

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

■ **Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC):** 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., at the Community Connection meeting room, 2810 Cedar St.; lunch will be provided.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

■ **National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Free Fee Day:** In honor of the supportive community and visitors; hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; call 541-523-1843 for more information; the Center is 5 miles east of Baker City, just off Highway 86.

■ **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.

■ **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 February 28, 1970

The Baker Bulldogs and Ontario Tigers played eyeball to eyeball for the most part of four quarters here Friday night. But near the end of the final period the visitors took a slim lead and held on for a 57-51 victory.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald February 28, 1995

The Baker School Board approved a \$704,554 supplemental budget Monday night.

The budget was needed because of an unexpected surplus of cash carryover and to meet requirements of labor contracts negotiated last fall.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 1, 2010

The Oregon State Senate passed a bill last week that removes the current cap of \$250,000 that government agencies can deposit in a credit union.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald February 27, 2019

When the snow begins to fall and the ice starts to form on the highways surrounding the Baker Valley and its outlying areas, Mark Witty knows he's going to be in for some criticism.

As Baker School District superintendent, Witty can be sure that there will be those who second-guess whatever decision he makes about whether to hold classes as usual or call a snow day. The first decision leads to disappointed students who might be anticipating an extra day off from classes.

The second sends parents scrambling to rearrange their schedules or to make special arrangements for their children, especially the younger ones, who can't be left home alone.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Feb. 26

13 — 15 — 30 — 31 — 32 — 34  
Next jackpot: \$5.2 million

### POWERBALL, Feb. 26

8 — 27 — 29 — 36 — 47 PB 24  
Next jackpot: \$80 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, Feb. 25

2 — 9 — 43 — 49 — 63 Mega 15  
Next jackpot: \$60 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Feb. 26

30 — 52 — 58 — 66

### PICK 4, Feb. 27

• 1 p.m.: 6 — 3 — 1 — 3  
• 4 p.m.: 7 — 2 — 0 — 4  
• 7 p.m.: 2 — 4 — 3 — 5

### LUCKY LINES, Feb. 27

4-5-12-16-17-24-27-30  
Next jackpot: \$58,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY (March 2):** Swedish meatballs over fettuccine, broccoli-blend vegetables, biscuit, cottage cheese with fruit, brownie
- **TUESDAY (March 3):** Parmesan chicken, potatoes and gravy, Brussels sprouts, roll, carrot-raisin salad, cinnamon roll
- **WEDNESDAY (March 4):** Meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, roll, green salad, lemon bar
- **THURSDAY (March 5):** Baked ham, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, roll, pea-and-onion salad, bread pudding
- **FRIDAY (March 6):** Taco salad (beef, lettuce, tomato, onion and cheese), chips, salsa and sour cream, fruit cup, cookie

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, others.

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## SAFELY

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There's a private airstrip in the area west of Stices Gulch, several miles to the south. But Van Diepen didn't know how much snow there might be on that landing strip so he settled on a field beside Highway 7 in Bowen Valley, a few miles south of Baker City.

"I just did a precautionary landing on the Jensen's hay field," Van Diepen said.

He was able to land about 5 to 10 minutes after noticing the engine vibration.

Although the landing was uneventful and neither Van Diepen nor Dexter was hurt, the day's challenges weren't over.

While Van Diepen was taxiing the plane toward a road, he rolled into an irrigation ditch.

"We landed clear on the other side and I was just taxiing over to Juniper Lane to be closer to a house with a phone so I didn't have to walk so far," he said. "If I had just stopped right there, we would have been in a lot better shape."

The plane sustained damage that will take a number of months to repair at Baker Aircraft, Van Diepen said.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jason Dexter, left, says he wasn't as calm as his pilot, Tom Van Diepen, when the plane developed a severe engine vibration over the foothills south of Bowen Valley Thursday afternoon.

Thursday's incident wasn't his first unplanned landing during his 45 years as a pilot.

"I blew an engine once and then I had the same thing that happened now, it was running rough, so I landed in Burns but I just landed on the airport," he said.

Van Diepen said the first time he did a forced landing, "you don't know how you're going to react."

"It's kind of nice to know that you can perform under pressure, still do all the right things, which until you have to do, you don't know," he said.

"You just gotta do your job."

Van Diepen said he's not sure what caused the engine to begin shaking.

"It was something significant, it was a really bad vibration," he said. Backhoe operator Chase

Giesbrecht, along with Clint Morrison, a volunteer from the Greater Bowen Valley Rural Fire Protection District, were able to lift Van Diepen's plane from the irrigation ditch.

Van Diepen said Dexter has flown with him about half a dozen times. Both are hunters, and on Thursday they flew over two elk-feeding stations near Bowen Valley.

## OBITUARIES

### Scott Ashby

Formerly of Baker City, 1968-2020

Francis Scott Ashby (Scott), 51, of Sanford, North Carolina, and formerly of Baker City, died Jan. 28, 2020.

Scott's remains will be placed on family property near the Elk River in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina.

"Rest in peace, Scott," his family said.

Scott was born on Dec. 7, 1968, at Bellflower, California, to Claude Ray "CR" and Janice Jean "JJ." Scott graduated from Hermiston High School in 1987, where he played tennis for four years.

Scott worked as a supervisor for Ty Bennett Roofing in Baker City for 20 years. His duties consisted of roof repairs and replacement, bidding jobs, and settling insurance claims.

