widow with three little children, and a shortage of ranch hands, to keep the place running well. So in 1946 Elizabeth sold the ranch to Dan Warnock and moved everyone into Baker.

Betty went through the rest of her schooling in Baker and graduated from Baker High School in 1953. She attended Eastern Oregon State College, now Eastern Oregon University, and graduated with an associate degree in business in 1955. She then went to work at Baker High School as a secretary in the office for a couple of years.

While attending Baker High School she met Michael Joseph Rouse. Michael and Betty were married on July 7, 1956, at the St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker. They went on to have three sons, Michael, Jeffery and Timothy, and a daughter, Michelle, which kept her very busy cooking, cleaning, and just being a mom. Her husband Michael died suddenly in April 1996, just a little over two months short of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Betty worked for Pioneer Bank for close to 20 years until Sterling Bank bought it

out in 2007, and she enjoyed working there. She always talked about how much she liked working there. "It was easy to go to work when you're working with nice people," she said.

Betty always enjoyed gardening and especially her love of high quality registered roses. She would spend hours pruning and caring for her roses.

Survivors include her children, Michael, Timothy, and Michelle Rouse-Lien; her father's half-brother, Professor Reed Izatt; her cousin, Lyle Defrees; her grandchildren, Melissa Rouse, Nick Lien, Chris Lien, Caitlin Rouse-Anderson, Ryan Rouse and Whitney Rouse, and her great-granddaughter, Evelyn St. Mars, all of Vancouver, Washington; her nieces, Kelly Charlton and Betsy Charlton-Powell of Sauvie Island; and her cousin, Ken Holland of Portland.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd and Elizabeth; her husband, Michael; her brother, Mariner; her sister, "Ellie" Charlton; her son, Jeffery; and her nephew, Paul Izatt.

The family would like to thank Betty's in-home caregivers, the staff at Settler's Park and the doctors at Saint Alphonsus for their exceptional dedication and help for Betty; also, longtime friends and neighbors, Bob and Marilyn Harrison; and the Defrees family for all they have done.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the St. Francis de Sales Cathedral Boiler Fund through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

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

Gary Lair

Haines, 1954-2020

Gary Lair, 65, of Haines, died Jan. 17, 2020.

A celebration of Gary's life, and a potluck luncheon (meat to be provided) will take place Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7.

Gary was born on April 15, 1954, at Caldwell, Idaho. His parents, Cliff and Virginia, moved to Emmett, Idaho, where he grew up with brothers, Kenny and Lonnie, and sister, Judy. He spent his summers back in Caldwell, helping his Uncle Lawrence on his ranch. Gary attended school, and graduated from Emmett High School in 1973.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream to cowboy, Gary then went to work for a ranch at Midvale, Idaho. It was on a trip home where he met Suzanne (Suzi) Johnson, the love of his life. They were married on Dec. 10, 1977, at Emmett. Gary

spent a short time at the Boise Cascade mill. During this time, Gary and Suzi were blessed with a son, Shane.

Gary loved the ranching lifestyle, and wanting to raise Shane a horseback surrounded by cattle and open range, they took their first ranch job as a family at Bruneau, Idaho. From there, their life's journey took them to Northern Nevada and back to Eastern Oregon. They fell in love with this area and have called it home ever since.

Gary and Suzi spent many years working side by side. One of Gary's favorite seasons was calving time, heifers especially. Of course, branding time was also an annual highlight, as Gary enjoyed getting caught up with the other ranching families and soaking in the camaraderie, stories and laughter. Gary was a tease, known for his wide mustachioed grin, and you knew he took a liking to you if you were a target of his teasing.

Gary was especially proud of Shane. Shane has a way with animals, and Gary loved to watch him show his cattle. Later, as Shane took on school and a career as a helicopter mechanic, Gary was filled with pride for the life his son had built.

Gary loved his family. When Shane married, Erin became the daughter Gary always wanted. He hardly ever spoke of her as a daughter-in-law, but as a daughter. Then his heart would never be the same when his first granddaughter, Audrey, joined the world. He thought his heart was full, but he was proven wrong when God blessed him with another granddaughter, Brooke. He loved to take them camping, watch them ride, and have them loud and busy around the house.

Gary enjoyed packing into the mountains. He and Suzi would pack in to the Eagle Caps for a week or more. He loved the mountains and fishing in the high mountain lakes. After a few years, they purchased a camp trailer and started camping and fishing in a new way. These trips took them to the Oregon Coast, and the Deschutes and Wilson rivers. The trailer also regularly held two precious granddaughters on many adventures. Shane and Erin, along with Logan Kerns, blessed him with a trip to Alaska in 2018. He enjoyed deep sea fishing for halibut, and salmon fishing the rivers. Most of all, he loved pausing to take in the majestic landscape of a state he always dreamed of exploring, with some of his favorite people.

Gary loved Eastern Oregon, the country and the people. He considered so many in the valley part of his family, and he cherished time spent with each. John Wooden said that "the truest test of a man's character is what he does when no one

is watching." Everyone who knew him would tell you that Gary embodied genuine and solid character. There are also many stories to tell when people were watching, so immediately following the celebration of his life, there will be an opportunity to do something he enjoyed most of all: share stories and a meal with his family and friends. Not one for "goodbyes," he told Suzi, "see you later," and he "would have a horse waiting for you in Heaven!"

Survivors include his wife, Suzi; his son, Shane (Erin); his granddaughters, Audrey and Brooke; his mother, Virginia; his brothers, Kenny (Gloria) and Lonnie; and his sister, Judy Eisenbarth (Corey).

He was preceded in death by his dad, Cliff Lair.

The family suggests memorial contributions to either Heart 'N Home Hospice (Opal Foundation), Rachel Center, or MSTI in Fruitland, Idaho, (Cancer Institute) 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

Walt Forsea

Richland 1924-2020

Walt Forsea, 95, a longtime Eagle Valley resident, died Jan. 16, 2020, at his home.

A graveside service with military honors will take place on Friday, Jan. 24, at 1 p.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception at the Eagle Valley Grange after the interment.

On Sunday, June 28, 2020, "Walt's Birthday" — a celebration of Walt's life, will take place at the Eagle Valley Grange Park. More details will be announced as the date draws near.

Walter John Forsea was born on June 28, 1924, at Home, Oregon, on the Snake River to Blanche and Dan Forsea Sr. and delivered by "Mom" Basche. He was raised in a family of five siblings: Harold, Bob, Margaret, Walt and Pearl.

Walt attended the Park Creek School, a one-room school on the Snake River, for grades 1-8. At age 6 or 7 he rode to school on a horse. His teacher drove a Model A and often stayed with the family while teaching. At one point he was the only student his age at the school. For high school Walt came to Richland and stayed with a family to attend school, which is now the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Walt graduated in 1941 at age 16, a class of 15 students. He also lettered in football.

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Welcome, Dr. Brandon Snow

Baker Dental Group would like to welcome Dr. Brandon Snow to their General Dental practice. Dr. Tod 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.

