

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

■ **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.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Haines Library.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

■ **County Commission:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald March 28, 1970

Pacific Northwest Bell Thursday filed a request with the Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner for reclassification of Baker, Durkee and Sumpter to the next higher rate group.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 28, 1995

If you can imagine Baker City's attempt to build the Court Avenue park as a pole vault competition, the Oregon Department of Transportation's latest move is akin to cutting the city's pole in half.

Just as the city neared the bar.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 29, 2010

After a one-year hiatus in 2009 prompted by the recession, an expanded Wings Over Baker air show is returning this summer with more food vendors and family activities than ever.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald March 29, 2019

Danean Riley, 54, was a drug addict for 20 years. Now after almost 23 years of sobriety, she wants to provide more help for those in addiction recovery. With help from the Baker City and Halfway communities, Riley is opening One Transition At A Time.

The nonprofit organization is housed at 2425 10th St., the former 10th Street Market building and acts as an upcycle art gallery and goods shop as well as a women's sober living home.

Upcycle is in the process of taking materials that would normally be thrown away and finding a use for them. For Riley that use is art.

"We have to change the way we think about what we throw away," Riley says.

The most common art Riley makes includes drawers with broken, everyday items in them and painted a single solid color that hang on the wall. Some of which are currently on display at HatchLab.

In her time preparing to open the shop, Riley has made nearly 300 pieces of art to sell. In addition to selling the art at the shop, Riley plans to sell it through her website.

"People either like them or hate them," she said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, March 25

2 — 23 — 25 — 36 — 46 — 48

Next jackpot: \$1.2 million

POWERBALL, March 25

5 — 9 — 27 — 39 — 42 PB 16

Next jackpot: \$160 million

WIN FOR LIFE, March 25

1 — 23 — 35 — 48

PICK 4, March 26

• 1 p.m.: 7 — 9 — 8 — 4

• 4 p.m.: 9 — 5 — 2 — 8

• 7 p.m.: 2 — 4 — 3 — 8

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 8 — 0 — 5

LUCKY LINES, March 26

2-8-11-15-18-22-25-30

Next jackpot: \$22,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **MONDAY:** Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise sauce, baked potato, Brussels sprouts, biscuit, fruit cup, apple crisp

■ **TUESDAY:** Spaghetti with beef sauce, cauliflower, garlic breadstick, green salad, ice cream

■ **WEDNESDAY (April 1):** Parmesan chicken, potatoes & gravy, corn, rolls, carrot-raisin salad, bread pudding

■ **THURSDAY (April 2):** Beef pot roast, baked potatoes, broccoli-blend vegetables, rolls, green salad, brownies

■ **FRIDAY (April 3):** Sausage gravy over biscuit, ham, cheese and egg frittata, hash browns, orange slices, cinnamon roll

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. Due to the coronavirus crisis, meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

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Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County since 1870

Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 1668 Resort St. (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.

Subscription rates per month are:

Baker City (97814), \$10.80; all others, \$12.50.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Pendleton, Oregon 97801

EO Media Group announces layoffs

EO Media Group, the parent company of the Baker City Herald, The Observer in La Grande, and 11 other newspapers across Oregon, announced Wednesday that it is reducing its workforce by 47 employees, according to a press release.

Three jobs are affected at the Herald, and the others are spread across the rest of the newspaper chain. Overall, the company is reducing its workforce by 18%.

"It's been an extraordinary few weeks as the COVID-19 pandemic has taken over our daily lives and business operations," said Chief Operating Officer Heidi Wright

on Wednesday. The revenue losses due to the closing of commercial businesses to prevent the spread of the virus has created a ripple effect across the nation, forcing layoffs in many industries.

"As you can imagine, the revenue pullback across the company has been dramatic, with many businesses closing their doors and events being canceled throughout the region," Wright said. "Many of the big box stores have canceled their advertising, until further notice. We are taking action now in order to stabilize our operations and keep our staff intact as much as possible, during this time

of crisis."

"We believe that this is the best course, but do not take this action lightly," Wright said. "While this is painful, it could be short-lived if, by some miracle, the economy bounces back after the coronavirus runs its course and we see local retailers reopen and begin advertising again. But there are no promises. This economic downturn could be with us for a long time."

EO Media CEO Steve Forrester said, "Our company is in a survival mode. While none of us have seen a pandemic and its economic effects, our company has weathered economic challenges such as

the Great Depression, the Astoria Fire of 1923 and, within our lifetimes, the Great Recession of 2008."

"Throughout these existential moments, our mission has not changed. And it will not change during this calamity," Forrester said. "Our newspapers and our digital sites are beacons within our communities and regions. We are leaders in gathering information and analysis, and we offer businesses audiences for their marketing."