Scott loved golf, fishing, cribbage and especially challenging his friends in music trivia. He was known to be friendly, kind and fun-loving.

Scott is survived by his mother, JJ; his brother, Rod, and his wife, Kim; his daughters, Amanda Jean of Portland and Faith Rae of Baker City; and two nieces, Morgan Elaine and Ansley McCord of North Carolina.

### 'Corky' Brumnett

Halfway, 1940-2020

Leo Wright "Corky" Brumnett III, 79, died Feb. 25, 2020, at his home.

There will be a memorial for Corky later this summer.

He was born on Aug. 1, 1940, at home in Wagoner, Oklahoma. He grew up at Wagoner, graduating from high school there.

He immediately joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served for 10 years as an admiral's orderly, drill sergeant, and a member of the USMC rodeo team doing bull riding, bareback riding and calf roping.

His true love was always horses. He started riding and roping as a young child and rodeoed for years as a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He moved to Eastern Oregon in the '70s and worked as a cowboy on many ranches and remote areas in the West.

He was long-legged with a southern drawl and looked a lot like the Marlboro Man. He was happiest living in the mountains with nothing but a herd of cattle, a horse, a good cow dog and some hot sauce in his saddle ("hot sauce will make anything taste good"). He had a special gift for training colts and he achieved his lifelong dream of raising his own line of American Quarter Horses.

His life was marked with several tragedies, including the separate deaths of four of his five children, all at different times throughout his life. His cattle brand remained a symbolic tribute to them.



Corky Brumnett

One day while gathering steers he was involved in a horse accident and almost completely severed his spinal cord. Unable to move or even breathe, he thought he was going to die but fellow cowboy Craig Loftin appeared suddenly and performed CPR on him for 40 minutes until Life Flight could arrive, saving his life.

He ended up paralyzed in the spinal cord unit of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas.

One day he was miraculously able to breathe on his own and then could move his thumb. It was all the motivation he needed. Through a lot of grit and determination he was the only patient to ever walk out of the unit and went on to have 18 more years of good health.

Corky was a straight shooter and spoke cowboy. He'd say things like "Never go back to the cull pen!" (don't second guess yourself) or if his kids tried to tell him what to do he'd warn "Never ride ahead of the boss!"

He delighted in being a grandpa and was very entertained by the many shenanigans of his grandchildren. In the last month of his life he discovered during a surgery that he had cancer that had unknowingly spread throughout his body.

He received so many visits and phone calls and messages from loved ones and was feeling so happy and

supported. He even got to meet his new baby great-grandson, who is named after him.

His last morning, Feb. 24, 2020, at the age of 79, was spent with Sandy, his wife of 30 years, at their home in Halfway. He was looking out the window at the mountains from his favorite spot in the living room with the sun shining on his face when he took his last breath. It was very peaceful and beautiful.

Corky is survived by many relatives living in Oklahoma, including his daughter, Tearsa Brumnett; brother, Donnie Brumnett; sister, Sudi Jones; sons-in-law, Danny Cantrell, Dwayne Meloy and Jim Brown; numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also is survived by his wife, Sandra Brumnett, and two stepchildren, Cassie and Joe Kennedy, all of Halfway.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leo "Bub" and Goldie Brumnett; and his four children, Jane Brumnett, Leo Brumnett IV, Rebecca "Becki" Cantrell, and infant, Travis Wade.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Hells Canyon Jr. Rodeo 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)

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Sandra Darlene Vassar:** 68, of Baker City, died Feb. 27, 2020, at her home with her loving family at her side. She will be interred Friday, March 6, at 10 a.m. PST at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Caldwell, Idaho. A memorial service will follow later that day at 4 p.m. at the McEwen Bible Fellowship, 15403 Sumpter Stage Highway, with Pastor Dan Martin officiating. Memorial contributions can be made to the Ronald McDonald House through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Sandra's memory, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

### FUNERALS PENDING

**James "Jim" Corrigan:** Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at St. Terese Catholic Church in Halfway. Burial with military honors will take place at noon at Pine Haven Cemetery in Halfway. There will be a potluck

afterward at the Halfway Lions Hall. The family suggests memorial contributions to a charity of one's choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, 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**  
PAROLE VIOLATION (State Parole Board warrant): Tyler Joseph Anders, 30, of Baker City, 10:12 a.m. Wednesday, at 3320 K St.; jailed.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE), STRANGULATION, MENACING, HARASSMENT, RECKLESS ENDANGERING and SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Jerad Paul Patton, 34, of 1751 Church St., 9:11 a.m. Thursday, at his home; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Union County warrant): Brandy Dawn Arthur, 27, of Baker City, 12:23 p.m. Thursday, at 2205

Broadway St.; jailed.  
SECOND-DEGREE BURGGLARY: Jon Noble, 56, of Baker City, 2:45 p.m. Thursday, in the 1200 block of B Street; jailed; police said Noble entered a garage in the 1200 block of B Street and removed a glass drug pipe from the property.

### Baker County Sheriff's Office

**Arrests, citations**  
THIRD-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Colvin William Cutshall III, 30, transient, 12:43 a.m. Friday, at the Baker County Jail where he is being held on other charges. Cutshall is charged with putting several rolls of toilet paper into his toilet at the jail on Feb. 17 and flushing the toilet repeatedly, causing it to overflow and flood several jail cells, District Attorney Greg Baxter stated in a court affidavit. Cutshall has been held at the jail since Nov. 19 on multiple charges, including robbery, theft and assault.