EO Media purchased the Baker City Herald and The Observer in June 2019 at a bankruptcy auction from Western Communications.

OBITUARIES

Ken Grafham

Baker City, 1928-2020

Ken Grafham, 91, of Baker City, died on March 19, 2020, after a brief struggle with pneumonia.

A memorial service will be scheduled later in the year, as circumstances allow.

Ken was born on Dec. 21, 1928, in the Melbourne, Australia, suburb of Box Hill to Reginald and Grace Grafham. As a young adult he felt the call to church ministry, and he came to Portland, Oregon, in 1954 to attend seminary. It was in the Portland area that he began work as a Baptist minister, at which time he also met his first wife, Willetta. The family moved to Baker City in 1961, where Ken was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church until 1965.

After living in Australia for a year, Ken and his family came back to the U.S. and he continued as a pastor in Eugene and then at Denver. In 1973, the family relocated to Carol Stream, Illinois, and Ken began work at Tyndale House, a Christian publisher. During the next 20 years, Ken was national sales manager and then sales rep for Southern California, retiring in 1999.

Ken and family were friends with Maxine and Harry Hathaway and their two sons for many years. A few years after Maxine's husband, Harry, passed away, things came full circle as Ken and Maxine married in 2010, and Ken came to live again in Baker City. Maxine's two sons, Brad (Terri) and Bryon (Anita), and their children and grandchildren welcomed Ken into their hearts.

Ken found the people of Baker City to be welcoming, and he felt at home. He met regularly with friends from the 1960s, as well as with new friends. Ken and Maxine attended McEwen Bible Fellowship in Sumpter, and just two weeks before he passed away, Ken preached his last sermon at the church.

Ken is survived by his son, Ken Jr. of San Francisco; grandchildren, Laura (Nate) and John, as well as great-grandson, Arlo; his daughter, Ruthie (Greg) Richardson of Wheaton, Illinois; and his niece and nephew and their families in Australia.

His parents and two sisters, Audrey and Valmai, passed away before Ken.



Ken Grafham

Ken Jr. and Ruthie thank the staff at Meadowbrook Place as well as Saint Alphonsus Hospital, including Julie Daly, Dr. Lamb, and nurses Charity, Gabe, Kim and others for their loving care of their dad. Thanks also to Dan Martin of McEwen church, Larry and Peggy Pearson, Mary Andersen and many others who provided support. Maxine continues to live at Meadowbrook Place.

Memorial contributions can be made to the McEwen Bible Fellowship through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave, Baker City, OR 97814.

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

Loretta Cook

Baker City, 1928-2020

Loretta May Cook, 89, of Keating, died March 21, 2020, at her home.

A memorial service will take place later, with the time and place to be announced.

Loretta was born on March 25, 1930, at Baker City to Harvey Blair and Irma VerHaage, the 10th of 12 children. She graduated from St. Francis Academy in 1948.

In 1966, when the kids were 5 and 6 years old, the family took a pack trip into the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Loretta didn't enjoy the horse ride in but she loved the mountains and high lakes. She traveled with her family to almost every named lake that had a horse trail in the wilderness over the next 15 years. When her son, Michael, started hunting at age 10, Loretta started as well because she wasn't going to stay home. Over time she took many deer, elk, and a few antelope with her open-sight .300 lever-action rifle, often with only one shot. She loved to argue with Elton about what tree or wide spot in the road to sit on a stand while the rest of the hunting party made the walk around.

Loretta retired from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative in 1997 after 36 years. She enjoyed being retired and is best known for her amazing wood carvings and paintings. Her talent for creating and bringing birds and nature to life made her artwork collectors' items. She taught herself and spent

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Diana L. Preston: 73, of Baker City, died March 26, 2020,

at her residence in Meadowbrook Place. Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel is in charge of arrangements. To light a candle

in memory of Diana or to leave a condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Ron Buxton: Due to the coronavirus situation, Ron's family has decided to postpone the memorial service until June. Memorial contributions may be made to the family to help with his final expenses. To leave an online condolence for the family of Ron, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
SECOND-DEGREE BURLARY: Jon Kevin Noble, 56, transient, 10:25 a.m. Thursday, in the 2800 block of E Street; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE THEFT: Edward Allen Braswell, 44, transient, 11:17 a.m. Thursday, in the 2000 block of Fourth Street; cited and released.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS (Two counts): Jon Kevin Noble, 56, transient; cited and released Thursday afternoon on charges of trespassing at Albertsons and Safeway grocery stores on Campbell Street.

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